

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted April 4, 2021

TITLE: The Love of God and the Crucifixion of Christ

TEXT: John 3:16

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD AND THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

- A. The character of God reflected in His love for mankind serves as the cornerstone to the doctrine of salvation ultimately initiating the crucifixion of Christ.

"For God so loved the world...."

"God is love" according to John. **1 John 4:8** ----The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

It is the nature of God to love and He did so in that while we were yet sinners He died for us. **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- B. It is the character of God to be patient even with sinners primarily because it is His nature to love.

Although the biblical truth that God is love is beyond our abilities to understand thoroughly, His love will not circumvent the fact that He is also holy and just. Thus, His patience can be exhausted ultimately leading to some form of discipline or judgment because of sin.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 ----Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

C. It is the character of God to be propitious toward mankind because of the crucifixion of Christ.

1 John 4:10 ---- In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The crucifixion of Christ made it possible for God to be favorably disposed toward lost humanity. Were it not for the fact that the crucifixion of Christ satisfied the justice of God He could not be favorably disposed toward sinful humanity.

D. It is the character of God to be gracious which He demonstrated in the fact that He decided to provide salvation for all who believe even though initially He was not obligated to do so for anyone. (...whosoever believes in Him...)

Basic Application: Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Were it not for the character of God we all would still be dead in our trespasses and sins.

II. THE CHARACTER OF MAN AND THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

A. The crucifixion of Christ accents the magnitude of mankind's sinful condition.

It took the death of the absolutely sinless son of God who was and is infinitely holy, gracious, loving, kind, undeserving to pay for the sins of mankind.

Jeremiah 17:9 ---- The heart is deceitful more than anything else, and it is disastrous. Who can understand it? (Lexham English Bible)

Jeremiah 17:9 ---- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (English Standard Version)

Jeremiah 17:9 ---- The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (New International Version 1984)

Jeremiah 17:9 ---- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (KJV)

Jeremiah 17:9 ---- The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it? (Holman Christian Standard)

- B. The crucifixion of Christ accents the depravity of man which does not necessarily mean that man is as bad as he can be but that he is as bad off as he can be. There is nothing worse than being a depraved individual. Depravity has affected all aspects of man's being, body, soul, mind, spirit, emotions, etc.**

All men are sinners but some are worse than others. However, the seeds of a Hitler, Saddam Hussein, etc. lurk in the heart of all men. So much so that we all have had those moments when we conclude "I can't believe I did that or thought that."

- C. The crucifixion of Christ accents the biblical truth that man's greatest need is not material, philosophical, psychological, and certainly not political etc., but spiritual, i.e. a changed heart. (Only Christ can do that...)**

III. THE CHARACTER OF GOD AND THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

- A. The assurance of salvation for all believers is irrevocably rooted in the character of God. His promises will not fail because of His flawless character.**

"...should not perish but have everlasting life..."

- B. The forgiveness of sin resulting from one's confession of sin and commitment to Christ is a greater blessing than just having one's sin slate wiped clean.**

Moral neutrality... vs. positive moral righteousness...

Philippians 3:9 ---- and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through

faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

1 Corinthians 1:30 ---- But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Romans 5:19 ---- For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ---- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Conclusion: