

"Basic Bible Truths" - Message #3  
 "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT MAN'S ONLY HOPE"

Introduction: This session: "*What The Bible Teaches About Man's Only Hope*"...and we all need hope, don't we?

Illustration..."*When you lose hope, you wind-up in the 'john'!*"

1. In our last session we saw that the greatest problem of the human race is the problem of SIN!
  1. Man is in a tough spot!
    1. When we left him last time he was...
      1. Sinful by birth!
      2. Spiritually dead!
      3. Separated from God!
      4. Condemned!
      5. Without any hope whatsoever in this world!
      6. And headed for judgment!

The Bible says this about man's spiritual condition:

Eph. 2:2,3,12...He is "*dead in trespasses and sins*"..."*by nature a child of wrath*"...and "*has no hope (and is) without God in the world.*"

2. Not a pretty picture of the human race!
3. So much for William Ernest Henley's so-called words of inspiration:  
*"I AM THE MASTER OF MY FATE; I AM THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL."*
4. **Wrongo, Ernie!**
5. The fact is that man is as bad off as he can be without God!
  1. That's called "depravity"!
  2. Man's numero uno problem is not that he's been "**DEPRIVED**"...
    - (1) That's man's diagnosis.
    - (2) And he comes to that conclusion because he's rejected the Word of God...
    - (3) And if we reject the Word of God...*What's left?*
    - (4) Opinions...ideas...and theories!
    - (5) What every man thinks.
  3. But...the Bible teaches that because of the sinful nature he inherited from his first parents...
  4. That...he is "**DEPRAVED!**"
  5. That's God's diagnosis!
6. Now...if man's right...then he might just as well "*Eat drink and be merry, because tomorrow (or eventually) he's gonna die!*"
7. But...the Bible says "*It is appointed unto man once to die and after that (SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN!)*"...
  1. WHAT?
  2. "...*the judgment.*" (Hebrews 9:27)
8. That doesn't give us a whole lot to look forward to, does it?

2. So...we have to ask the question: *"Is there any hope for sinful, depraved, condemned mankind?"*
  1. Now...I don't mean the kind of "hope" that we usually think of.
  2. TIME Magazine once contained an essay called *"Hope Sprouts Eternal"* in which it commented that without the power of hope...

"The world would be quite a different place. Christopher Columbus would probably have looked to the Western horizon and told his crew, *'There doesn't seem to be anything in sight. Let's turn around and go home.'* The march of industrial technology would have zigzagged. Thomas Alva Edison, after spending \$40,000 to test umpteen hundred possible filaments for an electric light, would have shrugged and said, *'I give up. Nobody will ever figure this out.'* Most of the heroes of literature would have been far less heroic. Romeo would have said to Juliet, *'You're a real neat girl, but I don't think our families are ever going to let us get married. Maybe we should split up.'* Captain Ahab would have given up whaling and retired to grow petunias in a suburb of New Bedford."<sup>1</sup>

3. Now...when we ask the question, *"Is there any hope for sinful man?"*...we're not talking about that kind of hope.
  4. We're not referring to the Disney's *wishing-upon-a-star* type of hope.
  5. We're not referring to the *"I hope...I hope...I hope!"* kind of hope.
  6. NO...I'm talking about the kind of "hope" of which the Bible speaks.
  7. When the Bible speaks of "hope" it's the kind of hope that EXPECTS...
    1. It's hope that is an anchor...
    2. It's the kind of hope that Peter refers to as a *"living hope"* (I Peter 1:3).
    3. When the Bible speaks of *"hope"* it's speaking of the promises of God!
3. So...does the Bible offer any of that kind of *hope* for the spiritual dilemma of the human race?
  1. Well...the good news is that God not only has something to say about man's greatest problem...
  2. But...He has a lot to say about MAN'S ONLY HOPE!
4. Now...we've already learned that the entire human **"family"** stands guilty and condemned before a Holy and Just God.
  1. BUT...*WHAT IF*...**WHAT IF**...IT WERE POSSIBLE TO BE PART OF A **DIFFERENT** FAMILY?
    2. Well...the Bible teaches that it is not only POSSIBLE...
      1. But God provided a way for sinful, condemned man...
      2. To do exactly that...
      3. **To be part of a different family!!!**
  3. And He did that even before the foundation of the world! (*Eph. 1*)

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<sup>1</sup>TIME Magazine, January 28, 1985

5. And...now watch this...according to the Word of God..being part of that new family which God has brought into existence is man's **ONLY HOPE!**
  1. The Bible tells us that *it is possible* for a person who is a member of Adam's family...
    1. That's the family that has inherited a SIN NATURE from its first parents...
    2. And as a result is condemned to spiritual death...(*eternal separation from God*)...
    3. It is possible to escape from THAT Adamic family and become part of a NEW FAMILY.
    4. **A SPIRITUAL FAMILY THAT'S NOT CONDEMNED... BUT IS PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE!**
2. Now...the question any thinking person is going to ask at this point is this: "*HOW do you get into that family?*"

*"BECAUSE, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE I'D LIKE TO SWITCH FAMILIES! HOW DO YOU DO THAT?"*

1. Most people don't know the answer to that question.
  1. In fact...even a lot of people who seem very *religious* don't know how to answer that question!
  2. Many people...even people involved in religious work, including "*clergymen*"...don't know the answer to that question.
  3. Oh, they have an answer...*but it's the wrong answer.*
  4. They say that one can become a member of God's New Family by religious activity or by doing "*good works*".
    1. Sounds good!
    2. In fact...very appealing!
    3. Lots of people buy it!
    4. Why? Because we can all WORK!

Only one problem...

5. WRONG ANSWER!!
6. The Bible even tells us about one of the foremost religious leaders of Jesus' time...
  1. Who once went to Jesus thinking Jesus was simply a great, religious teacher...
  2. And Jesus used that situation to tell this religious man how to become part of God's New Family...

John 3

3 *Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

4 *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"*

Nicodemus didn't understand...so, Jesus repeated it...

7 *"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

Nicodemus still didn't understand...

9 *Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"

2. Now...those are the most important words that Nicodemus ever heard.
  1. Then...why is it that someone trained in the Scriptures...
    1. A religious man...and a theological scholar...
    2. Didn't understand what Jesus was talking about?
  2. Well...Nicodemus had an enemy!
  3. Remember who the first sinner was?
    1. Remember how he deceived Eve?
    2. Well...he's **still** around.
    3. And he's **still** deceiving people.
    4. Even very religious people!
  4. He still tempts man to be the god of his own life and to decide for himself what is *right and wrong*, or *good and evil*!
  5. And he deceives man into believing that he's really OK!
    1. "I'm OK...you're OK...everybody's OK!"
    2. And so...when man feels a little guilty about his sin and wants some relief...
    3. Satan helps him come up with a *plan* to relieve that guilt and supposedly make God happy...
    4. And that *plan* is designed to appease God by doing good works...
      - (1) Or Religion!!
      - (2) Or keeping the Ten "big ones!"
  6. Man is deceived into believing that...
    1. "If I do all that good stuff..."
    2. "Then...**God will like me so much that He'll just overlook all my shortcomings and He'll see that my good out weighs my bad...**" etc.
3. You know what that is? **IT'S SPIRITUAL DECEPTION! SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS!**
  1. In fact...did you know the Bible teaches that part of Satan's deceptive work is to **blind** the eyes of men to spiritual truth?
  2. That's what the Bible says. (*I'll show you in a minute*)
  3. Nicodemus was a religious leader...but it was just a case of "*the blind leading the blind.*"
  4. And we see that all around us today!
  5. Listen to this...one of the men who was used greatly of God was a man named *Paul*.
  6. But...at one time, Paul was also spiritually blind!
    1. That is not to say that he wasn't a religious person, because he really was...just like Nicodemus...
    2. Paul was a brilliant Jewish scholar of the Law...
    3. A very religious Jew!!!
  7. But he had the same problem as every other member born into the human race...**HE WAS IN THE WRONG FAMILY!**

8. **Until**...the day his problem was solved and his spiritual eyes were opened to the Good News...

1. The Good News that Satan had kept him blinded to...
2. And in a moment of time, he became a member of *God's New Family*...
3. **HOW?**...He put his faith in Jesus Christ for his salvation!

Galatians 3:26...**"For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ."**

9. But that was only the beginning...
  1. Because...by the Grace of God...
  2. This same man was later **INSPIRED** by The Holy Spirit...
  3. To write most of the New Testament!

10. He was now A MEMBER OF GOD'S NEW FAMILY!

11. Listen to the words God inspired him to write in II Cor. 4:3-4...

3 *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (he was one of 'em)*

4 *in whose case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**"*

4. So...the Bible clearly teaches that Satan has blinded the mind of man.
  1. And has placed HOSTILITY in his heart toward the God who created him!
  2. Listen to some of the things the Bible teaches about man's spiritual blindness and hostility toward God...

Rom 8:7

*"...because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile** toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is **not even able** to do so..."*

1 Cor 2:14

*"But **a natural man** (old family) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are **foolishness** to him, and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised."*

Rom 3:10-11

*"...as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God..."*

3. Now...why do you think Satan has blinded the spiritual eyes of man and placed hostility in his heart toward God?
4. It's very simple:
  1. He opposes God and all who are part of His spiritual family...
  2. And...**He wants to keep as many as possible in the family of Adam!!!** (Fallen-sinful, Adamic Family)

3. Now...about this time someone might be thinking, **"This just doesn't seem fair!"**

1. *"I didn't ask to be born into Adam's family."*
  1. *"I didn't have anything to do with being born into the wrong human family!"*
  2. *"You mean to tell me that God is condemning me for doing something over which I had no control?"*

2. Good question...and it's partially true.
  1. This part is true: You and I had nothing to do with being condemned in Adam.
  2. But...ask yourself this question: *"Have I ever sinned in thought, word, or deed...by my own personal choice?"*
  3. Here's another one: *"Have I ever broken just one of the "Big Ten"?"*
  4. How about this one:

Matt 22:37-38

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment."*

YOU EVER BREAK THAT ONE?

5. Now...you might say...*"Well, maybe that one, but I kept the rest of them."*
6. **Well...I've got bad news for you...**

James 2:10

*"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."*

3. Listen...the fact is that we are sinners by nature...***and by choice!***
  1. And the first requirement for entering *God's New Family* is to lay all the cards on the table...
    1. To be big about it...
    2. And just go ahead and admit it...
    3. ***"I'M A SINNER!"***
    4. ***"AND I HAVE CHOSEN TO SIN ON BY MY OWN FREE WILL!"***
  2. ***"GOD IS RIGHT AND I AM WRONG!"***
  3. Now...that's where the discovery of man's ONLY **"hope"** begins!
  4. And this is where the Good News comes in...
    1. Because...right in the middle of man's hopeless dilemma...
    2. **GOD HAS BEEN WORKING ALL ALONG ON HIS BEHALF!**
4. ***How?*** Well...did you know that the ***Adam*** in Genesis wasn't the ***only*** Adam!
  1. Because the Bible tells us that God had ***TWO ADAMS!***
    1. God tells us that there are two totally ***different*** heads of two completely ***different*** streams of humanity!
    2. Listen to Paul's words in I Cor. 15:45-46...

*"So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

*However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual."*

3. In Vs. 47, Paul repeats the difference between these two Adam's:
 

*"The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven."*

  2. The First Adam can be described as **THE FALLEN ADAM.**
    1. Adam...the first man..
      1. Brought an *"earthy"* race into existence by natural procreation.
      2. Adam and Eve had children, and their children had children, and here you and I are.
    2. But...in contrast to the First Adam...
      1. The Second Adam is in the process of ***bringing into existence...***
      2. A ***heavenly race*** that is right with God!

3. And that's being accomplished by *Supernatural Regeneration!*
    1. Not rehabilitation.
    2. Not reformation.
    3. REGENERATION!
  4. Man becomes part of the earthy, sinful family by physical birth.
  5. But...because of God's work on our behalf...
    1. Man can become part of *God's New Family...*(Heavenly family)...
    2. Through a spiritual birth...a new birth...
    3. How?...BY BEING "BORN AGAIN!"
5. Now...it's time to take our attention off of the FIRST ADAM.
1. It's time to give our complete attention to God's LAST ADAM!
    1. We've seen THE FALLEN ADAM.
    2. Now let's look at **THE RISEN ADAM!**
  2. The First Adam was created to reflect the "image" of God, remember?
    1. But...when he rebelled against God's will the "image" was *marred or smudged!!*
    2. So, God sent the *Last Adam* to show us the "image" of God!

Heb 1:1-3

***"God...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.***

***And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation (or image) of His nature..."***

3. The Last Adam didn't mar or smudge the image of God...
  1. Because the Scripture says in Jn. 6:38...
  2. *"I came down from heaven, not to do my own will...but to do the will of Him that sent Me."*
3. God's original purpose for man is now being carried out, not through The First Adam... but through *Another Adam!*

God is still creating man! (*II Cor. 5:17*)

1. The Bible teaches that man's ONLY HOPE is found in Jesus Christ.
2. Because He is God's LAST Adam.
3. Why "last"? Because there will never be need of another One!
4. Now...I know...Satan has deceived people into believing that Jesus Christ was a failure.
5. And it is true that when He went to the Cross...he ***"appeared"*** to be a hopeless failure.
6. But He was totally triumphant! (*Col. 2:13-15*)
7. Listen to the words of Jesus as He speaks about His coming crucifixion. (*John 12:24...*)

***"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."***

Now...what's this "much fruit"?

THE "MUCH FRUIT" THAT CAME FROM CHRIST'S DEATH ON THAT CROSS AND RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD...IS: **GOD'S NEW FAMILY!**

Or...the Church of Jesus Christ!...The family of God!

4. Now we've seen that man's physical birth brought with it "*condemnation*" because we were conceived in sin.
  1. But...what about Jesus?
  2. He came here, as a man, by physical birth, too, right?
  3. That's exactly right.
5. "*But*", someone might say, "*I thought the Bible teaches that Jesus came to earth by a 'virgin birth'*".
  1. That's true...He was BORN of a virgin...
    1. But in every other way...His birth was as human as any other person ever born...
    2. Because it wasn't His **birth** that was miraculous and supernatural...
    3. It was how He was "conceived".
  2. That...was the real miracle!
  3. Here's what the angel said to Mary:

Luke 1:31-35

31 "*And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.*

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God."*

6. So...Jesus was born physically just like every other baby ever born...BUT THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT HE WAS BORN SINLESS!
  1. The writer to the Hebrews says...

Heb 4:15

Christ was "*...tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*"

2. And because He was sinless...He could pay the penalty for our sins.
3. Someone had to die in our place who was qualified to pay the price!
4. And when Jesus died the price for our sins WAS PAID IN FULL!

1 Pet 3:18

*"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."*

5. So...where the First Adam failed...the Last Adam succeeded.

6. Don't forget now...the Adamic family is in a hopeless spiritual condition.

1. The only thing we have to look forward to is eternal death and separation from God...if we remain in that family.
  1. But...here's the Good News...

1 Cor 15:22

*"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."*

2. All man has to do is to be honest and acknowledge that Satan has him hopelessly bound...
  1. In guilt
  2. In condemnation
  3. In death

3. But...it is not until a man is willing to admit those things...
  1. That God will rescue him from his sinful condition...
  2. And enable him to receive and embrace the Good News of the GOSPEL! (*Romans 1:16*)

Now...let me ask you...

4. **What greater news could there be than the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ!!**
5. What? Winning the Lottery!?
  1. So...you die and go into eternity separated from God forever...
  2. But rich?...not hardly.
6. You'll never see a U-Haul behind a hearse!
7. Listen to this...

Heb 2:14-15

*"Since then the children (of Adam) share in flesh and blood, He (The Last Adam) Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."*

8. That's the Good News that man needs to hear...but Satan has blinded his eyes!
9. But...if man's so sinful...why does the Holy Spirit of God keep pleading with him?
10. Here's the answer...the Bible says...

Rom 5:8

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

John 3:16

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

11. You know who "WHOEVER" is? That's "whoever"!
2. Now...that ought to take the pressure off of man in his hopeless condition!
  1. Think about it...God laid all your sin and mine...
    1. On His perfect son...
    2. As He was hanging on the Cross of Calvary!
  2. He took what you and I deserve.
  3. He died for us and then was buried and then on the third day rose from the grave!
  4. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 4:25...

