

Mid-Atlantic Gospel Camp

General Subject: Where Are You?

Mid-Week Gathering 2 – Introductory Reading

First Portion

Verses to read with prayer:

Romans 3:10-12 – Even as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, there is none who seeks out God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become useless; there is none who does good; there is not so much as one...”

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

John 8:44 – You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks it out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it.

... the condition of the world is hopeless. Not one person seeks God and no one understands God (3:11). All have turned away from God and have become useless (3:12). No one is righteous (3:10) and no one practices good (3:12). In other words, there is not one righteous man and not one good man. Do you know the difference between a righteous man and a good man? If I work for you for one month at a salary of five hundred dollars per month and you refuse to pay me, you are unrighteous. However, if you pay me, you are a righteous man. If I did not work for you at all and you gave me five hundred dollars as a gift when I needed it, that would be an act of grace. If you did this, you would be a good man. However, Paul says that among all the human beings in the world not one is righteous and not one is good. Do you believe this? I do. We should not think of ourselves as exceptions. No one is righteous; no one is good. Therefore, everyone has become subject to the judgment of God (3:19). The condition of the world is totally hopeless. (*W. Lee, Life-study of Romans, message 4*)

Because the devil is the father of sinners, sinners are the children of the devil (1 John 3:10). The devil is the old serpent, and sinners also are serpents, the generation of vipers (Matt 23:33; 3:7). ... (*Recovery Version, John 8:44 footnote 1*)

The Lord's word here reveals that in the devil, the father of lies, there is a particular wicked thing that caused him to become the source of sin. This thing is something of his own, his private possession... (*Recovery Version, John 8:44 footnote 2*)

...Since the devil is the father of lies, he is the source of sin. ... the evil element of the devil, working as sin through death and darkness within man, enslaves man to sin. The

devil's nature is a lie and brings in death and darkness. ...(*Recovery Version, John 8:44 footnote 3*)

Discussion:

1) If you asked those in your household about your living, would they say that you were a righteous and good person today?

2) If the devil is the father of lies, whose children are we when we lie? Who is the source of every lie we tell?

Second Portion

Verses to read with prayer:

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

1 John 1:7b And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Christ is the real Lamb of God. He was not merely a great teacher or a great religious leader. He is the Redeemer of mankind. The Bible says that He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). After thirty-three and a half years of living on this earth, Jesus Christ died on the cross. His death was not an ordinary death. Many great leaders of the world died for their causes. Many national heroes shed their blood for their countries. But Jesus died for the sins of all mankind (2 Cor. 5:14). He died as the unique Redeemer.

We need to be clear that redemption is something that God has done in Jesus Christ to satisfy His own righteous requirement on mankind; it has nothing to do with what we are or what good works we have done. Nothing can add to what God has already accomplished in Christ. Redemption is an act before God and it satisfies God.

Jesus, the Son of God, has shed His blood for mankind. His blood has satisfied all God's righteous requirements. Because He has died, man need not die for his sins. Through Christ's blood God is silenced and heaven is at peace. Now man can come boldly before God (Heb. 10:19). The Bible says that the blood of Christ speaks for us (Heb. 12:24) like an attorney in a law court speaking for the defendant. Through this blood God is at peace (Rom. 5:9) because His righteous requirement is satisfied. When God is at peace, our conscience also is at peace.

If you see how the redemption of Christ has fully satisfied God, you will be at peace with God. By the redemption of Christ, God has forgiven man's sins (Eph. 1:7). When God

forgives man's sins, He forgets man's sins (Heb. 8:12). His forgiving is His forgetting. God can do everything, but He cannot remember the sins of those who have believed in the redemption of Christ. Those who believe in Christ's redemption are cleansed, justified, purified, absolved, unspotted, and untainted before God. (*Christ Redemption and Salvation Booklet*)

Discussion:

- 1) What satisfies God's righteous requirements?
- 2) What are the results of God's forgiveness?

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Supplemental – Questions

*(6th graders should **privately** fill out, or at a minimum read this form, after the mid-week gathering)*

Where are You?—Dead in Sins

Please circle one: boy / girl / serving brother / serving sister

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

[PUT A CHECK MARK IN THE PROPER COLUMN]

| | GUILTY | NOT GUILTY |
|---|--------|---------------|
| 1. I love other things more than the Lord. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. I have used the Lord's name wrongly. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. I have not honored my mother or father. | _____ | _____ |
| I talked back to my mother or father. | | |
| I wouldn't do what my mother or father asked me to do. | | |
| I said something bad about my mother or father. | | |
| I wished that I had other parents. | | |
| I disobeyed my parents. | | |
| 4. I was jealous of my brother or sister, or my friend. | _____ | _____ |
| I wished that I had other brothers or sisters. | | |
| 5. I got angry and lost my temper. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. I had a fight with someone (either verbal or physical). | _____ | _____ |
| 7. I stole something from someone. | _____ | _____ |
| I took something from my mother or father without asking. | | |
| I took something from my brother or sister, or friend without asking. | | |
| I took something from a store and didn't pay for it. | | |
| 8. I borrowed something from someone and didn't return it. | _____ | _____ |
| 9. I found something which belonged to someone else and I kept it. | _____ | _____ |
| I found money which wasn't mine and I kept it. | | |
| 10. I cheated on a test. | _____ | _____ |
| 11. I lied to someone about something. | _____ | _____ |
| To my parents. | | |
| To my teacher. | | |
| 12. I said something about someone that was not true. | _____ | _____ |
| 13. I wished that I had something that someone else had. | _____ | _____ |