

Title: The Right One

Text: Galatians 4.4-5

Theme: The necessity of deity to pay for sin

Series: Advent 2005 pt.2

Prop Stmt. Only an infinitely sinless Savior could pay the infinitely perfect price.

There was a lady who was lonely. So, her family suggested that she buy a parakeet. She went down to the pet shop and bought one. But she didn't buy just any parakeet, she bought a really expensive parakeet. The shop owner said, "This thing will talk your arm off." So, she brought it home, got it all set up in the cage, and the bird did not say a thing. She went back to the shop the next week, and the owner said, "Hey, how's the bird working out?" "It hasn't said a thing." She replied. "Well, did you put a mirror in the cage?" "No" she said. "Well, parakeets love mirrors, because they look in their and see themselves, and then they just talk, talk, talk, talk." "Ohhhh," she said. So, she bought this expensive little mirror for bird cages and went home and put it in. Next week she came back to the store. The owner said, "Well, how is the bird doing?" "It still hasn't said a thing" she said. "It hasn't?" "Well, does it have a ladder?" "No, I didn't know that I needed a ladder." "Well, these birds love to have ladders so they can walk up and down and look at themselves in the mirror and then, they just talk away." "OK," she said and bought an expensive little ladder and took it home and put it in the cage. The next week, she came into the store. The owner said, "How's that bird doing?" This time she was starting to get a little agitated. "It still doesn't speak." "Well, does it have a swing?" "A swing?" "Yes," he said, "these birds love to swing back and forth, because that really helps them feel comfortable with their surroundings and then they just open up and talk like mad." Somewhat reluctantly she bought the swing and put it up in the cage. The next week she came back into the store, this time she was really steamed. "Well, how is that bird doing?" The owner asked. "It died!" She declared. "It died?" the owner replied, "Well, did it ever say anything?" he asked. "He finally spoke one sentence just before he died." "Well, what did he say?" "Well, just before he died, he said, don't they sell any bird food at that store?"

Christmas is exactly four weeks away and some of you are tense already. You know why? You are worrying about the ladders, mirrors and swings and forgetting the main event. This text is all about the main event because it is all about the right One!

They are just four little, one-syllable words in our English translations. A short phrase upon which the entire Christmas event stands.

1. The Giver – God

In this phrase God is the subject and is clearly the One who initiates the action. God is the one who sends. In fact, as we will see in this context, God is the One who comes to our rescue and we did not even call 911. But, before we explore that further, I want to be more specific and help you think something through. I recognize that when you use the term "God" it can mean many different things to many different people. That is not something that is new. Now, keep in mind that the Bible is God's way of speaking to us.

Therefore, when the Bible speaks about God, it is God speaking about Himself. We have to take our view of God from God's view of God. When God says that there is only one God, then it is our responsibility to affirm that. When we get back to our series in 1 Corinthians in a few weeks, we will start up with chapter 8. In 1 Cor. 8.4-6, we see a very clear example of this.

But, after we affirm that there is only One God, we now have to make certain that our view of His character and attributes and therefore our view of his motives and actions are also consistent with how God views Himself. We cannot say, "Well, the God that I know would never do something like that." Or, "The God I worship, would never hurt anyone." Etc. The true God (capital "G") may not be the god (little "g") you know. The god that you know may be a figment of your own imagination fueled by the sinful desires of your own heart. We have been made in the image of God. But the image of God that we all share has been affected and distorted by sin. Therefore, I need a standard outside of myself by which to measure my view of God and everything else. Theology Proper is the term that is used to describe the area of theology that focuses on the person and the attributes of God. It sounds a little intimidating, but it really isn't. When you get to know a person, you learn about their personality and characteristics. It is the same with God. J.I. Packer wrote a great book about this called, "Knowing God" and Kay Arthur wrote a very good book about the same topics called, "Lord, I want to know you." These books explain more in depth what I am barely going to touch on this morning and that is this...This God in Scripture is the One who created all things. He is the rightful owner. Everyone and everything is accountable to Him. He has the right and the authority to do whatever it is that he wants.

