

When God Raises the Dead

Acts 9; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-2-2022

What is the human condition? What does it take for sinners to be saved?
What does it mean to say we are saved by grace?

1. The Nature of Our Human Condition (1-9): As sinners, we prefer God to be dead.

A Heart to Kill (1-2): Hatred of God is the natural, sinful, human condition. That hatred may simply manifest as indifference or it may manifest as violence.

- 10 Commandments* – Exodus 20:4-6
- Two Masters* – Matthew 6:24
- Haters of God* - Romans 1:30
- Hated Me Without Cause* – John 15:18-25

Passionately and Sincerely Wrong (3-9): Passion and sincerity is no guarantee that what we believe and what we are doing is right. As sinners, we suppress the truth that we see in the world and that we see in the Word.

- Suppress the Truth in the World* – Romans 1:18-20
- Suppress the Truth in the Word* – John 5:39-47

As sinners, we prefer God to be dead even though we may be passionate and sincere about our worship of God.

- Will Be Like God* – Genesis 3:5-6
- What is Right in His Own Eyes* - Deuteronomy 12:8
- Cast Away Their Cords* – Psalm 2:1-3
- Zealous for God* – Acts 22:3-16
- Zeal for God* – Romans 10:1-3
- Zealous for Ancestral Traditions* – Galatians 1:13-17
- As to Zeal, a Persecutor of the Church* – Philippians 3:2-6
- All by Nature Children of Wrath* – Ephesians 2:3

2. The Solution to Our Human Condition (10-16): As sinners, our only hope is a change of heart.

Divine Choice (10-16): The choice of God must precede the choice of man. As sinners, we cannot save ourselves neither will we come to God for mercy. God must do the gracious work in our hearts to bring us to Himself before we will ever come to Him.

- Appointed to Eternal Life* – Acts 13:44-52
- Taught of God* – John 6:35-51

As sinners, our only hope is a change of heart given to us by God Himself.

- Gift of a Heart to Know God* – Jeremiah 24:4-7
- Gift of God's Law on the Heart* – Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Gift of a Heart that Fears God* – Jeremiah 32:37-41
- Gift of a Changed Heart from Idolatry* – Ezekiel 11:13-21
- Gift of a Changed Heart by Grace* – Ezekiel 36:22-32

3. The Opposite of Our Human Condition (17-31): As changed sinners, we live, speak and die differently.

Baptized (17-18): Baptism is a picture of (1) what we believe Jesus has done for us and (2) what has happened to us and (3) what our life should look like from now on. – Romans 6:1-23

Speaking Well (19-22): A changed heart will love the God once hated who has been revealed in Jesus and will speak well of God before others and will proclaim the hope we have in Jesus. The Spirit of God regenerates sinners and 'gives them utterance.' – Acts 2:1-13

Threatened with Death (23-25): If the world hates God, then it will also hate those who are born of God. We must lose our lives in order to have life. – John 12:20-33

Held Suspect (26-31): Changed lives may not be believed until they stand the test of time. It may take time to see the fruit of someone's profession of faith. – Matthew 7:15-27

As changed sinners, we live differently, we speak differently about God and we are willing to be misunderstood and even die for what we believe. – John 3:1-8; Romans 8:12-17

4. The Picture of Our Human Condition (32-43): As sinners, we are all sick and dead.

Freeing the Paralyzed (32-35): Sinners are spiritually incapacitated and sick and cannot live to please God because they are under the condemnation of the Law (guilty) and enslaved to sin. But the forgiveness provided in Jesus frees us to live as God intended. – Mark 2:1-17

Raising the Dead (36-43): God raised the physically dead to picture for us the reality of salvation: the raising of the spiritually dead. – John 11:38-44; Ezekiel 37:1-10

As sinners, we are all sick and dead, unable to save ourselves and unwilling to come to God for mercy. – Ephesians 2:1-10

Conclusion

- Thank God for His grace to you if you believe! – 1 Corinthians 15:10
- Speak the truth in love to dry bones! – Acts 4:4
- Turn and ask God for the heart you need that you don't have! – Ezekiel 18:30-32
- Believe that God's saving Saul is meant to encourage every sinner! – 1 Timothy 1:12-17