

The Simple Gospel Message - Part 4

by Zac Poonen

The Christian life begins with forgiveness of sins, which removes the sense of guilt and allows us to start anew, and this is made possible through Jesus Christ who restores the connection with God.

Duration: 9:05

Scripture: Romans 3:23-24, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:14, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Spiritual Transformation", "Guilt And Forgiveness"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of the mind and conscience in relation to the body, highlighting the significance of purifying the mind and spirit through Christ to lead a transformed life. It addresses the impact of hidden sins on marriages and the need for forgiveness and purification of the conscience before progressing in the Christian journey. The message focuses on the fundamental step of dealing with guilt and sin through Christ's sacrifice to restore the broken connection between humanity and God.

Transcript

You know, in the scale of creation, a tree has a body, and then you have animals that have a body and a mind. And then you have man, who's got a body, a mind, and a conscience, a spirit. So, at the lowest level of creation is body, without mind.

Those are the trees and the plants. They've got life. Your mind is more important than your body.

And your spirit or your conscience is even more important than your mind. So, to destroy your mind is actually worse than destroying your body. And people are hooked onto that habit, bad habits in their mind, that lead to bad habits in the body also, that also destroy them.

I know of cases myself, of people who have very unhappy marriages, because they took a little decision to indulge in internet pornography or sex before getting married. See, little, little decisions that cause them regret all through their life. Of course, we can hide it, but your mind is destroyed and it's very difficult to purify a mind that's been damaged like that.

But Christ can do it. See, one of the wonderful things that Jesus can do is that He can purify a dirty mind. He can even heal a sick body.

There are amazing things that Christ can do. When we make Him Lord of our life and allow Him to enter into our heart, into our spirit, just like previously, your corrupt mind spoiled your body, now as your mind is

purified, it begins to make your body pure. But the first thing you need to deal with, which is the first thing that all human beings have to deal with, if you don't deal with that, you can't go to the other things.

It's like when you get into kindergarten. You have to start with ABC before you learn physics and geography and all in higher standards. So in the Christian life, the ABC is to make sure your sins are forgiven.

That means there's absolutely no sense of guilt on your conscience. As I told you, we have a conscience which animals don't have. That conscience tells all of us, even this evening as you've been listening to me, your conscience has told you about things that you have done wrong, which nobody else knows about perhaps.

You have violated the moral law that God put into your being, in your conscience. And every time you violated it, your conscience has told you that's wrong. And it's because you know it's wrong that you do it in secret.

All the things that our conscience says are wrong, we do in secret because we don't want anyone to know about it. But your conscience still tells you, before you do it and after you do it, it's wrong. And we've, I mean, disregarded and disobeyed the voice of conscience for so many years that now we've got an accumulated list of so many things that we've done wrong in our life.

That's the first thing we've got to get rid of. And I say Christianity has not come with a message saying be good, help others, be kind, don't tell lies. I mean everybody says these things and Christianity comes with a message saying before we get into all that, let's start with the ABC.

Before we get into physics and geography and all, let's start with ABC. Before we talk about be good, be kind and don't harm others, let's start with the ABC. What's the ABC? Get rid of this baggage that we have of so much of guilt.

That's why the Bible says Christ died for our sins. None of us are born on this earth to die. You know, when your mother saw you, she didn't think of a child who was going to die.

She thought of a child who was going to live. There was only one person who came to earth specifically to die. That was Jesus Christ.

He came from heaven to earth specifically to die. Why? Because his death was taking the punishment for your sin and mine. Before a holy God, sin is so serious that its punishment is death.

Now in the world, there are various types of punishments for various crimes like if you rob the bank, they don't put you to death. And even if you committed murder, there are different degrees of murder manslaughter and deliberate murder and things like that. Some cases they don't put you to death, they just put you life imprisonment.

It's only extreme cases that on earth the judge will say sentence to death. But in God's relationship with man, sin is so serious. When we violate the moral law in our conscience, the Bible says that even one sin makes us guilty of death.

Now we can't understand that because we got these human courts where we can do so many wrong things and still not be put to death. Maybe we got to pay a fine or go to jail for a year or something like that.

But we can't understand God's law which is so strict and so absolute that one sin brings death.

But that's because when we sin, we are breaking our connection with God. You know it's like these wires that come to the... bring light to a fan or to a tube light. If I were to just cut one of those wires, what happens? You don't have to keep it five feet apart.

No. One millimeter apart after it's cut. There's no light.

It's gone. Whether it's one millimeter or five feet, if it's cut, the light is gone. That's how it is.

Our connection with God, sin, cuts it. And more sin, it's already cut. It's gone.

And Jesus Christ came to restore that connection. A lot of us are like tube lights, they're trying to burn, you know, trying to be good, trying to behave ourselves, trying to be good without this connection. And that's why you're frustrated.

A lot of young people, I think they're very sincere, I think many of you are quite sincere. You try to be good and have you discovered you can't be good? Have you discovered that you can only pretend to be good? Have you discovered that you can only show other people that you're good and deep down your heart you find yourself a slave to all types of terrible, evil, bad thoughts and attitudes which you try to cover up with a smile or something like that. That's like a tube light trying to burn when the electric wire is broken.

It can struggle, it won't burn. What it needs is that connection to the source of electricity must be restored. That is what Jesus came to do.

He didn't come to tell us like all religions, burn! Come on, burn! A lot of preachers, you listen to them in the Sunday morning, they say, come on, burn, why aren't you burning? But Jesus wasn't foolish. He knew why man was not burning. He knows exactly why you cannot live this life.

And he says the connection is broken. And he just fixed that and the light begins to burn. It's that connection with God that Jesus came to restore.

And in order to restore that connection that's why he had to die. You know, a lot of people think like this. Well, if God's a good God, why can't he just forgive us? You know, I come to God and say, I'm sorry.

Why can't he forgive me?

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