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Subject: The Greatest Problem

Once I was blind but now I see. I was a sinner but now I'm free. His wondrous grace has rescued me. The preacher could say that. Can you?

What do you consider the greatest problem to be?

Many problems face the world: the economic downturn, global warming, pandemic flu, nuclear war, meteor strike, lack of natural resources.

What about you as an individual? People are facing unemployment, losing homes, ill health, family, relationships, violence.

The root cause for all these other problems is SIN so this is the greatest problem.

You may disagree or laugh but that does not alter the truth. The Bible makes it clear that sin is our greatest problem.

“[your iniquities have separated between you and God](#)”, (Isa 59:2)

Reading: Genesis 3v1-11,v21,v23-24.

These verses tell us how sin came into the world. Adam and Eve were created by God and placed in a perfect environment.

Reading: Romans 5:12, 15, 18-19

These verses tell how the sin of Adam has an effect on you and me today.

The answer is found in Romans 5:8 - “[while we were yet sinners Christ died for us](#)”

SIN its cause – Rom 5:12 – “By one man sin entered the world”

SIN its curse/consequences – Rom 5:18 – judgment on all

SIN its cure – The Lord Jesus Christ – “[gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ](#)”(Rom 6:23).

What do we mean by sin?

The dictionary indicates:

- transgression of God's known will.
- Any offence against a principle or standard

God has a standard set out in His law or rules. Any breaking of the law is sin.

In Gen 3:11, God asked Adam if he had done what God said “thou shalt not”. It was sin because it was disobedience to God's command and “[sin is transgression of the law](#)” (1 John 3:4). It is not just wrong actions. It may be failure to do things, it may be wrong thoughts or wrong motives.

What is the Cause?

By one man sin entered world (Romans 5:12)

By one man's disobedience many were made sinners (Romans 5:19).

Genesis 3 records how, in the perfection of Eden, one prohibition is given regarding the fruit of one tree. Into the garden comes Satan (as a serpent), immediately he challenges God's word, causing Eve to consider the tree. Their eyes were opened and they knew they had done wrong. Man was never the same again.

Following the sin of Adam and Eve they now had a sinful nature, a bias against God. That has been passed down from generation to generation.

“There is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”(Rom 3:22-23).

“Every man tempted, drawn away after own lusts...”, (James 1:14)

Curse/Consequences:

“sin when finished bringeth forth death”, (James 1:15).

As a result of sin Adam knew he was naked, no longer fit for presence of God. The voice of God came “Adam where art thou?”. Adam was found out.

In Genesis 3:17, the sentence is passed: “cursed is the ground for thy sake”.

“And he died”(Gen 5:5,8,11,14,17,20...).

Sin ultimately condemns to hell and everlasting judgment: “be sure your sin will find you out”(Num 32:23).

You cannot avoid the curse that follows. “It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment”(Heb 9:27).

The penalty is fixed, “the wages of sin is death”(Rom 6:23)

The soul, real “you”, goes to meet God, the judge of all the earth.

Adam was driven from His presence. You will be sent to the place of eternal judgment. You need to consider this seriously and urgently.

Cure:

Gospel is good news.

Praise be to God there is a cure “God commended his love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

There is a solution to the problem of sin. Jesus has bled and there is remission.

“so Christ once offered to bear sins of many”, (Hebrews 9:28); “so by the obedience of one will many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19)

The solution for sin is the Lord Jesus Christ “[Christ died for our sins](#)” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

In the garden of Eden God had the solution, He made coats of skin, an innocent victim had to die. This is a picture of what the Lord Jesus has done for us. The Lord Jesus stepped from heaven to earth to die for guilty sinners, “[the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God](#)” (1 Peter 3:18)

What must we do?

Confess as the Prodigal Son did in Luke 15:21. He came to himself in the far country and considered his life

Repent (Luke 15:17-19)

Believe as the jailor at Phillipi and the end of self asked what to do to be saved. “[Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved](#)”(Acts 16:31).

When Christ died on the cross it was for you. He alone can save you. Sins can be forgiven.