*"He...was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised (for) our justification."*

3. Jesus paid it all!
  1. Now...God can say to sinful man...
    1. *"The full payment for your sins has been made..."*
    2. *"If you will now receive my Son as your personal payment..."*
    3. *"You will be set free from the Adamic family..."*
    4. *"And you will be born-again into the Last Adam...JESUS CHRIST!"*
    5. *"And into My new family."*
  2. Eternal life is a free gift to all who will receive it.

Rom 6:23

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## Conclusion:

7. Now...there just might be someone listening to my voice who still isn't sure how to get into God's New Family.

\*They may not really understand how to be "*born-again*" into that family.

1. God doesn't leave us in the dark here, either.
  1. Being "*born-again*" involves two steps:

Acts 20:21

**"...repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."**

2. REPENTANCE & FAITH
  2. What does it mean to "*repent*"?
    1. The word means to "*turn around*" or "*to change your mind*".
    2. God...the *Creator* of man...invites man to turn from his way to God's way.
    3. He has already paid man's (**Adamic**) penalty on the Cross.
    4. Now...man is able to make the right choice.
    5. Acts 17:30 says..."**God...commands all men everywhere to repent.**"
    6. All men...Everywhere!

8. So...being born-again involves REPENTANCE, but it also involves FAITH.

*"Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Acts 20:21)

1. When a man repents and turns toward God as his Father...
  1. He is trusting God the Son as his Savior.
  2. And on the basis of what he has learned about Christ's payment for his sins...
    1. He can now say from his heart...
    2. "*Dear Lord Jesus...Thank you for dying for my sins...*
    3. "*I now invite you into my life to be my own, personal Savior.*"
  3. The Bible says in Jn. 1:12..."*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.*"
  4. And **that**...is how a man becomes a born-again Christian...
  5. **That**...is how a man is born into God's Forever Family.
  6. And **that**...is man's only hope!

## **PRAYER**

\*Next time:

God has been seeking to teach man one major lesson from the moment of his creation and will continue until the creation of the new heaven and the new earth.

We'll see what is and how He's been doing it next time.

## Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #3

**"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT MAN'S ONLY HOPE"**

1. In our last session, we saw that the greatest problem of the human race is the problem of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. *"DEPRAVITY"* means:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 1)
3. According to Hebrews 9:27, what happens after a man dies?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 2)
4. When the Bible speaks of *"hope"*, it's referring to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (p. 2)
5. The entire human \_\_\_\_\_ stands guilty and condemned before God. But God has made it possible for man to become part of a different "*\_\_\_\_\_!*" (p. 2)
6. According to John 3:7, Jesus said a man had to be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in order to become part of God's new family. (p. 4)
7. Nicodemus didn't understand what Jesus was saying because he was \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_! (p. 4)
8. Satan deceives man by convincing him that he can please God by which of the following: (p. 4)
  - Doing good works
  - Being religious
  - Keeping the 10 Commandments
  - Putting his faith in Jesus Christ
9. The Apostle Paul, before he put his faith in Christ, was a very religious man, but he was part of the \_\_\_\_\_ family. (p. 5)
10. Galatians 3:26 tells us that we become members of God's family by what?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 5)

11. The Bible tells us that there are two completely different heads of two completely different \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity. (p. 7)
12. I Cor. 15:45-46: "The first man, \_\_\_\_\_, became a living soul. The last \_\_\_\_\_ became a life-giving spirit." (p. 7)
13. The second \_\_\_\_\_ is in the process of bringing into existence a \_\_\_\_\_ race. And that is being accomplished by: (p. 7)
- Rehabilitation
  - Turning over a new leaf
  - Positive Thinking
  - Reformation
  - Regeneration
14. Why is Jesus Christ referred to as God's "*Last* Adam"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 8)
15. What was the "much fruit" that came from Christ's death and resurrection?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 8)
16. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ never committed even one sin:  TRUE  
 FALSE  
How can you be sure your answer is correct? (p. 9)
17. According to Hebrews 2:14-15, people who are in Adam's sinful family are subject to \_\_\_\_\_ all their lives. (p. 10)
18. If man is so sinful...why does the Holy Spirit continue to speak to a man's heart?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p. 10)
19. Being born-again into God's new family involves two things. What are they and how do you know? (p. 11)
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_

I know

because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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