

OUR BIGGEST SPIRITUAL PROBLEM

AND HOW FAITH AND JESUS CHRIST SOLVE IT

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ..."*

~ Ephesians 1:3

1. Spiritual Problems

- There is a big problem. What is it? Yes, sin, but what is that? Rom 3:10-18, 23
- Sin is a spiritual problem. Spiritual = of the inner man (mind not body)
- Bible: there is something wrong in our soul. World: there's nothing wrong, you are sick.
- Any 'scientific' diagnosis/treatment existing only in listening/talking/thoughts is spiritual
- Big inner problems: Depression, fear, loneliness, anger, pride, inadequacy, failure.

2. Defining the Problem

- What is life about? What should we live for? What is the point? The meaning?
- This not only a problem for the unbeliever, but also the believer -Rom 6:16-17, 1Co 3:1
- Worldliness~*def.* Devotion to this world and its enjoyments; life in pleasing others.
- Selfishness~*def.* Devotion to self and what you enjoy; life in pleasing yourself.
- Godliness~*def.* Devotion to God and his enjoyments; life in pleasing God
- Sin is a lack of godliness. All sin is selfish → Jam 1:13-15, Rom 1:21-22, 28-32

3. Bible Language

- 'Selfishness' not a (KJ) Bible word but is the found in many other words. Titus 2:12
- All of these Bible words speak to the problem of selfishness and sin.
- Ungodly – Not devoting your life to pleasing God (but rather yourself or the world)
- Wisdom of the world = it's all about you. Wisdom of God = it's not. 1Co 1:17-20, 27-31
- Foolishness – the rejection of this wisdom. Thinking yourself knows better than God.
- Vainglory/vanity – self is an empty pleasure/pursuit - Rom 1:21, Phi 2:3-4, Eph 4:17-20
- Faith – receiving the truth that God is right in what he says, you are wrong. 'godly fear'
- Profane - Taking what is more important and knocking it down to your level-2Ti 2:16
- The works of the flesh are all selfish – Gal 5:19-21, Spirit is opposite – 1 Cor 13:5, 13
- Pride – "inordinate self-esteem", thinking yourself higher/better/superior to others.
- 7 deadly sins → Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth (laziness), wrath, envy, pride. All selfish.
- Failure, inadequacy, unsuccessful, lonely can come from the wrong idea 'you deserve it'

4. Salvation from Our Sinful Self

- There is a connection between the mind (spirit/soul) and the truth - 1Tim 6:5, 2Tim 3:8
- Truth/Christ works to treat save our corrupted minds/sinful souls –1Cor 15:3, 2Cor 11:3
- God (who is worthy) suffered and died to save sinners – 2 Cor 5:14-15, Rom 5:8
- The new man is renewed after the image of Christ – Col 3:10
- Col 1:9 - God wants us to grow in knowledge, wisdom, spiritual understanding...to walk
- Destroying selfishness starts with dying with Christ – Gal 2:20, Rom 6:6-7,11
- The spiritual blessings (medicine?) you have are where and in whom? Eph 1:3
- God's words lead to repentance, changed mind, renewed mind, lowly mind, sound mind
- Bad news – we all have this problem. Good news – Christ saves.