

Easter Message, 4.16.06
Before & After

Intro.

Romans 4.25 – “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

I stand before you today as a person guilty of murder, adultery, coveting, greed, unjust anger and rage, unforgiveness & bitterness, immorality, pride & haughtiness, cursing, obscenities, rebellion against authorities, lying, stealing, jealousy and envy, hypocrisy, selfishness, posing (pretending to be something when I’m not and pretending to be not something when I am), not loving my wife & children the way Jesus would want me to, gossip, slander, defamation of character, not...and if that isn’t enough here’s the greatest revelation of them all – you are guilty of the same sins.

Lest you try to wiggle out, let me remind you of Jesus’ words...”you have heard it said, “Do not murder”... but I say that anyone who is angry with his brother is subject to judgment...but I tell you...

He internalizes sin. It’s not just the act that is sin, but the attitude of the heart as well that is sin.

Rom.4.25a – He was delivered over to death for my sin...

- A. Our condition before the cross & resurrection of Jesus
 - a. Before the cross, we all share the same condition...sinners. God declares that all people are sinners, lawbreakers, rebels, transgressors, defiant, go our own way (Is.53.6)
 - b. We are sinners by nature & choice – explain...to err is human.
 - c. God’s law, written in the Bible and etched on mankind’s conscience, let’s us know what is right & wrong.
 - d. Checklist – (keep tally marks):

- i. Selfishness – didn’t share, withheld, did or bought something even though you knew you shouldn’t, didn’t get involved when you had a responsibility to b/c it was inconvenient, you spent time on something you really enjoyed when you knew you should be spending that time on something or someone else, use extra money on your own desires rather than the genuine needs of your family, when you’re suppose to come eat yet you stay in front of the tv, when you’re suppose to be home, but you keep working or playing...if you don’t think you have a problem with selfishness just ask your mom or wife
 - ii. The Bible says if you’re guilty of breaking one law, you’re therefore guilty of breaking them all.
- e. Why the Law was given – Ro.3.19f. – To reveal my sin! The law of God and the law written on my heart condemn me.
- Rom.3.19 - Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses and to bring the entire world into judgment before God. 20For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.**
- f. **My conversion experience** – raised in strong Christian family, no legalism, or fist of the angry God, or major hyprocristy – deep conviction of sin...realizing it wasn’t just “our sins” but “my sins” that put him on the cross...the work of the HS is to “convict the world of sin.”
 - g. Our destination w/o the cross – purposeless, empty existence that ends in hell...this is who I am and where I’m headed without the cross & resurrection of Jesus.
 - h. “He was delivered over to death for my sin.” – The Cross is the place where God’s law and God’s love converge; God’s justice and His grace intersect

- i. God's law: My sins demanded punishment – the wages of sin is death. The law says I'm guilty and deserve death and hell → a substitute was needed
- j. God's love says, "John 3.16" & "Is.53.5–6" & "Rom.3.25"
 - i. Is.53.5–6: 5But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! 6All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.
 - ii. Rom.3.25: For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.
- k. It is a win/win/win situation. God's law wins – punishment; God's love win – a way of forgiveness; we win when we put our faith in Jesus.
- l. W/o the cross and resurrection, I stand before God completely ruined.

B. Our position after the cross & resurrection

- a. Rom.4.25b – “and was raised to life for my justification.”
- b. When I step over the line of faith and come to a genuine submission of my will to God's, I am justified
- c. Justification means – I am declared not guilty in the sight of God. My sins, past, present & future, are covered by the blood of Jesus. He bore my sins and endured my pain, so that now by faith, I am completely clean in God's sight.
- d. 2 Cor.5.17 – If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- e. Before the cross I was...after the cross I am
 - i. Guilty/Innocent
 - ii. Imprisoned/Free
 - iii. Condemned/Justified
 - iv. Bound for Hell /Bound for Heaven
 - v. Lost/Found

- vi. Blind/Now I see
 - vii. Slave/Son
 - viii. Object of wrath/object of mercy
 - ix. Child of the devil/child of God
 - x. Enemy/friend
 - xi. Impure/Spotless
 - xii. Lived in darkness/walking in the light
 - xiii. Dead to sin/alive to the Spirit
 - xiv. Dominated by the devil/protected by the power of his name
 - xv. In bondage to sin/co-heir with Christ
 - xvi. Defeated/more than a conqueror
 - xvii. Haunt for demons/the habitation of God
- f. Before the cross & resurrection I was a sinner; after the cross & resurrection, I am a saint.
 - g. "He was delivered over to death for my sin, but was raised to life for my justification."
 - h. What would have happened had Christ not been raised? 1 Cor.15.

Illustration:

Use felt board – big pink heart; put layer of layer of black over it (one sin condemns me); use variations of disobeying your parents; have a thick covering of black felt;

You say, "But I've done some good..." add over the black heart...the problem is you still haven't eliminated the sin...like erasing the top layer of a carbon paper, it's still on the second page. You're good doesn't erase your sin...your good actions may make you feel better, but it doesn't eliminate your sin.

Like going down the seawall of Galveston. You have all these hotels & restaurants & stores and one street over you enter into poverty...just like with our hearts

Along with pink heart, have a cross with a white & red heart. “The Lamb of God (sacrifice/scape goat) who takes away the sin of the world.

Read passage – “He was delivered over to death for my sin” – transfer my sins to him & cover them with the red heart.

This transference isn’t automatic. You flip the switch. The ABC – Acknowledge, Believe, Confess– it’s about submitting your will to His.

This isn’t about, “Do you want joy...peace...purpose...Mankind’s greatest need isn’t those things, but it’s forgiveness. If you seek His forgiveness and submit to His control he’ll give you joy, peace & purpose, but if all you seek is joy, etc and not submit you’ll receive neither.

Here’s what some of you are thinking:

- I’m not that bad – you think it applies to really “bad” people but not you; “Bad” – you think morally corrupt...awful person, etc; but you are a sinner. You may not be as “bad” as possible, but you aren’t as good as God demands – perfection 100% of the time.
- I’m good – Gal.2.21, my paraphrase, “If I could be made right with God by observing the law (doing good) then Christ died for nothing...you have sin that can’t be erased. Doing good won’t make you right with God; it will leave you with the false delusion that all is well
- I’ll clean up my life first – You’re saying, “I can’t come to Christ until I get cleaned up” but the truth is you can’t get cleaned up until you come to Christ. Do you think Christians are pure b/c they’ve cleaned up their life? Rather, Christians are pure b/c Christ has cleaned up their life.
 - Come ye sinners poor and needy, lost and ruined by the fall, if you tarry til your better you will never come at all.
- I believe – but it’s not a faith commitment. Jesus said, “Follow me...put me before family, money, everything. The devil believes this (flannel board)

- I'll go at it my own way – Solomon said, “There is a way that seems right unto man, but in the end it leads to death.” There are many similarities between world religions as it pertains to morality and right living, but there is one huge difference between genuine Christianity and those religions...do/done...Jesus said, “Wide is the gate (Mt.7.13f.)”

“He was raised to life for my justification” – transfer his white heart to me.

Have you made that transference? Rom.10.9.