



Lesson 2: God's View of the Sinner Outside of Jesus Christ

What did you discover about the human race as you considered Romans 1-3?

I. The Diagnosis of the Human Race

A. Ignorance, Idolatry, Immorality, Insubordination

Romans 1-3 describes the practices of sinners and why it brings the righteous anger/wrath/ or penalty of God upon us sinners.

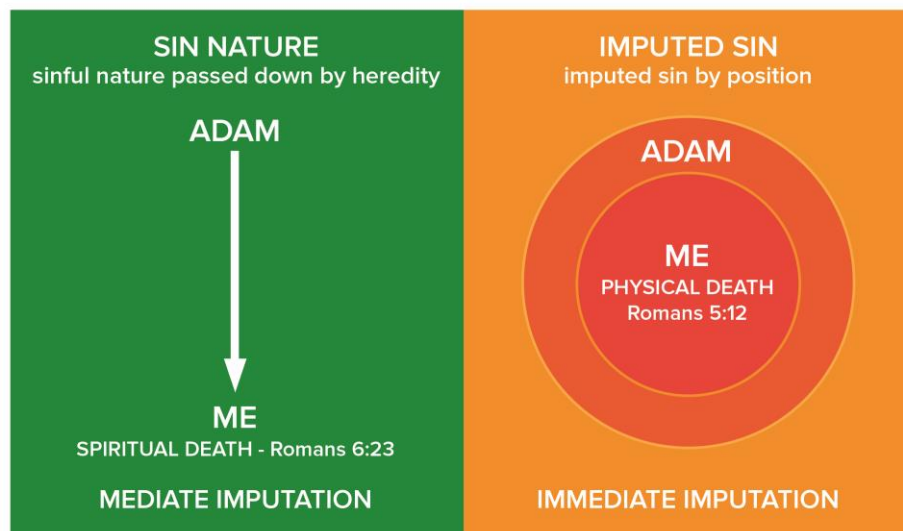
B. Mankind's original state in Genesis 3

Sin is the desire to be autonomous or independent of God.

Sin is a choice to ignore God and listen to another voice: the voice of Satan.

1. The race was declared guilty before God because of Adam's sin: Romans 5:12-21.
2. Adam's choice to sin brought ruin to the human family. This is called **imputation**.

SIN NATURE VS. IMPUTED SIN



Human beings are born with a corrupted nature to sin and to be energized by Satan:
 Ephesians 2:1-3.

1. Human beings are born under God's penalty for sin: death.

THE STATES OF MANKIND

ORIGINAL STATE	FALLEN STATE	REDEEMED STATE
power to live righteously but able to sin	no power to live righteously (Psalm 14)	power to live righteously but able to sin (1 John 3:9)
freedom of the will	bondage of the will	freedom of the will
Adam and Eve	those in the first Adam	those in the last Adam

II. The Consequences of Our Sin

- A. Man's Need for Salvation

SUMMARY OF MAN'S NEED FOR SALVATION

PROBLEM	CONSEQUENCES
Sinful Guilt (WHO I am)	Spiritually dead; physically dying (Romans 5:12)
Sinful Nature (WHAT I am)	Alienated from God (Colossians 1:21)
Sin Acts (What I DO)	Under God's Wrath (John 3:36; Romans 1:18)
In the Domain of Darkness (To Whom I BELONG)	Under Satan's Control (Eph. 2:2; Col. 1:13)

Every part of our being is affected by sin: mind, emotion, and will. (This is total depravity - corrupted in every part).

- B. Mankind is controlled by the god of this age: Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 5:19; John 8:44.

