

God. The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 3: A Humanitarian to an Evil World

Things had changed. There was no more perfect world, no more perfect man. God's perfection had been thrown into chaos because of sin. The effects of that sin were not momentary or solitary. We see that Adam's son, Seth, was born in the image of Adam, which was now sinful. The effects of that sin were lasting and live on today.

When a patient goes into the Emergency Room, the doctors must first evaluate the patient in order to find out what is wrong. After, they diagnose the issue, then they can bring the proper treatment.

As we look at Chapter 3, we will see God's diagnosis of our condition. We will see that sin is a part of us, it lives in us. It is not something that we can rationalize away. Sins are terrible. Sin is not something that we can remove or work off. It does not wear off over time. It sticks to us like the foulest of things.

Only after we see our sinful condition, does the blessing of God's cure, his salvation in Jesus, show us how great the love of our God is for us.

1. What did you learn from chapter 3?

2. God's observation of the human race both prior to the flood (Genesis 6:5) and after it (Genesis 8:21) was *"that every inclination of the human heart is evil."* Notice the time frame: When were these words said? **They were said right at the beginning**

3. What is the evidence of this sad truth of sinfulness in the world prior to the flood? **Cain and Abel, the line of Cain, Tower of Babel, The conditions before the flood ... after the flood?**

The flood did not destroy sin, Noah and his family were still sinful, Noah sinned almost immediately ... today?

We can see sinfulness in ourselves and all around us

3. Why is God's observation *"that every inclination of the human heart is evil"* so difficult for us to accept? **We want to think we are good people. There are even arguments about whether or not man is good or bad by nature. Most people want to think they are good rather than bad,**

4. How does God show himself to be the Ultimate Humanitarian in the story of the flood? **He did not destroy the earth when he saw it was sinful, he gave men 120 years to repent of their sins. He had a living call to repentance in the ark, God saved 2 of every animal**

5. How does God show himself to be the Ultimate Humanitarian in his dealings with Noah? **He was gracious to Noah and his family. Saving them and forgiving Noah when he sinned even after the flood --- he saved Noah through Jesus**

6. Chapter 3 introduces us to the Bible's teaching of **righteousness**. What does it mean to be righteous?

To be perfect --- to be right, holy

7. What do you learn about righteousness from the following passages?

✦ Ecclesiastes 7:20. There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins. **No one is right, or perfect on earth**

✦ Romans 3:20-24. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

We are not perfect by what we do, the Law only shows us our sins. Our righteousness comes from somewhere else. Our perfection comes by faith in Jesus.

8. How is this biblical righteousness different from how we think we become righteous?

We think we must work to become righteous, we must work to remove our sins, Instead the Bible shows us that we are given righteousness and perfection through Jesus

9. How does man think they become righteous? (work righteousness).



Climbing
the Ladder of
Goodness

Explain:

Do good go up the ladder

Problem:

If we count good, we also

Have to count bad

Will never do enough



The Scales of
Justice

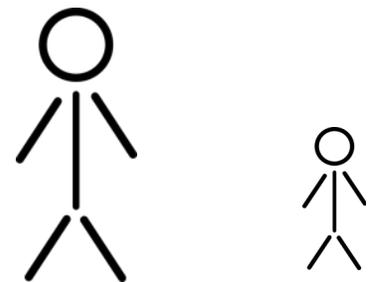
Explain:

Do more good scales tip in my favor

Problem:

Have we done more good
than evil? How do we know
(similar to ladder)

Have we done enough good?



The "Better" Person

Explain:

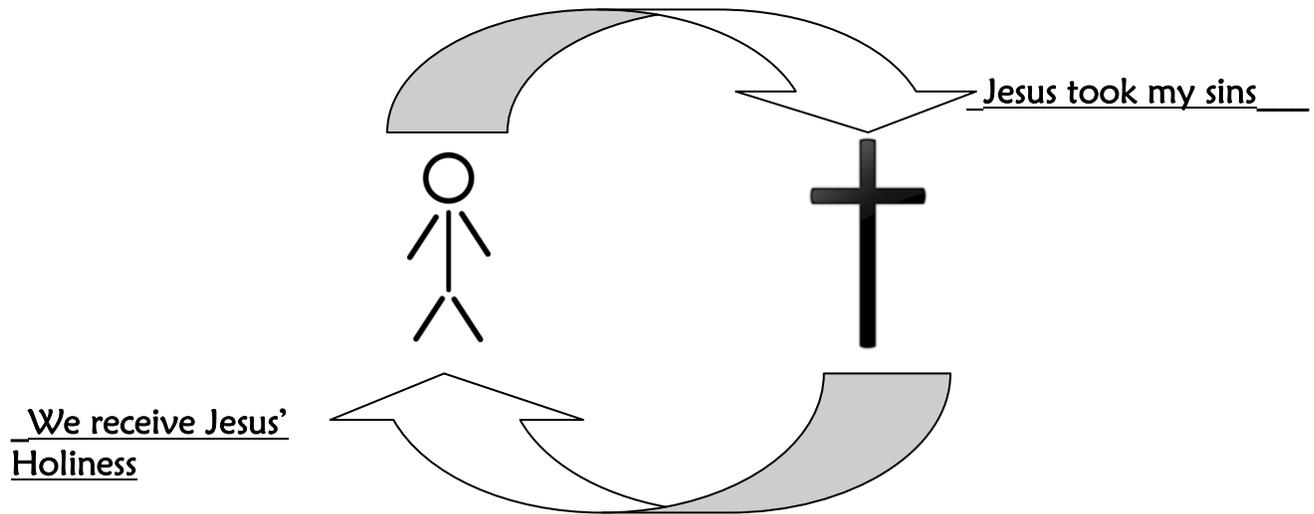
Be better than bad people,
first in line

Problem:

We are no better than
anyone else. All have sinned
What if there are lots "better"
people than me, where does
that leave me?

10. The plan of salvation described in the Bible is sometimes called "God's Great Exchange." How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 explain that exchange?

✦ 2 Corinthians 5: 21. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



11. Comment: God's greatest humanitarian act: his granting of Jesus' perfect righteousness through faith on individuals. **Through Jesus he made it possible for all men to be saved, not by their own works, but through the work of Jesus given to us**

12. How could Noah have been considered righteous even if he was a sinner? **He believed in Jesus and the work of Jesus was credited to him as his holiness --- the great exchange**

13. How can we be considered righteous even though we sin? **We believe in Jesus and what Jesus did for us and gives to us is credited to us as our holiness--- the great exchange**

14. How were people in the Old Testament saved?

✦ Hebrews 11:7. ⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith.....

They believed in the Messiah who was to come --- they were saved by faith in Jesus

15. How does the fact that Old Testament people were saved by faith, go against the claim that Jesus sets an example and shows us how to live so that we can gain heaven? **If Jesus is our example to get to heaven, then how could these people have gone to heaven, Abraham and Noah lived long before Jesus lived. They could not have seen his example. This would seem to discount anyone before Jesus from going to heaven because**

they would not have had the complete picture.

However, if people are saved by faith in the promise of God, then all people, no matter when they lived have the opportunity to be saved. The promise of God for salvation is always the same

16. How does God's plan of salvation demonstrate him to be the Ultimate Humanitarian? He loves all people and wants them to be saved.

Assignment: Please read Chapter 4 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*