

Christian Doctrine Salvation (Part 1) The Need for Salvation

A Serious Problem: The Downfall of Mankind

Despite the paradise mankind enjoyed at creation, mankind chose to rebel against their Creator (Gen. 3). Adam's sin in disobeying God resulted in the fall of mankind. From that moment on, each person was completely affected by sin. Not only is every person guilty "in Adam" (Rom. 5:12), but each person is guilty by their own choice to sin (Rom. 3:23). We are all born with a sinful nature and in a state of total depravity (Rom. 3:10-18). (Review "Sin" Part 3)

A Serious Result: The Consequences of Sin

Sin had several results in relation to mankind and God:

- We were guilty of sin (Rom. 3:19; James 2:10-11).
- We faced the punishment of a holy and just God.
 - Experiencing death (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12; 6:23).
 - Facing God's judgment (Rom. 5:15-16).
 - Being under God's wrath (Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:1-3).
 - Being under condemnation (Rom. 5:18).
- Our relationship with God was broken (Is. 59:2).

A Serious Dilemma: The Hopeless Situation

Because of sin, mankind now faced the righteous judgment of God. To make things worse, mankind was unable to do anything to fix the problem. Our situation became bleak:

- There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
 - No amount of good works can erase the fact we are guilty of sin (Is. 64:6).
 - We do not have the power to regenerate ourselves from our sinful condition (John 1:12-13).
- Our sinful state causes us to continually go against God.
 - We are blinded to the things of God (II Cor. 4:4; I Cor. 1:18; 2:14).
 - We do not desire the things of God (Rom. 1:18-32; Eph. 4:17-19).

Understanding this dilemma, we cannot but have a greater appreciation for Christ's work on our behalf (Col. 2:13).

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