

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2021

Psalm 2: 1-3

¹Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!”

Genesis 2:15-24; Genesis 3: 4-5; Genesis 3:6-8; Genesis 3:9-21

Life		Death
Light	SIN ----->	Darkness
Blessed		Cursed

Genesis 3:14 The Promise to curse the Serpent

Genesis 3:15-24

¹⁵The Promise of enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

The Promise to bruise the serpents head. (First Gospel)

¹⁶The Promise to curse the woman.

¹⁷The Promise to curse the ground because of Adam's sin.

¹⁸The Promise of a life of difficult toil and frustration and labor; finally ending in physical death.

²⁰Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Romans 5: 12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

The Gospel

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lust of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, we were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus...

Hebrews 4: 12-13

¹²For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Matthew 16:13-16

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”...¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus said to Him, “**Blessed** are you Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 11: 2-6

²Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by His disciples ³and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” ⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. ⁶And **blessed** is he who does not take offense at Me.”

Matthew 11: 25-29

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. ²⁸“**Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon You and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

Psalms 2:4-12

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs, the LORD scoffs at them. ⁵Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, ⁶But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.” ⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

¹⁰Now therefore, O Kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. ¹¹Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How **blessed** are all who take refuge in Him!

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

⁷“**Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**”

SIN

SIN had and has a significant effect on the whole person (the heart, the mind, the soul, the strength)

SIN permeates the whole human person. SIN exposes our bodies to physical disease and death.

Our bodies are weakened severely by our fallen condition.

Romans 1:21

²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools...

Proverbs 1: 7

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

SIN clouds our mind. SIN impairs our ability to think clearly. SIN also effects our emotions and our will.

We can still be highly intelligent. We can become highly educated in Science, Philosophy, Religion, Medicine, Economics etc...

And even as believers we are given to making very serious and costly errors in our thinking.

Q- Why is it that when people are exposed to all the same information, they come to radically opposite conclusions??

Even when we meet other Christians, we find that we are in serious disagreement with each other.

Q- Is the bible that confusing? Is it that lacking in clarity that people can come to totally opposite conclusions?

Some people study the bible more diligently than others. These people are more likely to have a better understanding of God's word and how it applies to life.

But ALL OF US FAIL to love the Lord our God with ALL OUR MINDS. We fall into periods of slothfulness and fail to really apply ourselves intellectually.

Also, in our sinful condition, we come to the text with certain biases that hold us captive.

If you were raised in a particular tradition and you were taught the doctrine of that church, It may have been incorrect, but it came to you from people you trusted (Parents, your Pastor). You feel loyal to them.

THE VERY ACT OF THINKING ITSELF HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY SIN.

John 3: 19-21 (Jesus teaching Nicodemus)

"You must be born again" or you cannot "see" or "enter" the kingdom of God.

¹⁹This is the judgement, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.

