

THREE TREMENDOUS TRUTHS

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

Here is a great statement concerning the plan of salvation. God is very much concerned that none miss these eternal truths. These three tremendous thoughts or truths are as follows: --

I. All Are Sinners.

Not all of us are the same age or of the same sex. We do not all like the same things. But, in one thing we are all alike -- all are sinners.

1. We are sinners by birth.

Over that we have no control. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." Can any good thing come out of an evil one? Because our forbears were evil their wickedness was reproduced in us. Because we are tainted with sin we pass on the same corruption to our children. Deny this and you deny the Word of God, the findings of physiology, and the discoveries of psychology.

2. We are sinners by choice.

We all know the basic requirements of God. We have heard them in our homes, schools, Sunday Schools, pulpits; and we have read them in the Bible. Yet, knowing God's will for our lives, we persist in disregarding it. True, Satan is ever ready, ever present, ever tempting us; nevertheless the choice to sin is ours. We are free moral agents.

3. We are sinners by practice.

"There is none righteous, no, not one. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." We know this by experience. We find no inherent strength in us to resist temptation. Our minds are stained with the memories of countless faults and failures. We know this also by observation. We see others struggling, stumbling, sorrowing over evil tendencies, wicked propensities. There are degrees of sinners among us. We are not all murderers, thieves, or liars, but we are all sinners. We have not all sinned alike, but we have all alike sinned.

4. We are sinners under condemnation.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "The wages of sin is death." "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." "He that believeth not is condemned already." "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

These are the inexorable, unchangeable, universal decrees of God. There is no escape from them, no exception, no excuse. We are under doom. Curse of law hangs over our heads. Condemned already. Nothing we can do for ourselves or each other. We are helpless, hopeless, undone. But listen!

II. God Loves Each Of Us.

God loves us and loves us. This is our plea, our cure, our hope, and our only way of escape. God's love reaches down for our souls. Oh the vastness, the wideness, and the mightiness of God's love.

1. It is an ennobling love.

Some love is degrading, for example, the love of Cleopatra, Helen of Troy, and Hollywood's so-called beauties. There is a love which is defiling, debasing, desecrating, down-dragging. God's love is pure, holy, elevating, uplifting. It transforms a sinner into a saint, and a slave of Satan into a child of God. It reaches into the very depths of our beings, using the blood of Jesus Christ and the regenerating influence of the Holy Spirit to cover, to cleanse, and to conquer whatever of evil in stain or tendency there may be found.

2. It is an enabling love.

God never expects us to walk alone. He never takes His great hands from us. He is a God of infinite, inexhaustible, patient, forbearing, enabling love. What would any of us do without the enabling love of God, keeping us from stumbling, watching over us sleeplessly, tirelessly, eternally, supporting us in trial, sustaining us in sorrow, supplying us in need?

3. It is an enduring love.

This is not always true of human love. Many are changeable, variable, and affected by moods and circumstances. They fall in and out of love quickly. How rare is enduring love on earth! Friendships are quickly broken. Misunderstandings are frequent. Time changes us. God's love is without variableness or shadow of turning. We can depend on the perpetual strength of God's love. We can build on it as on a solid foundation.

III. Christ Died For Us.

That was the bitterest condemnation of our sins, and the choicest demonstration of God's love. The world may criticize our living and deny our preaching, but it cannot disprove the love of God. Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God, that He lived upon the earth, that He suffered the cruel Roman scourge, that He submitted Himself to the bitter agony of Calvary's Cross, all must believe that God is love.

1. Jesus Christ died voluntarily.

Not all the powers of earth and hell could have forced Him to the Cross had He been unwilling. Of His own free will He bore our sins in His body on the tree. For sheer, pure, unadulterated love for each of us, He submitted Himself to the torments of hell, voluntarily assuming our nature, our burdens, and our sins.

2. Jesus Christ died vicariously.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him." "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." It was our punishment that He endured. It was our pain that He suffered. It was our death that He took upon Himself. We live because He died.

3. Jesus Christ died victoriously.

"As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." By His death this victorious Victim for all of us, conquered sin, discomfited Satan, defeated death, and tore asunder the grave. His victory is ours. Through Him and in Him we are more than conquerors.

We know that we are sinners. Our hearts convict us of that. We know God loves us with an unchanging, unmerited, and everlasting love. We know Jesus Christ died for us, spilling His blood to redeem us from our sins. God speaks to your heart. Hear His words "You are a sinner. You are lost. You cannot save yourself. I love you. My Son died for your sins. There is salvation in His shed blood; in Him is salvation for you. Will you accept the offer of My mercy?"

By the burden of sin on your hearts, by the blood of Calvary's Cross, by the mighty love of God, I plead with you. Come to Jesus! His pierced hands are stretched out to you, pleading with you to come. If you realize you are a sinner, if you know God loves you, if you realize that Christ died for you, if you have the slightest desire for salvation, accept God's invitation and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ now.