Have you ever heard that song from 1963 by Leslie Gore entitled, "It's my party and I can cry if I want to." Well, this entire universe is His deal and He can do with it what He wants. Not only CAN He do what He wants, He does what He wants. So...what exactly does He want to do? What is it that He chooses to do? What is it that He wills to do? He chooses to interrupt the mess that we have made and He chooses to intervene in time and history and He chooses to intercept lives. Look at how this verse begins. What is the word? "But" that word is called a coordinating conjunction. It is coordinating, that is it is showing the connection between two phrases or ideas. The first idea is given in v.3, where we find out that left unto ourselves, we are slaves to this world, bound by its principles of sin and we cannot break those shackles. Verse 3 says it like it is. We have a problem that we cannot solve. Verse 4 starts with a coordinating conjunction that says, "Hold the phone, the story is not over." But...God sent His Son. Verse 3 is hopeless. Verse 4 is hope. Verse 3 is gloom, Verse 4 is glory. Verse 3 is hell, Verse 4 is heaven. Verse 3 is slavery, Verse 4 is citizenship, adoption, and joy.

Now, I am setting you up, because here is the battle. We are all affected by sin. We are prone to doubt God and trust ourselves. We tend to think that God is holding something out on us. We have to fight those instinctive lies with God's distinctive truth. The truth is, God acts in accordance with His character. We know what God says about Himself. God says that He is worthy of our trust, obedience and worship. Ok, what has God done? Have the actions of God been consistent with the claims of God? How has God

demonstrated that He is worth you not trusting in yourself and instead, trusting in Him? He has demonstrated that in his actions, the greatest of which is God SENT his son.

2. The Giving – sent

This idea of sending has several aspects that are important for you to understand.

- a. One who is sent from

Here the emphasis is more on where the person came from.

- b. One who is sent on a mission

Here the emphasis is more on what the person was sent to accomplish.

- c. One who is sent as a representative

Here the emphasis is more on where Christ came from. There are several words in the Greek language that are translated “send” and frankly, there does not appear to be real strict rules that govern when you use one or the other. But, as I looked at how Paul uses those three words in his writings, it is my opinion that he was trying to make a point here. For example, the word for send that Paul uses the most when he writes, is the word *pempo*. The word that he uses sometimes is the word *apostello*. Now, what does that sound like? Apostle. What is an apostle? One who is sent with a message. Here in Galatians 4.4-5, Paul uses a word for send that he only uses here and nowhere else. It is the word *exapostello*. *Ex* means out or from. Here it functions as a prefix that is attached to the word, *apostello*. The one who is sent, is sent from someone or out of something. So, yes, Jesus was sent by God to us, but I think the emphasis here is that Jesus Christ was sent from God. Ok...some of you are looking at me as if to say, so what is the point? Do you see it now? He is God, the very God who was sent from the side of the Eternal, Holy and Heavenly Father, to the womb of a finite, sinful and earthly mother. He was sent from streets of heaven to the dusty roads of this earth. He was sent from a throne in glory to a feeding trough in a dirty, drafty stable. This whole thing is a contrast. But God! This is the God of intervention. This is the God who intercepts lives from going to hell. This is the God who did not have to do this, but did it anyway. He came after you.

Col. 1.15 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

2 Cor. 8.9 – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

Phil. 2.6-7 – “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Do you see why stinginess and self-centeredness, and miserliness and self-protection is so wrong? Do you see why I am so desirous that you understand the joy of giving and the joy of ministry and the joy of trusting God and the joy of sharing your life and resources? I want you to be like Christ! No one has ever given like Him, because no one has had the resources or the position that He has to give FROM!!! We give gifts at Christmas because God is the greatest giver! Christ came from it all!

What if tomorrow at work, you met a new hire who was transferred here from Hawaii. And this guy is working the midnight shift cleaning the lavatories of the bus station downtown. And you find out that he left a company where he was the president making 50 million a year. He left a 10-acre beachfront estate on Oahu and he is now homeless. He left a business that adored him and is working for an abusive manager. He left a garage full of exotic sports cars and now he walks everywhere. He left his membership in the country club and now he eats in soup kitchens. His formerly manicured fingernails are now full of grease and dirt. His neatly trimmed beard is now mangy and unkept. Your question would be – why? Why on earth would you ever do that?