C. Mankind is blind to the things of God:

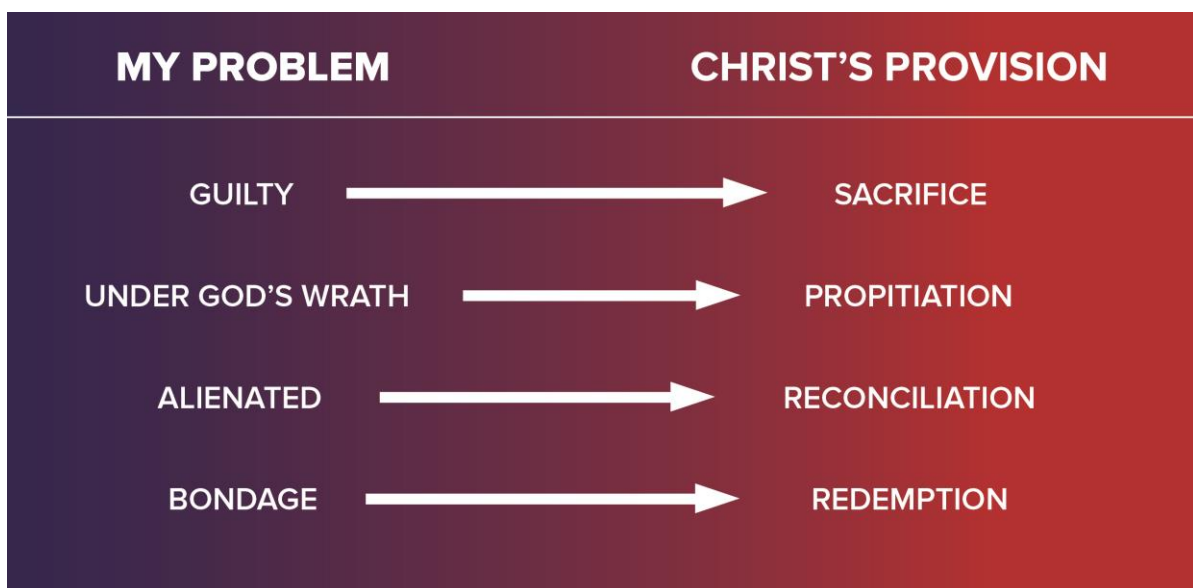
- 1 Corinthians 2:14
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 3

D. Mankind is subject to three kinds of death:

- Physical death: Genesis 2-3
- Spiritual death: Ephesians 2:1/Gen. 3
- Second death: Revelation 20:11-15

Sinners live under the wrath of God until they come to Christ who offers them eternal life: John 3:38, 16-18

III. Our Problem and God's Provision



Next Week Lesson 3: God's Provision for our Salvation



Break Out Session – Lesson 2

Group Discussion Background

In each of our break out sessions we will probe three aspects of the truths presented during each class through a series of discussion questions as described below.

WHAT: What is the key informational content?

SO WHAT: What is the implication of this information? Or said another way, why is the truth of this information important?

WHAT NOW: How will you apply this truth or what will you do now that you know this truth?

Our goal for these classes is not simply to increase our knowledge, but for lives to be transformed by truth. (Romans 12:2)

Discussion Questions: (25 minutes)

Ask the group the following questions and allow the group to thoroughly explore and discuss each one.

1. What are the most common characteristics of people outside of Christ?
2. Discuss the question: Are people perishing because they do not find Christianity intellectual enough?
3. Look up the following scriptures and discuss what they mean:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - c. Ephesians 2:1-3
4. According to Ephesians 2:1-3 you without Christ were dead in your trespasses and sins. What can you as a dead person do to solve this dilemma?
5. How does God's provision to our problem cause us to feel and to respond?

Time to Care – Share – Bear (15 minutes)

During this time, the group is encouraged to share in each other's lives and demonstrate care for one another by bearing one another up through prayer.

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Answer any remaining questions and clarify the homework for the following week.



Lesson 2 Homework

1. Use a bible dictionary and define substitution.

2. Be ready to show from scripture the verses that say Christ was a sacrifice, substitute, or offering for our sins.

Look up in a bible concordance or topical concordance verses that address the fact that Jesus Christ came to die in the place of the sinner (example Mark 10:45 or Matthew 20:28).

3. Read handout of the Accomplishments of the Cross

4. For further study, read Lewis Chafer, Systematic Theology, Volume III, pgs. 116-130, as a wonderful treatment of this subject. He shows how the death of Christ was viewed in the Old Testament and outlines thirteen different works the death of Christ accomplished on the cross.



The Accomplishments of Christ's Death on the Cross

Jesus Christ accomplished many things by His death. Some of them are listed as follows for further investigation and study:

1. **Christ Redeemed Sinners.** One accomplishment of Christ's death was the work of redemption whereby He purchased or acquired sinful men by paying a ransom (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23). This work of Christ is the sinward aspect of Christ's death in which the bondage of fallen mankind is ended (1 Peter 3:17; 2 Peter 2:1).
2. **Christ Propitiated God.** Another benefit from Christ's death concerns the work of propitiation in that He satisfied the wrath and displeasure of God (1 John 2:2). This work is the God-ward aspect of Christ's death in that He placated or satisfied God's holiness (Romans 3:24-25).
3. **Christ Reconciled Men.** Christ's death also involved a work of reconciliation in which He changed the relationship of estranged men to God (2 Corinthians 5:19). This work is the manward work of Christ and naturally follows the redemption provided with respect to sin and the propitiation provided with respect to the righteous demands of God toward the sinner (Romans 5:6-11).

