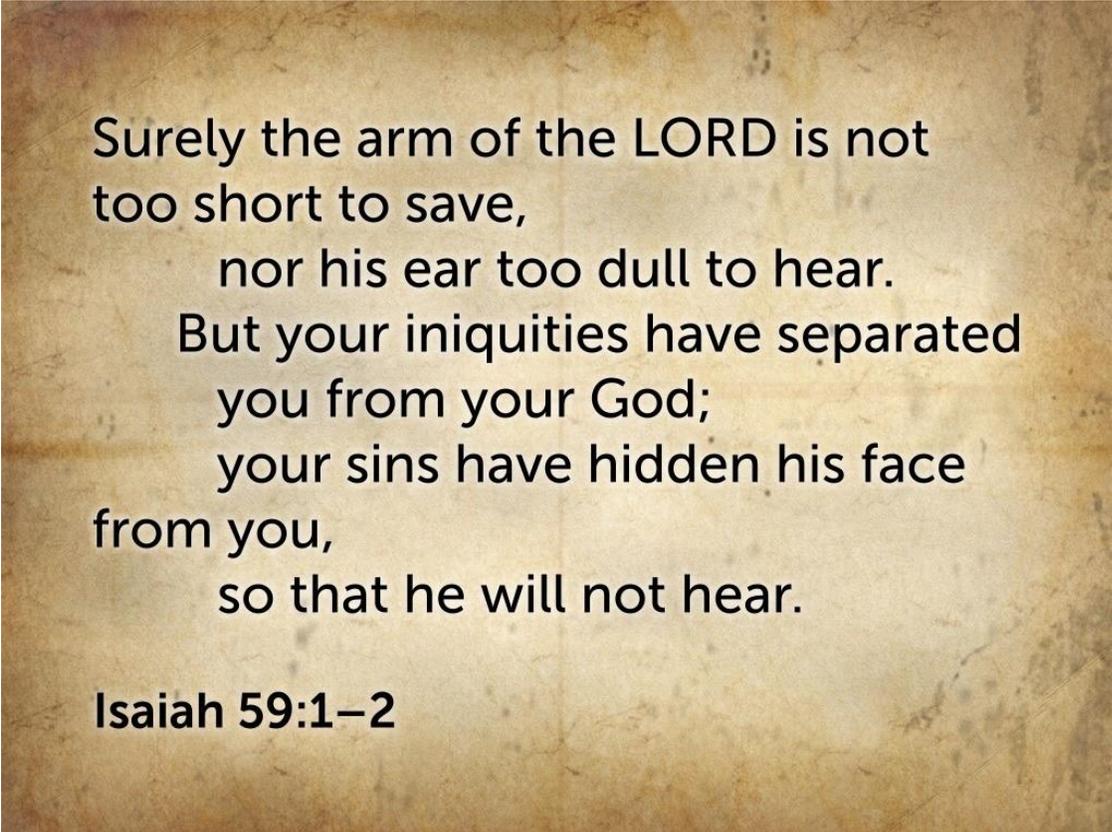


Salvation and Sin

Salvation

Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

4/26/2015



Surely the arm of the LORD is not
too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.
But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face
from you,
so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1–2

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Isaiah 59:1–2 (NIV)

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Sermon Thesis:

Salvation is needed because sin has separated man from God and has enslaved him.

Objectives:

- I. Sin cuts humanity off from God
- II. Sin enslaves humanity to evil

Introduction:

I introduced this illustration on our Facebook page this past week.

How Heavy Is Sin?

A flippant youth asked a preacher, “You say that unsaved people carry a weight of sin. I feel nothing. How heavy is sin? Is it ten pounds? Eighty pounds?” The preacher replied by asking the youth, “If you laid a four-hundred-pound weight on a corpse, would it feel the load?” The youth replied, “It would feel nothing, because it is dead.” The preacher concluded, “That spirit, too, is indeed dead which feels no load of sin or is indifferent to its burden and flippant about its presence.” The youth was silenced!¹

Aren't like the know-it-all youth? Most of us do not feel the effects of sin yet it is at work in our lives. Last week we learned of the “Necessity of Salvation”. This week we will focus on why we need that salvation. The number one reason is sin.

¹ Tan, P. L. (1996). *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (p. 1284). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.

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Sermon Outline:

I. Sin cuts humanity off from God

- A. As human beings we are incapable of handling sin. God in His omniscience moved to rescue us from knowledge we could not handle and would condemn us eternally.

Genesis 3:22–24 (NIV)

²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

- B. The Lord does not want us to live forever in sin. He wants us to live forever in righteousness. This is why God moves to Calvary’s Cross even in Genesis for our salvation.
- C. Sin brought death and that is why men are dead in their sin as a result of their first birth into this world.

Ephesians 2:1–5 (NIV)

