

October 1, 2020

Words of challenge for you today.

Many people in the Christian community believe there is an inherent goodness in all people. This is a great lie. There is absolutely no goodness within the fallen human condition. The best anyone can do is a corrupted good. It is only through the effective working of the Holy Spirit in us that there is any goodness. Any and all goodness comes from God. Christians don't understand how complete, how universal the contamination of sin is in the created order. Sin has corrupted even those institutions within culture that are charged to do good. Those institutions are of course the courts, schools, social services, and the religious organizations of the world. The evil of sin has had an undeniable effect upon all of creation. Christians must realize it is only through Jesus that any good works are accomplished or any good judgment may be rendered. Let us read Ecclesiastes 3:16.

16 Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness.

Have you ever taken a moment and wondered why there is so much corruption in the places of government, social services, and in the religious institutions of the nation and world? The answer is really very simple. There is corruption or wickedness in all these places simply because of sin. I realize that this is something of an oversimplification, or is it?

I believe most Christians do not really understand how complete and insidious sin is within the created universe. I say created universe because there is only One who is not created and that is God. Everything else, whether it be on this world or another, whether it be

past, present, or future, whether it be time or the absence of time, it is created by God. And since it is created by God it became infected with the cancer of sin when Adam and Eve rebelled against God.

Where and when did sin begin? That is when was sin introduced into creation? Some argue that Lucifer was the first one to sin and that it was not humanity's fault. This is simply people trying to justify their own wrong doing. Humanity has no excuse for its' own rebellion. Adam received one simple command and he could not keep it. He and Eve rebelled against God (See Genesis 3:1-6).

The consequences of "Original Sin" are an utter alienation from God. Subsequently alienation from God became a part of our fallen human condition and the image of God was utterly obliterated within humanity. As a result, all of creation is infected with the cancer of sin.

Universal contamination of sin is evidenced in all of creation. Everything is infected with sin. The Psalmist laments that there is absolutely no one who seeks after God and does good. "Everyone of them [people] has turned aside [from God]; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one" (Psalm 53:3). The sage adds there is no one "Who can say, 'I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin'" (Proverbs 20:9).

Paul, the great Apostle, teaches, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Everyone of us is infected with the cancer of sin. Moreover, the cancer of sin is terminal. It will kill everyone.

Not only is all of humanity infected with the cancer of sin, all of creation is infected with it as well. When humanity fell in the garden, not only did people become alienated from God, but we became alienated from each other and from creation. Paul teaches in his letter to the church in Rome (8:20-22) that all of creation is subjected to the defilement of sin.

Consider how people are poor stewards of the earth and all of the natural resources. We are killing this world. And this is a result of sin.

There is no part of our lives that is not effected by sin. The contamination of sin includes every institution of culture. Some of which are the courts or judicial systems, churches, and the para-religious organizations of the world.

Where is the place of justice within the cultures of the world?

Presumably the place of justice is in the courts of the world, in the courts of our nation, and in the courts of our cities. Is there justice in them? Does being legal make something right? No being legal only means that one has followed the letter of the law while missing the intent of the law. This was the same problem that Jesus encountered with the Pharisees and the Scribes (see Mark 7:1-23). They were more concerned with fulfilling the details of the law that they became willing to allow others to suffer as a result of the law.

God has told us what is required and that is “To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). If we truly want justice in our land we must learn to walk with God once again. It is time to confess and to repent from our evil ways and return to God with our whole heart, mind, and soul.

The place of righteousness ought to be God’s house if nowhere else. Yet, we continuously hear of the corruption of ministers, of elders, of deacons, and of the people of God. There is only one cure for the cancer of sin and His name is Jesus. Let us pray.

Gracious Lord and Savior, I thank You for Your redeeming love and Your sacrifice to save us from sin’s penalty. Heal us of the cancer of sin through Jesus Christ, amen.

Remember, no person or institution is inherently good. The best that we can hope for is that something might be a corrupted good. Only through Jesus can we overcome sin's penalty.

Until the nets are full