

Morning Sermon October 18, 2020

“Death, a Consequence of Sin!”– Genesis 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)

I. An ungodly world considers death to be the normal, natural end of life –

<sup>12</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

1. This is because they do not believe in our God Who makes rules, or enforces them –

A. They believe Satan’s lies more than God’s truth

<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. Genesis 3:4 (NKJV)

B. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave Adam rules about eating, basically every tree except one –

C. Atheism means no rules, or only those rules the atheists make for themselves –

<sup>1</sup> The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, there is none who does good. Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)

2. What we have in Genesis 2:16-17 is an introduction to MORALITY, right and wrong, and obedience to God is the standard, death is the consequence of this disobedience –

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, ...Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

3. What we have in our modern ungodly world is widespread belief in the theory of evolution which means:

A. No Creator God – All things popped into existence by accident

B. Since there is no God; there are no God-given rules

C. With no rules, we have an embracing of philosophies of death as a solution. Evolution, “the survival of the fittest”, death is seen as the perfecting of the species –

“Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated.”

Margaret Sanger - Founder of Planned Parenthood

“Slavs, Latin and Hebrew immigrants are human weeds ... a deadweight of human waste. Blacks, soldiers and Jews are a menace to the race.”

Margaret Sanger - Founder of Planned Parenthood

The Final Solution or the Final Solution to the Jewish Question was a Nazi plan for the genocide of Jews during World War II. The "Final Solution to the Jewish question" was the official code name for the murder of all Jews

Why is murder considered and called a solution? Why is murder of babies / abortion called health care?

<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)

II. For God, death is not natural or a solution, but it is a penalty for and a moral consequence of sin –

1. Sinners, complain about any judgment (even the slightest) of their sin –

<sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.” Genesis 19:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. Genesis 19:9 (NKJV)

2. *Yet, despite their complaints, Sodom was judged by God for their sin –*

<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

<sup>26</sup> But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. Genesis 19:24–26 (NKJV)

*Note, not only was Sodom judged harshly, with fire from Heaven for their sins, but Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt!*

3. *Many will complain “death” to great a penalty for eating a piece of fruit ... especially when the entire human race shares in this death –*

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, ... Romans 5:18 A (NKJV)

III. *If death were not the moral consequence of sin; there would be no need for Christ's dying on the cross, nor a benefit due to His obedience –*

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift* came to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:18–19 (NKJV)

1. *Additionally, if one man's, our federal head Adam's sin, was not imputed to the entire human race, One Man's Righteousness, Christ's righteousness, could not be imputed to His people –*

A. *One man's offense – Adam's eating the forbidden fruit, despite the fact of many other good fruits! This one offense sunk the entire human race because Adam was our Federal Head –*

B. *One Man's righteous act, Jesus chose a TREE too, the cross, He chose it in a Garden too, Gethsemane –*

<sup>41</sup> And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup> Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:41–44 (NKJV)

2. *When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, one of the things we are celebrating is Christ's obedience, which is in stark contrast to Adam's disobedience –*

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

A. *It is not Christ's death in and of itself, or alone that saves us, but it is Christ's obedience to the point of death ... that saves us!*

B. *It is Christ's obedience, His righteousness that gives His sacrificial death its saving power –*

<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

C. *It is Christ's sinlessness Him who knew no sin that makes His blood precious –*

<sup>17</sup> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you <sup>21</sup> who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 1 Peter 1:17–21 (NKJV)

(1) *God the Father is a judge, who judges – 1 Peter 1:17*

(2) *Our redemption is only through Christ's precious blood – 1 Peter 1:18-19*

(3) *Christ's resurrection would not be possible if Christ were a sinner, but because He is the righteous, sinless Son of Man and Son of God, it conquers sin and death – 1 Peter 1:21*

<sup>55</sup> *“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”*

<sup>56</sup> *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.* <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)

*Arnold Breivick*