In Romans 5:11 the AV translates the Greek word for *reconciliation* by the term *atonement*. The English word *at-one-ment* signifies the making of two estranged persons *at-one*. So it is not inappropriate as a translation here. But it is better not to translate it so in the Old Testament where it interprets the meaning of the Old Testament concept of *to cover*.

An examination of the passages dealing with redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation demonstrate the unlimited scope of Christ's work on the cross (cf. 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:19). Opposing this position are those known as *strict Calvinist* who contend that since Christ's death saves, then it follows that Christ's death is limited. Supporting their contention are verses which seem to limit the extent of the atonement such as Ephesians 5:25 which declares that Christ died for the church, not the whole world. Against this position is the *moderate Calvinist* who concludes that what saves one is the application of Christ's death to oneself. The death of Christ apart from believing Him does not save. Further verses like Ephesians 5:25 do not prove a limited work of Christ. Such verses only tell us of a certain group for whom Christ did die (cf. Matthew 1:21; Galatians 3:13).

4. **Christ Substituted for Sinners.** That Christ's death was a substitution for men is seen in the prepositions used of Christ's death, *anti*, which means instead of, in Matthew 20:28 and *huper*, which means for the benefit of, in Romans 5:6-8.

5. **Christ Purchased Our Bodies.** Since sin brought physical death, it was necessary for Christ to purchase the bodies of mankind so that through Christ all could be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12).
6. **Christ Provided a Cleansing Due to the Sin Nature.** Because of the blood of Christ, the believer, despite his sin nature, can have fellowship with God (1 John 1:8; Romans 6:10).
7. **Christ Took Away Sins.** The actions of men which bring offense to God were provided for in the death of Christ so that a believer never needs to fear the penalty for his sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-5).
8. **Christ Disarmed Angels.** Though many understand Colossians 2:15 to be a reference to the judging of evil angels, it seems more consistent to argue that good angels are in view (Colossians 1:16; 2:10). If so, what Christ did was to strip off from Himself angelic mediation, retiring angels from a previous ministry (Hebrews 2:2; Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53). So angels are not to be worshipped.
9. **Christ Took Away the Law.** Through His death Jesus Christ cancelled the law and took it out of the way (Colossians 2:14).
10. **Christ Judged Satan.** Today Satan stands judged, residing on death row and awaiting his future execution. It will come about in a threefold manner: He will be cast out of heaven, bound, and cast into the lake of fire (John 16:11cf. Revelation 12:9; 20:1-3; 20:10).
11. **Christ Provided the Basis for Deferred Judgment.** God is free to defer His holy judgment which otherwise must fall with swiftness upon each sinner (2 Peter 3:9, 15).
12. **Christ Took Away Pre-Cross Sins.** Since the sins of the Old Testament saints were only covered (Hebrews 10:4), it was necessary for Christ to become a satisfaction to demonstrate His righteousness because of sins which were past (Romans 3:25).
13. **Christ Gave Himself for the Church.** Christ's death made it possible to have a company of God's people who are separated to Him, known as the church (Ephesians 5:25-26).
14. **Christ Removed the Curse of the Law for Israel.** Israel was delivered from their obligation to the law by the death of Christ (Galatians 3:13).
15. **Christ Brought the Gentiles Near.** Gentiles who were without any Messianic expectation, no associations with Israel, strangers to the covenants, no hope, and without God are now made near to God by the death of Christ (Ephesians 2:12-13).
16. **Christ Removed the Estrangement of Jew and Gentile.** By Christ the barrier of the law was removed. It had been a source of division between Jew and Gentile. Now both belong to the *one new man* (Ephesians 2:15).

17. **Christ Provided for Future Israel's Salvation.** By Christ's death the promises of the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33) will be fulfilled in the future (Romans 11:26-28).
18. **Christ Made the Devil Powerless.** Since Christ offered Himself up in death, Satan's power over death was abolished (Hebrews 2:14).
19. **Christ Delivered Believers from the Bondage of Death.** Death, which had always enslaved men in fear, has been lifted for those who appropriate the benefit of Christ's death (Hebrews 2:15).
20. **Christ Perfected Believers Forever.** In contrast to the law and the Old Testament priesthood, Christ brought to completion forever the beneficiaries of His sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14).
21. **Christ Freed Believers.** Believers were bought out of the bondage of sin and were set free by the death of Christ (Romans 3:24; 5:19).
22. **Christ Purified Things in Heaven.** Heaven, which was contaminated by sin due to Satan's rebellion, was cleansed from sin's defiling effects by the death of Christ (Hebrews 9:23; Colossians 1:20).