

MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM **(Romans 5:12)**

I. The condition.

- A. All mankind is affected with the condition known as sin (Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22).
 - 1. Try as we might, if we are in the state of accountability, we sin.
 - 2. No one is immune from it.
 - 3. Only one perfect Person ever lived and He was deity in the flesh.
- B. This condition is fatal if left untreated (Romans 5:12; 6:23a).
 - 1. In the Garden of Eden there was access to the Tree of Life.
 - 2. If sin had not entered the world, we would be able to live forever on this earth.
 - 3. When sin came in to this world, death came with it (1 Corinthians 15:21).
- C. It is fatal because it causes separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - 1. It brought not only physical death, but also spiritual death.
 - 2. Those who die in sin will be completely removed from the presence of God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).
- D. The sad part of this condition is that we bring it on ourselves (James 1:13-15).
 - 1. We are the ones with the lust problems.
 - 2. Again, notice that James points out the condition is fatal.
- E. The temptation to sin comes from at least one of three areas (1 John 2:15-17).
 - 1. This was true with Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:6):
 - a. Lust of the flesh - good for food.
 - b. Lust of the eyes - pleasant to the eyes.
 - c. Pride of life - made one wise.
 - 2. This was true with the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11):
 - a. Lust of the flesh: stones to bread.
 - b. Pride of life: cast yourself off the temple and the angels will rescue you.
 - c. Lust of the eyes: worship Satan and get all the kingdoms of the world.
- F. Satan still uses these tricks today to entice mankind to sin and die.

II. The cure.

- A. The fact is the condition of sin is fatal if left untreated.
- B. However, God provided a remedy for sin (Romans 6:23).
 - 1. God gave His Son so that sin could be conquered (1 Corinthians 15:56-57).
 - 2. Hebrews 9:26.
- C. The only cure for sin is the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5).
- D. The blood of Christ does several things:
 - 1. It allows us to be justified in the sight of God (Romans 5:9);

2. It provides redemption from sin (Ephesians 1:7);
 3. It brings us close to God (Ephesians 2:13);
 4. It allows us to have peace with God (Colossians 1:20);
 5. It allows our consciences to be purged (Hebrews 9:14);
 6. It allows us to be sanctified (Hebrews 13:12);
 7. It allows us to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:10-11).
- E. We noticed that the blood of Christ washes our sins away (Revelation 1:5).
1. Somehow, we must come into contact with that blood.
 2. It only the blood of Christ that washes sins away.
- F. Man has devised many means of salvation.
- G. The problem is that none of them that men devise get us into contact with the blood of Jesus.
1. Nowhere in scripture can you simply believe into the blood of Jesus.
 2. Nowhere in scripture can you simply pray into the blood of Jesus.
 3. Nowhere in scripture can you simply repent into the blood of Jesus.
- H. The Bible reveals one and only one way to come into contact with the blood of Jesus and that is immersion in water.
1. Immersion is what the New Testament word for baptism really means.
 2. It is in baptism where sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).
 3. It is in baptism where we come into contact with the death of Christ (Romans 6:3-4) which is where He shed His blood.
 4. It is in baptism that our conscience is purged (1 Peter 3:21).
 5. It is baptism where we are buried with Christ (Colossians 2:12).
- I. Before one can be baptized, though, there must first be belief in Jesus (Mark 16:16).
- J. When one believes he must then repent of his sins (Acts 2:38).
- K. At this point, a he must confess Christ with His mouth (Romans 10:9-10).
- L. When these steps have been taken, then, by faith, one is baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38).
- M. When this takes place, one's condition brought on by sin is remedied.
- N. Anything less than this is not enough.
- O. Only the blood of Christ can take away our sins.

III. The continuance.

- A. One must never forget that this remedy is not a one time for all time remedy.
1. Sin still stains the soul even after baptism.
 2. It is not another version of once saved, always saved.
- B. When one is baptized into Christ, he or she becomes a Christian because He has been put on in baptism (Galatians 3:27).
1. However a Christian can still sin and lose his soul (Galatians 5:4).
 2. We can fall from grace.
- C. The only way that this will be avoided is by a continuance of faithful living for Jesus Christ until death.

1. Revelation 2:10.
 2. This is not optional.
- D. You and I will still sin and we will still need the blood of Jesus for the removal of that sin.
1. The only way to have access to that blood is by faithfully living for Jesus.
 2. 1 John 1:7.
- E. The things we did to have our sins removed in the beginning were all done by faith.
1. This does not change once we have been baptized.
 2. We still must live faithfully for the Lord even after having put Him on in baptism.
- F. We must obey the commands of the New Testament.
- G. We must live a life of dedication to God and His word continually.
1. It is not some on again off again lifestyle.
 2. It is a lifetime commitment to put Him first in all things.