

The Process:
From Sin to Our Savior to His Sanctification

(Sermon #6)

by **Todd OBert**

Holmes Bible College
MIN 302 Homiletics II
Professor Stacy Watford
4/28/2021

Do you believe in Jesus? More than half of American adults, including 30% of evangelicals (which are generally considered to be those churches that preach and teach the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ), say Jesus isn't God but most agree He was a great teacher, according to results from the 2020 State of Theology survey. Even though the Bible and traditional teachings of the Christian Church hold that Jesus truly existed as both man and God, among the key findings of the biennial State of Theology survey from Ligonier Ministries conducted with LifeWay Research, is that 52% of American adults believe that Jesus was a great teacher and nothing more.

So what is the problem with believing that Jesus was just a great teacher or that He wasn't really God but that He was just God's representative? What is the problem with just believing that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and being good with that? Actually, everything is wrong with that. What we see from Scripture, which IS the Word of God, God's official manual or guidebook for all of mankind, is that Jesus was God incarnate, or God in the flesh, that He was fully man but also fully God and that without that underlying foundation of truth would mean that you would be be still dead in your sins without any way to being reconciled with God. There would be no way for you to be in communion with, or have a relationship with God and you would not be able to have the promise of eternal life in heaven. It is in God alone who through His grace (His undeserved favor given to us), that works to bring us to have faith in Jesus, that He takes on Himself our **sin**, to be our **Savior** to where we can rest in His **Sanctification**, which simply put, is He leads us from **death to Life** in Christ Jesus.

Our Scripture for today is **Colossians 1:19-23**

For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul first points out that in Him, Him being Jesus, dwells all of the fullness. If we look a little further along in the letter to the Colossians Paul explains that, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Paul is saying that in Jesus is the fullness of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was God incarnate, God in the flesh. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you

have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." That gift of salvation through Jesus was a gift from God. Jesus said "I and the Father are one." That gift of salvation is of God. Jesus is called the Son of God. He came from the Father. He is of the Father. The godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are of One, that is of God. God is not His name though. That is the title we call Him by. Just as the Father is a title, as is the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

There's two most important points that need to be known as to the importance to the fact that Jesus is God. **1.** Without Jesus being God we would still be condemned in our sins. There is only one way that we could be deemed righteous or made right to stand before a Holy God and for us to inhabit a place in His eternal kingdom and that is only if God Himself took on the penalty of death through sin. That penalty was death. God HAD to send His Son Jesus to die for our sins since He alone is right before God. He alone is without sin as He led a sinless life. **2.** When we are reconciled with God through our belief or faith in Jesus we are then "born again" as Jesus put it. We were dead to sin but then made alive in Christ. We are then born into God's kingdom, His family and become children of God. He then places His Spirit in us to testify with our spirit that we are His children. His Spirit then lives in us. Therefore we must not let sin reign in our bodies any longer because we are in Christ. As Paul put it in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." We are no longer living to do our own thing once we put our faith in Jesus. Not only did Jesus take on our sin but He took us on as well. We become dead to the sinful life and live according to the Spirit that is placed in us, that guides us in His Way and His Truth.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is a substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." That evidence is what He reveals to us and that He is working in US. Once again that evidence that He has revealed to us is that through Jesus dying on a cross for our sins and then conquering death by raising from the grave on the third day, that He has instilled in us the faith to believe that **(1) He takes on our sin** **(2) to be our Savior** and then He leads us to **(3) rest in His sanctification** which is Him leading us from death to Life in Christ Jesus.

People generally believe that Christians are supposed to be good people, to be kind, loving, charitable. When asking a Christian why they're supposed to be good they will may say something like, "because God wants me to be good." No! It's not because we are to be good it is because he is working His good in US. Paul says in Philippians 1:13, "for it is God who works in you both to will and to

do for His good pleasure." In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, he says, "do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

In verse 23 of our passage, Paul says that you are reconciled unto God "IF indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard." That faith doesn't just work in us to believe that Jesus hung on a tree. It is once again, (1) Jesus, the Son of God taking on Himself, our sin, (2) to be our Savior, and then He leads us to (3) Him being our Lord, as we rest in His sanctification, which is Him leading us from death to Life in Christ Jesus. That is His complete process.

