

- D) The single most important Easter question all of us should ask is "Have I responded in faith to the life of Jesus Christ?"
  
- E) God's great gift of Jesus, as the second Adam (Romans 5:15-17; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45) is superior to Adam's sin -- in that by one sin, mankind's nature was enslaved and resulted in many sins.
  
- F) Christ's sacrifice is totally sufficient (Hebrews 10:14-18) to cover both the sins which have been committed and the very nature of man, which is transformed by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:2-4).

#### 4) The Impact Of Salvation In Our Lives

- A) **Salvation Brings Relationship.** Jesus is the head of the church (Colossians 1:15-20), and has called on us to be participants in His church in authentic friendship (Hebrews 10:23-25). We are to know others and be known by others!
  
- B) **Salvation Brings Responsibilities.** We are the body of Jesus Christ here on earth (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:14-27). Jesus asks us to invest in His church (time, talent, and treasure). Christianity is participatory -- be a part of the movement!
  
- C) **Salvation Brings Acceptable Worship.** Being a transformed part of the body of Christ in His church is "acceptable worship" to God (Romans 12:1-21). Worship is not some sing-along experience! Worship is how we live -- all the time -- in all places -- in a life which honors God!

# From Garden To Grave

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 • Palm Sunday • Pastor Chris Lankford

**THEREFORE, JUST AS THROUGH ONE MAN SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, AND DEATH THROUGH SIN, AND SO DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN, BECAUSE ALL SINNED... BUT THE FREE GIFT IS NOT LIKE THE TRANSGRESSION. FOR IF BY THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE ONE THE MANY DIED, MUCH MORE DID THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GIFT BY THE GRACE OF THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST, ABOUND TO THE MANY. ~ROMANS 5:12 & 15 (NASB)**

#### 1) Adam's Two-Sided Legacy

- A) When Adam & Eve ate the fruit (Genesis 3), sin entered into the human race (Romans 5:12). With sin comes both a physical & spiritual death.
  
- B) On one side of the "Adam" coin we find the total corruption of the human soul (we are "children of wrath" -- Ephesians 2:3) before salvation. In this sense we are all sinners because we are children of Adam (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:22).

- C) On the other side of the "Adam" coin we find that because we are in bondage ("slaves to sin" -- Romans 7:14) each human being chooses sin as a personal act of the will -- "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23, 5:12).
  
- D) We are then, doubly condemned, both by nature and by action, to suffer the consequences of sin. This bondage extends to our very will, destroying our ability to choose what is good or right (Romans 7:14-20; cf. Galatians 5:19-21).

## 2) The Consequences Of Sin

- A) God promised that with sin would come death (Genesis 2:17). This equation (sin=death) is reinforced as being the wages (the payment) for sin (the investment) for all people in all places (Romans 3:23).
  
- B) Originally, God instituted a complex system of payment for sin (atonement) with His "chosen people," the Jews.\* This payment system could only provide temporary atonement for sin, and highlighted God's gracious nature (Hebrews 10:1-18; Romans 3:25-26).

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\* The community of Israel had several offerings for different types of sins. Burnt offerings (Leviticus 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24) were for worship, unintentional sin, and complete surrender to God. Grain offerings (Leviticus 2; 6:14-23) were in recognition of God's goodness and provision. Peace offerings (Leviticus 3; 7:11-34) were for thanksgiving and fellowship, and were often accompanied by a communal meal. All three of these first types of offerings were voluntary and largely acts of worship. Sin offerings (Leviticus 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22) were mandatory payments to God for specified unintentional sin, confession of sin, forgiveness of sin, and cleansing from defilement. Guilt offerings (Leviticus 5:14-6:7; 7:1-6) were mandatory payments to God for any sin which required restitution; cleansing from defilement, and sometimes included further fines. *Various sources.*

- C) This is Paul's anguished cry in Romans 7:24, "Wretched man that I am!" What hope do we have in the face of such a wretched situation?!
  
- D) But God promised a Savior, a Messiah, from the beginning (Genesis 3:15) and throughout Israel's history (Isaiah 53:7-12). God's promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as He made sacrifice for sin, "once and for all," with His life (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:11-25).

## 3) Jesus Christ, The Second Adam

- A) God, seeing the wretched condition of mankind, provides "salvation" or "deliverance" or "rescue" from the penalties of sin through a gift from God, which is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (Romans 5:15).
  
- B) A man or woman can obtain the free gift of Jesus Christ from God by responding to God's free offer (of the gift, also called "grace" -- an undeserved gift) by trusting Jesus Christ with their whole life (also called "repentance" in the Bible -- Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 3:18-23).
  
- C) We must "receive" (have faith/trust -- John 1:12) the truth of this message (that Christ lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and was resurrected on the third day) through repentance and life change (born again -- John 3:1-8).