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

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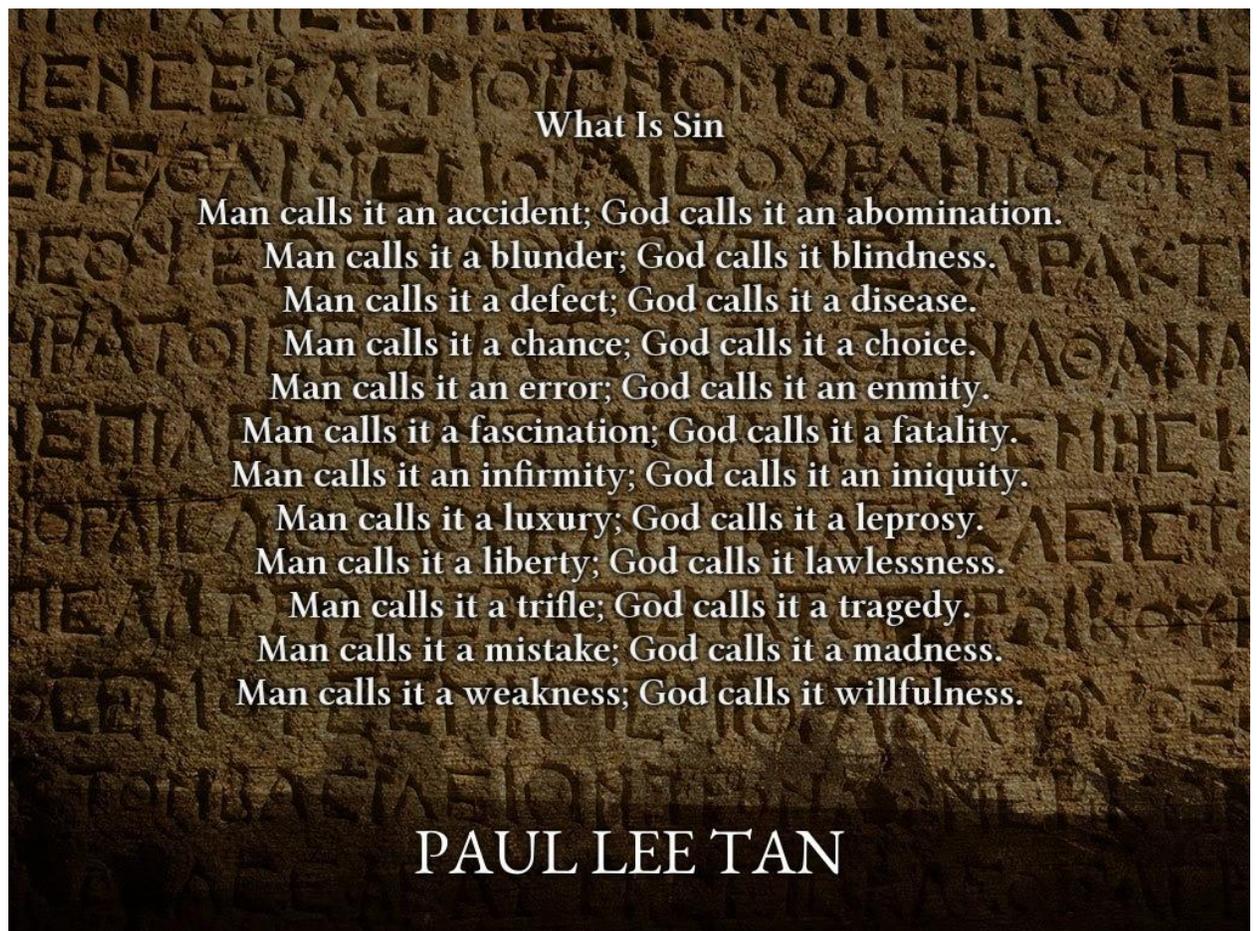
² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

- D. God's Righteousness At Christ Expense will allow us not to be cut off.
- E. Dead in our sins our hearts are hardened. Our decisions our ignorant. Our understanding is darkened.

Ephesians 4:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

- F. Hardened hearts have caused us to look at sin different than God. If you saw our Facebook page this week you would have seen this graphic.



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G. Usually 3 supportive sub-points and with scripture references

H. Our iniquities have separated us from our God. We need Salvation and a remedy for sin.

II. Sin enslaves humanity to evil

A. Our first nature is one that leads to sin. We all sin. We cannot help ourselves.

Jeremiah 13:23 (NIV)

²³ Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots?

Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

B. We are in need of the One who can change us. The One who makes it possible to be saved from our sins. Even though all sin and fall short of the Glory of God.

C. Our deeds continue to keep us from God. They do not allow us to acknowledge the One who makes salvation possible.

Hosea 5:4 (NIV)

⁴ “Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD.

D. We are enslaved to our sins. We need a new master. A Savior who will deliver us from this body of death.

E. Now we cannot pay attention to the righteousness that has come before us. We turn our backs to such a great salvation. Men are enslaved to sin.

Zechariah 7:11–12 (NIV)

¹¹ “But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and covered their ears. ¹² They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

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F. Even when we want to do good, we fail.

Romans 7:14–20 (NIV)

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

G. What has mastered you O sinner? What wrongs do you stand accused of? Don't you stand in need of the forgiveness of sins that is only available from our God?

H. Recognize whether or not you have the forgiveness of your ways that are at enmity with God. We preach deliverance to those who are captive to sin. Sadly those who sin revel in it.

2 Peter 2:13–19 (NIV)

¹³ They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. ¹⁴ With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! ¹⁵ They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

¹⁷ These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

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- I. We are guilty and stand in need of a Savior. Sin has enslaved us. Where is our Salvation?

Conclusion:

Our Salvation is found in God's invitation to GRACE found in His Word.

Our Salvation has been secured by Jesus our Savior who commands obedience to His Words.

Our Salvation is only moment away to the soul who has an ear and hears.

Sin has separated us from God for too long. Sin has hidden His face from humanity now is the moment for salvation, now is the time to pursue His face.

Shall we continue in the sin that has enslaved men for countless generations or shall we turn back to God who loves us and provides the redemption of our souls?

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Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV)

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 17:30 (NIV)

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 26:20 (NIV)

²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NIV)

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:3–4 (NIV)

³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

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1 Peter 3:21 (NIV)

²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

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