



The Sinner's Need of Christ - 2

(1) WHAT VIRTUES ARE GAINED IF WE RESPECT GOD AND ARE OBEDIENT TO HIM?

Psalm 111:10

Related Texts: Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28; Deuteronomy 4:5, 6

Man originally had a high level of ability and a well-balanced mind. His life was perfect and in tune with God. His thoughts were pure and his aims holy, but through disobedience his

powers were changed and selfishness took the place of love. His character became so weak through sin that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was under the control of Satan, and would have remained so forever if God had not come to his rescue. It was Satan's goal to stop the divine plan God had in man's creation and fill the earth with grief and emptiness. Satan points to all the evil he has caused and falsely blames it on God for His work in creating man.

(2) WHY DID ADAM AND EVE HIDE FROM GOD?

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Genesis 3:10

Related Texts: Genesis 2:25; 1 John 3:20; Isaiah 59:2; Exodus 3:6; Job 23:15, 16; Psalm 119:120; Revelation 3:17, 18; 16:15

When man was without sin he enjoyed a joyful closeness with God “in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3. Then after sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he tried to hide from the presence of God. This is still the way it is with those who have an unrenewed heart. They are not in tune with God, and find no joy in being with Him.

(3) WHAT WILL BE THE RESPONSE OF THE UNCONVERTED TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST WHEN HE COMES AGAIN?

Revelation 6:16

Related Texts: Luke 23:30; Jeremiah 8:3; Revelation 20:11; Hosea 10:8

The sinner will not be happy in God’s presence and he will try to avoid the presence of holy beings. If he were permitted to enter heaven, it would not be joyful for him. The spirit of unselfish love that rules there and causes every heart to respond to the heart of Infinite Love, would not get any response from the heart of a sinner. His thoughts, interests, and motives would be different from those of the sinless beings who

live there. He would be a sour note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would wish he could be hidden from Him who is light and the center of its joy. It is no accident on the part of God that keeps the wicked out of heaven. They are kept out because they are not prepared to be in the company of the righteous. The glory of God will destroy them like a fire. They will welcome destruction just so they could be hidden from the face of the One who died to redeem them.

(4) WHY DOES A SINNER NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO PURIFY HIS OR HER OWN HEART?

Job 14:4

Related Texts: Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19

It is impossible for us, by our own efforts, to escape from the pit of sin into which we are sunken. Jeremiah 13:23. Our hearts are evil and we cannot change them. “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:7. Education, culture, will power, human effort, all have their right place, but when it comes to overcoming sin without God, they are powerless. They may produce what might appear to be the right behavior, but they cannot change the heart or clean the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above before men can be changed from sinfulness to holiness. That power is Jesus. Only His grace can awaken the lifeless parts of the soul and attract it to God and to holiness.

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(5) WHAT MUST HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES TO PREPARE US TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

John 3:3

Related Texts: John 1:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:23; Ephesians 2:5

The Saviour said unless we receive a new heart that contains pure desires, renewed purposes, and new motives that lead to a new life, we “cannot see the kingdom of God.” The idea that it is necessary only to improve whatever good that exists in us by nature is a deadly lie.

(6) HOW ONLY CAN SPIRITUAL MATTERS BE UNDERSTOOD?

1 Corinthians 2:10

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 2:27; Romans 8:5-7; Matthew 16:17

“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.” “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 3:7. Of Christ it is written, “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men”—the only “name under heaven

given among men, whereby we must be saved.” John 1:4; Acts 4:12.

(7) WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH SIN AFTER KNOWING THE MEANING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Romans 7:14

Related Texts: Isaiah 50:1; 59:2; Romans 5:12-14; 8:22; Jeremiah 17:9; 13:23

It is not enough to understand the loving-kindness of God, to see the compassion and the fatherly tenderness of His character. It is not enough to notice the wisdom and justice of His law, to see that it is built upon the endless principle of love. Knowledge alone does not bring holiness. Paul, the apostle, expressed his struggle with this when he exclaimed, “I consent unto the law that it is good.” “The law is holy, and the commandment holy, just, and good.” He longed for the purity and the goodness that, in himself, he was unable to reach and he cried out, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?” Romans 7:24. This is the cry that has gone up to heaven from burdened hearts in all lands throughout all ages. To all there is only one answer, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

(8) WHO IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR THAT CAN RESTORE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SINNER AND GOD?

