

LORD'S DAY 5

Escaping God's wrath and judgment

- Is this even possible
- If so, how

12. Q. Since, according to God's righteous judgment we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how can we escape this punishment and be again received into favour?

Answer:

- God demands that his justice be satisfied.
- Therefore - we must make full payment
 - either by ourselves
 - or through another

This is the Reality in Which We All Live

- Nobody gets away with anything
- God demands perfection from each and every one of us
 - And He is just for requiring this
- Because we all sin – we all deserve death and punishment
- **Romans 6:23** - *The wages of sin is death*
 - A sinner gets paid for their work
 - We earn our judgment in the same way a worker earns their paycheck
 - The payment is God's wrath / death
 - Which results in eternal judgment
 - This is true for all of us
- God demands that His justice be satisfied
- He will not allow one single sin to go unpunished
- The question is:
 - Is there a way to escape this?
 - And if so, how?

13. Q. Can we by ourselves make this payment?

Answer:

- Certainly not.
- On the contrary, we daily increase our debt

This is the Reality in Which All People Find Themselves

- We are indebted to God because of our sins
 - And there is nothing we can do about it
 - We are stuck
- Even worse:

- Every day we live we continue to sin
- We continue to add to our condemnation
 - Not only are we stuck
 - But we continue to sink deeper and deeper each day of our lives
 - We continue to store up wrath for the day of judgment when we stand before God
- The reality of our human condition is unbearable
 - Nobody wants to hear this
 - No person wants to accept this as fact
 - Nobody wants to face this reality
 - How could anyone live an enjoyable life knowing this is their destiny?
 - So we fight it / suppress it / reject it / punish those who tell us the truth
 - We do this in two ways:
 - 1 – Denial - Human nature wants to be left alone and pretend it doesn't exist
 - It refuses to hear that it has sinned and fallen short of God's glory
 - It refuses to acknowledge judgment and eternal punishment
 - It rejects anything that it sees as "negative"
 - It only wants to hear the positive
 - Our culture today is immersed in this type of thinking
 - To state the negative side of reality is to be negative and pessimistic
 - This is not considered politically correct
 - Offending someone is not an accepted practice
 - The current culture hates this so much that they are continually looking for ways to punish those who speak the truth of God and our sinful human nature
 - To make it illegal to tell someone they cannot do something because it is a sin against God's moral law
 - They hate it
 - 2 – We create our own religion – we try to save ourselves
 - For some reason this is engrained within our thinking
 - Every religion in the world attempts to save itself by good works
 - Except Christianity
 - For some reason we refuse to own up to our guilt
 - For some reason we refuse to bow the knee to Christ and embrace the cross instead
 - So many Christians profess faith in Christ
 - And yet still find a way to jump on the performance treadmill and think they are pleasing God because they are a good person
 - That their good works and merit will save them in conjunction with what Christ did on the cross

14. Q. Can any mere creature (person) pay for us?

Answer: No

- In the first place, God will not punish another creature for the sin which man has committed.
- Furthermore, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it

We Have All Been Born in the Line of the First Adam

- We have inherited Adam's original sin
- We continue to add to our account our own personal sins as well
- No mere human being qualifies as a savior

15. Q. What kind of mediator and deliverer must we seek?

Answer:

- One who is a true and righteous man,
 - and yet more powerful than all creatures;
- That is, one who is at the same time true God

The Qualifications of a Savior

- 1 - Perfectly human
 - A human being in every aspect
- 2 - A perfect human being
 - Without original or personal sin
- 3 - God Himself