

"A False Premise"

By Elder Curtis Pugh, 1944 - 2018

Most ideas about salvation are based upon a false premise. That false idea is this: that sinners can do this or that and by doing so please God and obtain salvation. This popular idea is not taught in God's Word.

Consider this passage: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his," (Romans 8:7-9).

Two kinds of people are presented to us in this text: some are identified as "they that are in the flesh," in contrast to the "ye" who are "not in the flesh, but in the Spirit." Humans are either "in the flesh" or "in the Spirit" depending on whether or not the Holy Spirit dwells in them.

Not only do we see two kinds of people in this passage, but we are informed that each kind has differing abilities. Those "in the flesh cannot please God." This is a clear statement which is contrasted with those "in the Spirit" - those who have the Spirit dwelling in them.

Those only born naturally cannot please God. Those who have experienced a second birth by the Holy Spirit can please God. In spite of human reasoning there is absolutely nothing – no act, no prayer, no repentance - no work whatsoever that a natural man can do to please God: not even the so-called "sinner's prayer" whatever that is. Regarding this inability Jesus said, "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," (John 6:44). Spiritually dead men can do nothing spiritual!

To the man "in the flesh," the Lord Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again," (John 3:6-7). It is only after a spiritually dead sinner is "born again" that he, because of the indwelling Spirit, can pray, experience godly sorrow, repent and believe to the saving of his soul. Paul wrote of this in Ephesians 2:5 saying: "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved);. It is this quickening or being born again that God accomplishes independent of any act by the sinner. The fact that God alone accomplishes the new birth is hated by the natural man. It robs him of his pride. He has nothing to do with causing his new birth. But if sinners are to be saved, they must first be born again by God's Spirit whom no man can influence or control. "Ye must be born again!"

Today is Sunday December 01, 2024

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;” 1 Peter 5:2

How does God see people?

Part 5

Genesis 6:5 - 6 *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”*

Let us look into the word “flesh”, this word carries two meanings, (1) it speaks of the skin of a human or animal. And (2) it also speaks to our human nature. The word flesh and the word “carnal” go hand and hand because the word carnal means - having the nature of flesh, Vines New Testament word studies also adds this fact, -governed by human nature, instead of by the Spirit of God- proving that they are one in the same both are speaking about the human nature of people that are not born again or are not saved. If a person wants to understand our human nature they must start by understanding (1) what these two words mean, (2) how they work together to explain our relationship to sin and God, and (3) what exactly God says about the human nature in the unregenerated state. God commanded that we *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* 2 Timothy 2:15. God explains the truth and facts of everything in His word and learning of them is the only way to *“...rightly dividing the word of truth.”* One of the most offensive things a person can do to the word of God is to add their thought or opinions to God's word. While it is true that opinions can be beneficial to our study, but only if it is in a truthful and biblical educated way, human opinions are always the opposite of God's Truth if given in a non-biblical form. Therefore, it is the study of these two words, flesh and carnal that will define how God sees people. Let us not forget what God saw before the flood, *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”* Genesis 6:5 & 6. When God looks at the people of this earth, He sees no good in them as a whole. People are so evil that (1) *“...it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth”* and (2) *“it grieved him at his heart.”* This is the way God has always seen people since the fall of Adam and Eve, God has never seen people differently. But why, why hasn't people ever changed, why do people never please God?

Pastor's Thought Continued

Because of sin, we are in our natural flesh are carnally mindset are bound by nature to be sinful and unholy in all manner. Paul wrote, *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”* Romans 7:18. What Paul is saying is in this flesh we cannot know nor understand how to do good, because we are natural sinners, lost, and there is no good in lost people. If we are not born again and have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, then good is not in us. *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”* Romans 3:9 This is God telling us that there is no good in people, moral good is not spiritual good because in our lost state all our moral good is sinfulness. God does not see us as we see ourselves. God said, *“There is none righteous, no, not one:”* meaning none can be righteous or good because by nature there is never a better of any person. God speaking of the entire human race said, *“They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* Psalm 14:3 Lost people have no fellowship with God nor does God receive any good from them. So we must ask, “why do we see good in some lost people”? We see good because we are sinners looking at sinners, God is all-Holy looking as sinners. Listen to God, *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”* Amos 3:3 God who is perfectly Holy cannot walk with a sinful people. God even went as far to say that Christian cannot walk together with lost people. *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”* 2 Corinthians 6:14 If Christians are going to walk in a godly manner then we MUST avoid walking with non-believers, because we have nothing in common.

Church information and Happenings

- Please remember to always pray for our church and prayer list.
- Always be looking for the return of our Lord, it could be any time.

Psalm 22:11

“Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.”