

Starting a new unit for the next 5 weeks with the title “THE CASE FOR JESUS”.

The study shows why people need a savior and why Jesus is the only Savior they need.

Personal thought – When people choose to become a follower of Jesus Christ then they choose his path. That path by the very nature of the choice is exclusive. The ideal of universalism or there is good in all religions by the choice we make of Christianity is false. There is no way that all religions have a way to heaven if you believe the clear teachings of Jesus.

If you are a believer then we need to know what we believe and so we can give a defense and for the non-believer they need to understand their need for Jesus and that they can find salvation in him.

LESSON

SIN IS A BIG DEAL.

Genesis 3:1-6, 16-19, 24 Romans 5:12-14

Lesson theme that sin is a biblical reality and not an outdated, false religious concept.

In today’s society even on Sand Mountain people want to reject the reality of sin. They say you do what is right for you and I will do what is right for me.

Some people I have come in contact with think at the end of the day that even if they believe that sin exist they somehow think that sin is overcome by doing good. And they believe when they are judged that somehow they will be good enough to be over the line and make into heaven.

Sin is real and we need to understand the consequences of sin and that sin deserves to be punished.

SIN DEFINED (Gen 3:1-6)

If Genesis 3 were not in the Bible, there would be no Bible as we know it. Why? Because the rest of Scripture documents the sad consequences of Adam’s sin and explains what God in His grace has done to rescue us. By grasping the basic truths of this important chapter, you can better understand Paul’s discussion of justification in Romans 5.

The record in Genesis 3 is not a myth. If the fall of man didn’t actually occur, then the Christian faith is built on fables, not fact, and Jesus Christ suffered needlessly on the cross. From Genesis 3 to Revelation 21, the Bible records the conflict between God and Satan, sin and righteousness, and pleads with sinners to repent to trust God.

A temptation is an opportunity to accomplish a good thing in a bad way. It’s a good thing to pass a school examination but a bad thing to do it by cheating. It’s a good thing to pay your bills but a bad thing to steal the money for the payments. In essence, Satan said to Eve: “I can give you something that you need and want. You can have it now and enjoy it, and best of all, there won’t be any painful consequences.

vs. 1 - Satan isn’t an originator; he’s a clever imitator who disguises his true character. If necessary, he can even masquerade as an angel of light

Satan still works today as the great impersonator. He has produced a counterfeit righteousness apart from the righteousness that comes only by faith in the Savior. Satan has false ministers who preach a false gospel, and he has false brothers (and sisters) who oppose the true gospel.

Vs. 4 - "You will not surely die" is a direct contradiction of God's "You will surely die". But Satan is a liar and God is the God of truth.

APPLICATION:

1 – When we sin we misuse our God given freedom of choice.

Personal – I hear it today. People think that God doesn't want them to do something because it is fun. They believe that God wants them to be restricted. I know that the further we get from God's word and design the more in bondage we become.

The tree of forbidden fruit led to the tree of Calvary. This is what sin will ultimately do.

SIN'S CONSEQUENCES (Gen. 3:16-19, 24)

God's love for sinners in no way eliminates His holy hatred for sin, for while it's true that "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16), it's also true that "God is light" (1:5). A holy God must deal with sin, for the good of the sinner and for the glory of His name.

Eve would have pain in the labor of childbirth, but Adam would have pain in his daily labor in the field. As he worked to get his food, Adam would encounter obstacles and have to toil and sweat to get a harvest, and this would remind him that his disobedience had affected creation (Rom. 8:18–23). Even more, as he tilled the soil, he would remember that one day he would die and return to the soil from which he had come. Adam the gardener became Adam the toiler.

APPLICATION:

1 – Sin is a great separator ... it separates sinners from God and one another

2 – Sin not only affect the sinner but everyone around.

EVERYONE'S SINS (Rom. 5:12-14)

How is it possible for God to save sinners in the person of Jesus Christ? We understand that somehow Christ took our place on the cross, but how was such a substitution possible?

Paul answered the question in this section, and these verses are the very heart of the letter.

In short, this section is a contrast of Adam and Christ. Adam was given dominion over the old creation; he sinned; and he lost his kingdom. Because of Adam's sin, all mankind is under condemnation and death. Christ came as the King over a new creation. By His obedience on the cross, He brought in righteousness and justification. Christ not only undid all the damage that Adam's sin effected, but He accomplished "much more" by making us the very sons of God.

Skeptics sometimes ask, "Was it fair for God to condemn the whole world just because of one man's disobedience?" The answer, of course, is that it was not only fair, but it was also wise and gracious. To begin with, if God had tested each human being individually, the result would have been the same: disobedience. But even more important, by condemning the human race through one man (Adam), God was then able to save the human race through one Man (Jesus Christ)!

APPLICATION:

1 – All people are sinners

2 – We are responsible for our sins.