1 Timothy 2:5

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Related Texts: Hebrews 9:15; Romans 5:1, 2; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6

Many are the ways that the Spirit of God is used to show us the picture of this truth, to make it plain to hearts that long to be freed from the burden of guilt. An example was when Jacob fled from his father's home weighed down with a sense of guilt for deceiving Esau. Being lonely and cast out he was separated from everything that made life dear to him. The one thought above all others that was on his mind was fear that his sin had cut him off from God; that he was forsaken by Heaven. In sadness he lay down to rest on the ground with the only things around him being the lonely hills and the heavens above filled with bright stars. As he was sleeping a strange light came into view and with it, from the plain on which he lay, a huge shadowy stairs seemed to lead upward to the very gates of heaven. Upon these stairs angels of God were climbing up and down, while from the glory above a heavenly voice was heard with a message of comfort and hope. Jacob came to know what his heart longed for – a Saviour. He was grateful and full of joy because he was shown a way that he, a sinner, could come back to God. The mysterious ladder in his dream represented Jesus, the only means of communication between God and man [John 1:51].

(9) HOW ONLY CAN WE COME TO THE FATHER?

John 14:6

Related Texts: John 10:9; Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:18; Acts 4:12; Matthew 11:27

We were cut off from heaven and separated from God when man first sinned. Across the distance that lay between, there could be no communication. But earth is again in touch with heaven through Jesus. With His own merits Jesus has connected the gap caused by sin so that all of heaven can have communion with us. Christ links sinful man in his weakness and helplessness with the Source of endless power.

(10) WHY ARE ALL ATTEMPTS TO SAVE OURSELF FROM THE RANKS OF FALLEN HUMANITY IN VAIN?

Ephesians 2:8, 9

Related Texts: Romans 6:23; 3:20, 23; Galatians 2:16; 2 Timothy 1:9

Our dreams of becoming better and improving the conditions of mankind are useless if they don't include the one Source of hope and help for the sinful race. "Every good gift and every perfect gift" is from God [James 1:17]. None of us can have perfected characters unless we are connected to God who is perfect, and the only way to God is through Jesus.

(11) WHAT GREAT EFFORT FROM HEAVEN HAS BEEN MADE FOR OUR REDEMPTION?

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Hebrews 9:26

Related Texts: Hebrews 9:12; 7:27;
1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; John 10:11

The heart of God longs for His earthly children with a love stronger than death. He has poured out all of heaven in one gift. Our Saviour's coming to live and die to rescue us, the care of the angels, the pleading of the Holy Spirit, the Father working in our behalf, the unending interest of all of heaven; all these things were given for the purpose of saving us.

Think about the amazing sacrifice that has been made for us! Let us try to appreciate the effort Heaven is making to save all of us who are lost and bring us back to the Father's house. There are not any stronger reasons or more powerful

methods that could be used. The special rewards for doing what is right, the joy of heaven, the companionship of the angels, the closeness and love of God and His Son, the height and extent of all the powers given us throughout endless ages; aren't these rewards for faithfulness good enough reasons to inspire us to love and serve our Creator and Redeemer?

In contrast to these blessings are the judgments God pronounced against sin, the shame of our character, and then final death. These are clearly presented in the Bible to warn us against serving Satan and falling for his deceptions.

Shouldn't we accept the mercy of God? What more could He do for us? Let us come to Him who has loved us with an amazing love. Let us choose the way pointed out to us so that we may be changed into His likeness. Let's welcome the fellowship of the angels that care for us and strive for a closer walk with our heavenly Father and His Son.

I now understand that God created man perfect with noble powers and in harmony with Himself. Then we, through disobedience, became weakened in nature and without God's intervention are captive to Satan and unable to resist evil.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I realize that, because of this apostasy, man has separated himself from God and the only way

back to God is through Jesus Christ.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I see my helplessness and realize my great need of Jesus Christ as my Savior.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I am thankful for God's love and the plan of redemption. It is my desire to accept the offer that He so generously gives.

Circle: Yes Undecided

