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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

MAN'S RUIN: GOD'S REMEDY

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Romans 5:20 and 21, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

This text speaks of two kings: sin and grace. Sin is a mighty king, but grace is a mightier king. Sin reigns unto death, grace reigns unto eternal life.

Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Romans 3:24, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." I John

1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I Corinthians 15:3,4, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

This theme is the statement of two facts: a sad fact and a glorious fact. Man, by nature is a ruined and fallen creature, but God is a mighty Saviour. Let us look at man to see how sin has abounded, and then look at God's glorious remedy to see how grace has much more abounded.

MAN'S RUIN

Man's condition is not determined by what he thinks about it, but what God's word says about it. It is the age-long tendency for man to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. Man, of himself has ever believed the devil's lie, "Ye shall be

as gods," rather than God's truth, "Ye shall surely die." Let us learn,

A. How man came to be in this ruined condition. Romans 5:12, 19, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned;...For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

B. The nature of man's ruin:

1. He is spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

2. He is morally corrupt. Isaiah 64:6, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Psalm 53:2, 3, "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none

that doeth good, no, not one."

3. He is at enmity with God. Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

4. He is unable to please God. Romans 8:8, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

5. He has a deceitful and corrupt heart. Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

6. His understanding is darkened. Ephesians 4:18, "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Romans 10:3, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." I Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

If this was all that could be said from this Book, then man would forever remain without hope. But, the next word is like the beautiful rainbow spanning the threatening heavens.

GOD'S REMEDY

I would emphasize that it is God's remedy. The remedy for sin is not a home-made remedy, it is an imported remedy. Man had nothing to do with either planning it, or preparing, or even applying it. It is God-plan-

ned; God prepared; and God applied. The Father planned it; the Son prepared it; and the Holy Spirit applies it. Or, to change the figure, the Father is the physician who prescribed it; the Son is the chemist who prepared it; and the Holy Spirit is the nurse who administers it. What glorious harmony!

A. The name of this remedy. It is called the gospel. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

B. The nature of this remedy. Let us go into the Divine laboratory erected upon Calvary and learn the mysteries of the chemistry of God. The most up-to-date thing in medicine is the anti-toxin treatment. Our doctors today use serums that have been prepared in laboratories to rob certain diseases, which were once considered as fatal, of their fatality. Years ago when a child had diptheria it was said immediately, "No hope." But now we have an antitoxin for it. This is God's remedy for sin. On Calvary He was preparing an antitoxin for sin. II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." See also Romans 3:24 and Ephesians 1:7.

C. How this remedy is applied. It is not self-administered. It is applied through repentance and faith and man of himself isn't capable of doing either. John

6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." See also John 3:3 and John 1:13. Man eagerly applies many worthless remedies to his sin-sick soul, but the Holy Spirit applies the only efficacious remedy. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them to us. He opens our sin-blinded eyes and sin-hardened hearts to see and receive this wonderful remedy for sin.

D. Some other facts about this remedy.

1. It is an old remedy. It was preached to our parents in Eden. The law of Moses witnessed to it, and prophets proclaimed it. Acts 10:43, "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Romans 3:21, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets."

2. It is the only remedy. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There is no new remedy for sin. Medical science has discovered many new ways of treating old diseases, but it has found no new remedy for sin. The inventive faculty of man has devised many new contrivances for reducing manual labor, but it is unable to provide any rest for the soul. We have many new methods of locomotion and can now travel beneath the waters, and fly above the earth, but there is no other way back to God except through Christ, who said, "No man cometh to the Father but by Me," John 14:6.

3. It is a sure remedy. There is no case too

hard. Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." There is no man too old. Though you are tottering on the brink of the grave, if you will but look to Jesus, you shall live.

A great preacher once said that if he could preach one sermon to a congregation composed of every man his text would be "Christ died for our sins."

John Newton said he had learned but two things in his lifetime: first, that he was a great sinner, and second, that Christ was a Mighty Saviour.

Another saint, now gone to rest, once said, "I confess that in all creation there is nothing so precious to me as the blood of Christ. I look inward at my own sin-polluted heart and nature, but in the precious blood I see all my guilt atoned for. I look backward upon my sin-stained life which seems to cry for vengeance, but the cry of accusation is silenced by the precious blood. I look forward to the hour of death, when in my weakness, it may be that all my sins will encompass me round about, but the precious blood shall disperse them like a summer cloud. I look downward to the pit which is my just doom, but the blood has ransomed me from it. I look upward to the pure heavens above, and I thank God that the precious blood of His Son gives me a full and sufficient title to enter in."

A sign in the window of a repair shop read thus: "Nothing broken beyond repair. The more it is smashed, the better we like it." "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." This is exemplified in the many

cases of salvation reported in the New Testament. Look at some of the trophies of grace: Saul the persecutor; Zacchaeus the despised publican; the fallen woman at Sychar's well; the dying thief; and the many publicans and harlots.

While traveling, there is a unique sign that attracts the eye. It is a picture frame in which there is no picture, and above the frame are the words, "The picture of a watch I can't fix." The grace of God may be thus advertised. There is not a sinner Christ cannot save.

How Did the World Start?

Hundreds of top scientists worked together to build the ultimate computer—a master brain with the intellect to answer all questions and solve all the mysteries of the world.

Finally it was completed and ready for its first question. With trembling hands, one of the scientists fed in the query: "How did the world start?"

Lights flashed, wheels whirred, tumblers clicked. Then the machine answered: "See Genesis."

PLANNING A
MOVE?
Please let us know
your NEW address

DEAR CHURCH MEMBER ;

You may choose to misunderstand me-
You may misrepresent my intentions-
You may misconstrue my intolerance
of sin as a lack of love-
You may scoff at me before my friends-
scorn me in your home-sneer at me in
your clique-
You may describe my counsel as "JUMP-
PING ALL OVER YOU"-
You may deride my lack of eloquence-
despise my lack of dignity-detest my
personality-
You may delight in passing on trouble-
some news unto me-
You may deplore my lack of patience
with your slothfulness-
You may shout "DICTATOR" whenever
I drop some old church traditions or
adopt something new-
You may enlarge a mild rebuke into a
fit of anger—
You may accuse me of being mercenary
and after your money-
You may seek and succeed in annoying
me from the pew-
You may rebel violently and passively
against my leadership-
You may aim some degree of gratifica-
tion from a grief to me-

BUT DEAR MEMBER ;

When you become ill; when troubles
catches up with you; when sorrows are
your lot, please call me immediately,
that I may hasten to your side in His
Name: Comfort and encourage you from
His Words and pray for you. Always
remember that my heart yearns for your
Spiritual and physical welfare.

Lovingly, your pastor.