

Foundational Flaw of Human Nature

Bro. Jeremy Moore ~ Sunday 3/10/2024

Turner Primitive Baptist Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 51

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. ⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. ¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. ¹⁸ Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Message

Luke 1: 30 – 35

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Remember from last week:

The barren women mentioned in the Bible all had a child, and very powerful, very special things came from those children:

- Isaac
- John the Baptist
- Samuel
- Sampson...

There has never been a woman so barren as Mary. There has never been a woman that had more struggle having a child than one who “knew not a man.” No physical reality that would allow her to have a child. She was the most barren woman that was asked to have a child.

Isaiah 7: 14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Born of a virgin

Studying about the virgin birth of Christ causes us to confront our very nature, the inescapable nature of every single human, certain realities that we have to come to grips with about being corrupt, iniquitous, broken, sinful, evil.

This is a mystery that I cannot explain within the boundaries and limitations of my finite mind. But, differently than you and I, the power of the Holy Ghost was able to overshadow Mary, and cause a life to be conceived in her womb that did not have the same **foundational flaw** that would have existed if Joseph or any other “man” had been the father of her child; a flaw, a scar, a deficiency, a disease, a genetic disorder, a continuation of ancestral inheritance that stems from Adam’s fall before God, which became our inescapable reality... we are rebellious children of rebellious parents... Everyone of us, by nature, like the Jews, we will not have this man to rule over us. (Luke 19: 14)

Psalms 51: 5

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And **in sin did my mother conceive me.**

- Even though Mary was herself sinful and flawed, her first son did not inherit this inescapable wound...
- The only human born of a virgin
- To not acknowledge our inability to direct our will to God is to suppose that we contain the nature that Jesus needed, even though he had to be born to a virgin to escape it
- You do not have to teach a child to lie, to be selfish, to steal, or to keep things secret... it is engrained in our very nature.

Ephesians 2: 1-3

And you hath he quickened, who **were dead in trespasses and sins**; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.

Genesis 6: 5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually.**

What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

- In our natural state, **we will NOT choose God.**
- We will not seek after Him.
- We will say “we will not have this man to rule over us.”

Excerpt from Paul Treick’s book – Faith of our Fathers Living Still

A study of “total depravity” should include the realization that the natural (unregenerate) man is not as bad as he could be in his actions. If that were the case then the unbeliever would be constantly in an open physical rebellion and confrontation with the church all of his days. We can see that this is not the case. **Many unbelievers can be “good neighbors” to Christians.** Many discoveries by the heathen in science, medicine, and learning have been beneficial to Christians. **Sin is not totally intensive, but is held in check by God.**

This is a part of what is sometimes called God’s “common grace” (not to be confused with “saving grace”) whereby God restrains the heathen from being as bad as they could be, and actually are, in their fallen nature. For example, an unbelieving heart surgeon may be given abilities from God to benefit many. **Likewise heathen nations are held in check from performing all the evil they are capable of. God may even use them as He did in the Old Testament to instruct or discipline His people.** Notice just a few examples: Deut. 32:21; Judges 3:1-4; I Kg. 11:14ff.; Jer. 5:15; 6:22,23; Luke 19:41ff.

By restraining unbelievers from doing what is really in their hearts, carnal men are even able to obey some of the letter of the law (howbeit for the wrong reasons since they do not seek to give glory to God in this). See Romans 2:14-16. **God restrains this evil in order that the gospel may have free course, and His elect people may have a measure of physical peace in this life.** See Matthew 24:22-24.

We should never conclude that if the unbeliever is able to perform some things which appear to be good in the eyes of men, that these same actions are good or glorifying in the eyes of God. The good things that God gives to all men—sunshine, rain, and various pleasures—require a proper response. They should be used to serve God out of thankfulness. This the unbeliever cannot and will not do. In the end, the unthankfulness and unfaithfulness of the unbeliever in the things God has given to him will be called into account. He will be shown to be a sinful steward—using his time, talents, and God’s gifts only for his own selfish purposes, the end of which is condemnation (see the Parable of the Talents in Matt. 25, especially vv. 24-30; cf. 25:41-46).

We might add here that the believer is not as good as he should be either, even though he is reborn by the Spirit of God and in Christ he is declared to be totally righteous. In reality his life falls far short of the new nature that is his in Christ. See how Paul describes this struggle in Romans 7 when he admits “*For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do,*” and again, “*For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice*” (Rom. 7:15, 19). What this says is that our old sinful nature still cleaves to us as long as we are in this body. Yet, the believer does not have this sin imputed to him, “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile*” (Ps. 32:1,2), but rather the righteousness of Christ is imputed to him (see Rom. 4:8; 5:18-21; II Cor. 5:19, 21).

- A lion can be taught to jump through a hoop of fire... that is totally contrary to his nature... he does so because he has found the reward of going against his nature to provide some self-serving benefit, so he holds his nature in check to get a reward that does not reflect a change in heart; he would still eat that trainer and run from the fire if the reward was not sufficient to satisfy his selfish ambitions...
- Similarly, many people maintain a sense of civility when it is advantageous to do so... this restraint is not Godliness, it is in fact selfishness to the end of pursuing their own interests.
- The only limitation on the unregenerate man is selfishness that results in civility and the restraining of God upon them to prevent them from living out the full extent of their depravity
- Understand that “GOOD PEOPLE” will run from the ring of fire and eat the trainer when that response is determined to be a more self-gratifying one...
- Only the regenerate man can respond with unselfish, others-before-me, submission to God attitudes

I Corinthians 2: 1-14

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

- This is a great rebellion against the idea that if I can get the right conditions established, I can help this carnal mind logically and rationally choose Christ; the reason it failed was not that his mind was enmity against God, it was because the church was too crowded, too empty, sound system too loud, preacher not personable enough too well dressed...
- We have to come to grips with our standing outside of Christ, as being totally depraved... held in check only by the power of God and by the power of our own selfishness

John 3: 3-8

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

- Knowing that it was **not logic or wits or suitable emotional conditions** that brought you under a LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ but the regenerating Spirit of God alone, who calls out of the universal darkness into a holy light according to the good pleasure of his will.

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day...”

- Perceiving why Christ was born of a virgin is really a submission to the understanding of the human race, outside of the Spirit of God, being desperately depraved.
- We have questions or wrestle with God’s sovereign will and man’s responsibility, but we have submitted to the assurance that God is HOLY, and only always ever does that which is right and just and good.
- If not you Lord, I have no hope.
- Lord to whom shall we go?

Summary: Jesus escaped the depraved nature through the manner in which he was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Without inheriting the nature of Adam. We did not. At best, in our unregenerate state, we are held in check by God and our own selfishness as we pursue self-centered ambitions. In this state of desperate wickedness, we will not and cannot adopt a spirituality that runs to Christ. John 6 makes clear that the Father draws to himself, the Spirit gives life where there was none, and the blood of the Son atones for the debt that was owed to God.