What I have just described does not even begin to do justice to the incarnation, when Christ became man. This is a point that I will take up in more detail next Sunday when I deal with the next phrase in this text. But the point is very clear. The giving, the sending of Christ to this earth is irrefutable evidence that this God who calls you trust in Him is worthy of your trust because He uses His authority as God to orchestrate the events of this world so that at the right moment He would seemingly interrupt things in order to give you a Savior. He uses his authority as God to intervene into time and history and give you a Savior who is God. He uses his authority as God to intercept your life from going to hell and gives you a Savior who saves you from the guttermost unto the uttermost. God uses His Godness for your goodness, which is ultimately for His glory. That is why you have to trust Him. To not trust Him is totally irrational! He is not only God, He is God who gives as an expression of His love and grace towards us. And what has He given? God sent his Son.

3. The Gift – His Son

God sent us the most precious and personal gift He could. He sent us **His** Son. And He sent us His Son so that His Son could be mistreated by us and die. Do you know why you are a person? It is because God is a person. God is not a machine. God is 3 persons actually, who comprise what we call the Trinity. Do you care about people in your family? Do you care about friends? Why do you care? You care because you are a person made in the image of God who cares infinitely more about you and your family and who also cares infinitely more about Himself than you do. So, why would this God who loves deeper than you, send His Son who has been His Son from eternity past, to this earth in order to be mistreated and then to die? God sent – Gal. 4.4, God gave – John 3.16; and God gave Him up for us all – Romans 8.32. Why would God kill His own Son? The only way God could spare us was if He did not spare His own Son. Look at the text again. God sent His Son...to redeem those under the law. The only way that our sins could be forgiven was if our sins were punished. Only an infinite payment could be

made, and only God is infinite. But, the payment had to be applied to the human race because humans were the sinners. So, while the payment had to be made by God, it also had to be made by a human who made the payment so that it could be applied to humans. That is why, the only way for God to express His grace and love by rescuing us from our sins without violating his justice, was for God to become man and to live in our place and then die in our place. So, God sent His Son for you in your place in order to redeem you because you could not redeem yourself. The only thing that you could do was make a mess of your life and your world.

Conclusion. – I have 3 concluding challenges:

1. For those of you who have not yet become followers of Christ – Trust in Christ alone. Repent of your sin, turn away from your sin and trust in Christ to save you and submit your life to Him. What are you waiting for?
2. For those of you claim to be followers of Christ? Obey God! Stop making excuses and rationalizing the compromises in your life. Obey God by rearranging your priorities so that your life reflects the gospel you profess. Some of you are working too much because you are trusting in money instead of God. You are placing way too much importance on your things. How do I know? I see it in your ambitions for your kids. You are so concerned that your kids be involved in everything under the sun, while you are ignoring the development of their hearts for God. What do you praise in your home? Grades? Athletic accomplishments? How about godliness? If someone asked your kids who are your heroes? Would Jesus be their first thought? What do you get passionate about? Football – ok, but what about theology? What about the incarnation? What about the gospel? I enjoy watching football, but football does not take messed up, guilt-ridden, heavy-hearted sinners and turn them into children of God who are joint-heirs with Christ. Only the gospel does that.
3. For those of you who are feeling under pressure from life. (I am assuming you are a follower of Christ) – Persevere with hope. Some of you are under pressure because you have brought it on yourself. If you are holding on to bitterness, let it go. If you are holding on to revenge – let it go. If your life is enslaved by sinful habits, recognize that you are believing the lie that sin will give you more than God does. Fight against that lie with God's truth and don't give up the fight. If we consistently believed that God gives the best, then we would be misers with sin, and generous givers with God. God sent His Son to save you, to keep you, to change you.

God takes the enemies of our souls and thieves of our joy and turns them into the servants for our sanctification as we persevere with hope. Why should you persevere with hope? Because God is so good and God is true and His promises are worth your whole-hearted trust.