Later in chapter 2, Paul further explained that the circumcision of the flesh of the foreskin of the Jewish males according to the law was the image of what is to be the circumcision of the heart. It is God setting us apart unto his holiness which is His sanctification that He works in us. To all who have faith in Jesus, to all who truly believe in Christ, we are all dead to sin (that applies to everyone regardless on whether you believe or not) but we become alive in Christ Jesus. When we agree by faith to have Christ Jesus to be our righteousness, to save us, we agree by faith that his Righteousness sets us apart (sanctifies us) to be holy as he is Holy. He moves us by the faith he gives us to believe that He takes on our sin to be our Savior, which He then sets us apart to be holy, He sanctifies us, which leads us from death to Life. His righteousness must continue in US because he is in US. If we do not allow his righteousness to work in US then we are not living by faith that we are His. What it boils down to is this. Do we want God to be our father, for Jesus to be our Lord, or for the devil to be our father. It's one or the other. There's not a third option. You are either born of God or you are not. Just as Jesus said you must be born again. God seeks out the heart of man to find those who want him. That is where when it says whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. It is from the heart, when one is calling for God to save them, they are saying they want him (and His Righteousness) and not the life of sin that leads to the second death.

Speaking of God knowing the hearts of man, God has always been a merciful god who is slow to anger. After all, he allowed the wicked King Ahab to reign for 26 years. Later in his life he humbled himself before the Lord and God saw it and God did not allow his kingdom to fall in his lifetime. Just imagine having a ruler that was evil to rule in this country for 26 years. Also King Manasseh was wicked most of the time he was King but later in life he humbled himself and turned to the Lord. It doesn't necessarily say that he or Ahab truly repented in their hearts, only God knows, but they did humble

themselves and God was then kind to them. He is slow to anger and to bring forth wrath. He is not what people say of the God in the Old Testament that He is a mean angry God and the God in the New Testament is all about love and forgiveness. He has always been about love and forgiveness but he is also a holy God. He is The sovereign God. He will only put up with so much and then eventually bring forth judgment. God knows who will repent and who will not. God wants us to live according to his righteousness. That has always been his desire and plan for his people. We can either choose His way or the way that leads to eternal damnation. That may sound harsh but that is just the way it is. God created us for His pleasure and His glory and He wants to share His kingdom and His Righteousness with us. You would think that we would be excited and blessed to know that God wants us to be all that He is, in His character. God wants us to be like Jesus. I'm always hesitant to say that we aren't going to be perfect, that everyone sins occasionally, and that God understands. God hates sin, regardless of His love for us. He has always been a Holy God, He is a Holy God, and He will always be a Holy God. 1 John 2:1-2 says, "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." God still hates sin, even though Jesus takes away our sin and we are reconciled to the Father, "**IF** indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard."

Further on in Colossians [3:5-9] Paul says, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds."

Then he says [vs. 12-15], "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

At this point you may be thinking, "if God is working in us His righteousness, why don't I always sense His working in me to do His will. Why do I have to do this or that if I'm just trusting that God is working in me?" Just as God tested the Israelites to see what was

in their hearts, God will surely test us. He still commands us to live holy lives whether we feel Him or not. When we walk in His ways of righteousness He will renew our minds and change our hearts to be compelled to do His will. It is a process that is working in us from death to life. We must continue in the faith and walk in that faith according to His will.

Jesus was and is more than just a great teacher, He is the Lord! He gives us His Spirit to lead us in His Way, His Truth, and in His Life. Don't give up the faith for it is God that is working in you. He takes on Himself our **sin**, to be our **Savior** to where we can rest in His **Sanctification**, in which He is our Lord, which simply put, is He leads us from **death to Life** in Christ Jesus.