

Recovery Foundations

The Gospel

Why We All Need Re:generation

The Problem – Sin

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Sin is any attitude or action that violates the standard of God (holiness, perfection, etc.). Each one of us enters the world, and leaves the world, a sinner. Sin is the universal problem and it separates us from God.

The Penalty – Death

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death,...” *See Also: Romans 5:12*

God’s standard for us is perfection. This standard is non-negotiable, and He would not be just if he did not judge us for our sin. Our sin is so offensive to God that it breaks our relationship with Him and He judges sin with death. Death is, in effect, the wage for the work (sin) that we have done. We have earned it. Biblically, death is equivalent to eternal separation from God.

The Solution – Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ (Jesus) died for us.” *See Also: 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John. 4:10*

Jesus lived on earth being both fully God and fully man. He lived a life free from any sin, and then He died for our sins so that when we trust in Him for forgiveness of sins we will have a restored relationship with God. His sinless life uniquely qualified Him to be our substitutionary sacrifice. Jesus literally took the sins of the world (past, present, and future) on Himself, paying the penalty and accepting the wages we deserve.

The Salvation – By Grace Through Faith

Acts 15:11, “...it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus (God) that we are saved,” *See Also: Ephesians 2:8*

The substitutionary death of Jesus allows us to be reconciled to God. When we trust that Jesus is the only possible provision for forgiveness of our sins, we are saved—reconciled with God. When we trust Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, we are agreeing with God that sin is wrong; we are changing our minds about sin and committing to turn to God as the authority for our lives. Our sins are forgiven when we trust Jesus in this manner, we have a restored relationship with God, and we have assurance of eternal life.

By Grace Through Faith = Not By Works

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...not by works, so that no one can boast.” *See Also: 1 Peter 3:18; Titus 3:5; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 9:25-26*

To say that salvation is “by grace” demands that salvation is not earned or merited by any human effort. It is the gift of God’s grace which yields for us eternal life. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes (trusts) in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”