

(HANDOUT)
DEEMPHASIZING SIN AND REPENTANCE DOWNGRADES THE GOSPEL
Manvel Bible Chapel Family Bible Hour – 26 January 2020

Attention Step

DE-EMPHASIZING SIN AND REPENTANCE DOWNGRADES THE GOSPEL

Statements I've Heard Christians Make

- “Urging a prospective convert to repent from sin establishes a works-based Gospel.”
- “Don't waste your time talking about sin. Instead, just preach the Gospel.”
- “While evangelizing, don't focus on sin. Instead, present the audience with God's love.”
- “**GOD LOVES YOU AND HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.**”

A Statement Once Heard from an Unsaved Person

- “HOW COULD A GOD OF LOVE, IF HE EXISTS, SEND ME TO HELL FOR SIMPLY NOT BELIEVING IN HIM?!”

Introduction:

-QUESTION: How can you preach a true Gospel without talking about man's fall into sin and the need for deliverance from it?

--ANY GOSPEL WHICH IGNORES THIS IS A FALSE GOSPEL!!!

-The “Downgrade Controversy” – The Downgrade -- predecessor to Modernism & later errors.

1. Denying authority, and **inspiration of Holy Scriptures**
2. Repudiating **God's sovereignty**
3. Denying the **Deity of Christ** as God the Son
4. Denying the **personhood of God The Holy Spirit**
5. Abandoning importance of **God's Holiness**
6. Denying extent of **man's fall into sin** resulting in guilt and death.
7. Denying of **eternal punishment**.

Overview of Lesson

- 1. Man's rebellion against God's Holiness initiated the sin problem (**Genesis 2:16-3:21**)**
- 2. Repentance from sin is at the heart of the true Gospel.**
- 3. God Uses awareness of Sin to bring “Repentance to salvation”).**

The Lesson:

1. Man's rebellion against God's Holiness initiated the sin problem

-God had told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil under penalty of death. **Genesis 2:16-17**

-But Adam and Eve disobeyed. **Genesis 3:6-8**

-Then God did something wonderful. He described the Savior He would send, who would defeat Satan's power of sin over the human race. This was the first gospel message and was never offered to fallen angels. **Genesis 3:14-15**

-Then God provided a blood sacrifice picturing the final blood sacrifice of Christ whereby humans would be forgiven. **Genesis 3:21**

2. Scripture shows that repentance from sin is essential to salvation and has always been at the heart of the true Gospel

-Even before Christ was born, the Angel of the LORD spoke of sin when he told Joseph that the Holy Spirit had caused Mary, his virgin wife, to conceive the Messiah. **Matthew 1:20-21**

-Christ's forerunner John the Baptist emphatically dealt with the issue of sin in presenting the Gospel to Herod. **Mark 6:17-18**

---In other words John dealt so emphatically with the issue of sin that Herod ultimately removed his head

-Some try to claim that the old testament emphasis on sin has been replaced by a NT emphasis on love. They often point to **John 3:16**

-But notice contrast shown earlier in John's Gospel (sin's darkness vs. God's light). **John 1:5**

- Consider what follows this in the same chapter from the lips of John the Baptist. **John 3:36**

--In fact, even in this “LOVE” verse (**John 3:16**) so well known by many, clear reference is made to the penalty of sin in the words “**should not perish**”

--**It is because of SIN that the SINNER PERISHES!!!**

-An individual I know has argued that, Jesus, in his earthly ministry primarily emphasized love

and avoided mentioning sin in His gospel presentations.

- He uses the Samaritan woman as an example. But even here, Jesus, knowing her life's sordid details, clearly deals with sin by commanding her to call her husband. **John 4:16**
- Many additional statements of Jesus prove the issue of sin was very much a part of His gospel message and that **He came to call sinners to repentance!!! Mt 9:13, Mr 2:17, Lu 5:32,**

-Early in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans he presents the sin problem which incurs God's wrath

--**Romans 1:16-18, Romans 2:1-6,**

---Some say that requiring repentance for salvation makes salvation a religion of man's works. That is, he performs the work of "repenting."

---However scripture shows that the leading of man to repentance is God's work – not man's. **Romans 2:4-6**

-Additional Scriptures which prove the necessity of **repentance** from sin for salvation.

--Jesus Speaking to people who apparently believed that some Galileans whom Herod had killed were really bad sinners that probably deserved it:

---**Lu 13:3. Lu 13:5. Lu 15:7**

--Paul reviews what he'd taught the Ephesian church (includes **repentance** toward God).

---**Acts 20:20-21**

3. God Uses awareness of Sin to bring "Repentance to salvation"

-Godly sorrow over sin leads to repentance and salvation **2 Cor 7:9-10**

-Remember: it is God that grants the ability to repent to a human heart. This was made clear in the first Gentile conversion. **Acts 11:18**

Closing Comments

-Ignoring Repentance and Sin results in False Professions. Sin is at the heart of our problem! It is like the elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about. If we do not preach repentance from sin we are preaching a false gospel. If we do not preach repentance from sin we are likely to generate false professions

--They will pray a prayer "accepting Jesus into their lives" with no intention of obeying Him by forsaking sin. Their lives will show little change and life will go on as usual.

---This will be interpreted as "backsliding" by other Christians. People in the church will have little interest in studying Scriptures for themselves or in the teaching of Scripture by others.

-If we do not preach repentance from sin we will further harden the hearts of those who have never professed Christ.

--Statement heard by a person who is presented only with God's love.

"A God of love would never send me to Hell because I didn't believe in Him."

-On the other hand a clear preaching of repentance from sin instills the fear of God into the unsaved (which is the beginning of wisdom) **Psalms 111:10**

--**Example:** Jonathan Edwards' Sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

---God used it to begin a great revival in New England Great Revival in 1741.

---**An Excerpt From Jonathan Edwards' Sermon**

"...O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment. ...?"

----**Comments on the effect and legacy of this sermon (Quoted from Wikipedia)**

"Edwards was interrupted many times during the sermon by people moaning and crying out, "What shall I do to be saved?". Although the sermon has received criticism, Edwards' words have endured and are still read to this day. Edwards' sermon continues to be the leading example of a First Great Awakening sermon and is still used in religious and academic studies. "