

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Sometimes preachers can make things very complicated. However, when it comes to having a home in heaven, God has made it very simple.

Here are the facts:

- We are all sinners.
- We are all, on a regular basis, doing things which are contrary to the Holiness of God.
- Since this is true, it would be impossible for us to spend eternity in the presence of God on the basis of our own goodness because, from God's perspective, we don't have any.

As we read in Isaiah,

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags.

However, God loves us anyway and longs for our eternal well-being, in spite of the fact that we are all sinners. As we read in Romans,

Romans 5:8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The problem is this:

How can God righteously receive people unto Himself whom He, because of His justice, is obligated to punish?

God, in His wisdom, carefully devised a plan for us in which He allowed God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come to this earth, to become one of us, so that He could bear in His person the punishment for our sins that a just God was required to execute. The judgment of God, which should have fallen on us for our sins, instead fell upon the person of our Substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ, until the penalties against all of our sins past, present and future were satisfied.

Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

God the Father is now satisfied with what God the Son has accomplished for us on the cross, concerning our sin debt. Instead of us being separated from God forever, God the Son allowed Himself to experience a separation from the Father, a separation which He would have rather not experienced.

Isaiah 53:11: He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be

satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

When our sin was laid on Christ, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). God the Father turned His back on God the Son, in order that He might not turn His back on us forever. God the Father's justice is now satisfied through what Jesus has suffered on the cross.

There is now no longer tension with God toward us sinners concerning our sin debt. Rather, now God is at peace, being satisfied with Christ's sin-settling sacrifice made in our behalf.

Ephesians 2:17: And He (Christ) came and preached (proclaimed) peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Jesus, on the cross, settled your sin debt to the Father's satisfaction. What God now asks of you in order that you might become His child is that YOU be satisfied with what Christ has done on the cross about your sin debt.

Rest in the Lord Jesus's payment for your sin debt. Believe that Jesus has made your peace with God by the offering of Himself for you (because He did). Let that sin-settling sacrifice of Christ be that which merits your relationship with God. God did the hard part. He now asks you simply to believe it for yourself.

Rest your hope for all eternity on the sufficiency of Christ's work for you. When you do, the Father makes you His forever child, gives you the Holy Spirit as a guarantee that you are His, places you in the risen Christ as your Shepherd, Advocate and future Deliverer, and heaven is now your home.