

A photograph of Adrian Rogers, a prominent Southern Baptist pastor, speaking. He is wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt. His right hand is raised, palm facing forward, in a gesture of emphasis or prayer. The background is dark, making his face and hand stand out.

# THREE THINGS THAT YOU CANNOT LEARN IN SCHOOL

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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# Three Things that You Cannot Learn in School

**SERMON REFERENCE:** John 16:7-11

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1999

There are some things that no pastor or Bible teacher can teach you; they can only be imparted by the Holy Spirit. By our own natures, we can be stunningly ignorant. There are three things you cannot learn in school, that only the Holy Spirit can teach you.

First, is the conception of sin. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." We are sinners by nature. The problem comes from within, not primarily because of what we do, but because of what we are.

Our nature is a poisoned well. Our sins are the poisoned water that comes out of that well. And perhaps our worst sin is not believing in Jesus Christ. Unbelief is the parent sin, out of which all other sins grow. Adrian Rogers says, "A courtroom may convict you of crimes; conscience will convict you of wrongdoing; but only the Holy Spirit of God will truly convict you of sin."

The second truth only the Holy Spirit can teach is the completion of salvation. Man is ignorant concerning both sin and righteousness. The Holy Spirit of God teaches us that our only hope is Jesus Christ. And when you receive Jesus Christ and His righteousness, He deals with what we are.

Christians are not just reformed, nicer people; they have received a new nature as a result of a "new birth." He changes what we are and then He forgives what we've done. He also gives us what we need, which is righteousness. Adrian Rogers says, "He took our sin that we might take His righteousness. You're as righteous as Jesus Christ because you have His righteousness."

Lastly, the Holy Spirit teaches us the truth concerning judgment. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us that Satan's cause is a lost cause. There's no contest out there: truth is mightier than error, love is stronger than hate, holiness is higher than sin. And our Lord has won the victory.

## LIFE APPLICATION

Have you learned these three things you cannot learn in school? Let the Holy Spirit minister to you and impart these things in your heart.



# Three Things that You Cannot Learn in School

SERMON REFERENCE: John 16:7-11

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1999

## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are some things that only the Holy Spirit can teach us.
  - i) Nicodemus was a master in Israel and a ruler of the Jews, yet he was ignorant of spiritual things.
    - (1) John 3:10
- b) God uses human instruments to share His truth, and He uses His Word.
  - i) But the Holy Spirit is the teacher.
  - ii) We can preach truth, but only He can impart truth.
- c) John 16:7-11
  - i) The Comforter is the Holy Spirit.
    - (1) John 15:26
  - ii) The word “reprove” in verse 8 means “convict” or “convince.”
  - iii) These three things we will never learn in school:
    - (1) The truth concerning sin.
    - (2) The truth concerning righteousness.
    - (3) The truth concerning judgment.
- d) The need of this hour is truth.
  - i) Truth is the issue.
    - (1) There is cowardice that is afraid of the truth.
    - (2) There is laziness that accepts part of the truth.
    - (3) There is arrogance that thinks it knows all of the truth.
    - (4) There is true humility before God that opens the heart to receive what the Holy Spirit of God wants to teach.
- e) Only when we have been saved can we know the three tremendous truths about sin, righteousness and judgment.
  - i) We may understand them intellectually, but we will never know them until the Holy Spirit of God teaches us these things.

## 2) THE CONCEPTION OF SIN; THE TRUTH CONCERNING SIN (John 16:9)

- a) The Bible teaches that we are sinners for three basic reasons:
  - i) Because of what we are; we are natural-born sinners.
    - (1) Ephesians 2:3
    - (2) The Holy Spirit has to remove a certain kind of ignorance from our hearts.
      - (a) We think that men are wicked and sinful because of what they do.
        - (i) We think people are sinners because they lie, steal, commit adultery, etc.
        - (b) In reality, people are not sinners because they do those things, but they do those things because they are sinners.



- (i) A man is not a liar because he tells lies; he tells lies because he is a liar.
  - (ii) A man is not a thief because he steals; he steals because he is a thief.
    - 1. Matthew 15:19
- (3) There is within human nature a thing the Bible calls sin, and what we see coming out in man is what has been born on the inside.
  - (a) A man is a sinner because of what he is.
- (4) The sin that we are capable of doing is the latent sin that is down in our hearts.
  - (a) God sees this sin, whether it ever comes to the surface or not.
  - (b) This is why reformation will never work for sin.
    - (i) If you tell a man of this world that he's a sinner, without the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, he simply says that he will do better and quit the bad behavior.
    - (ii) Even though he may clean up the outside of his life, the heart is still crooked.
      - 1. Jeremiah 17:9
      - 2. Therefore, if a man is a drunkard and he stops drinking without getting saved, then he will go to Hell sober.
- (5) People have tried to explain away sin.
  - (a) Evolutionists say that man is a sinner because he hasn't had sufficient time to develop.
  - (b) Environmentalists say that man is a sinner because he's been molded and shaped by forces on the outside, and he needs a better atmosphere.
  - (c) Educators say that there is no such thing as sin, only ignorance; and if we could educate a man, then we would be able to deal with his sin.
- (6) Each of us are born with a sin nature; man is by nature a child of wrath.
- ii) Because of what we do.
  - (1) Romans 3:10-12
  - (2) Romans 3:23
  - (3) Our nature is the poisoned well; the sins that we do are the poisoned, bitter water that comes out of that well.
  - (4) We may say that we don't kill or steal, but what about our thought life?
    - (a) Matthew 5:21-22
      - (i) Jesus said that hate is murder.
    - (b) Matthew 5:27-28
      - (i) Jesus said that lust is adultery.
    - (c) God destroyed a civilization with a flood because of the imaginations of men's hearts.
      - (i) Genesis 6:5-7
  - (5) We have tried to redefine sin to the point of redefining it out of existence.
    - (a) The word "abortion" used to mean a miscarriage.
      - (i) The real word for what we now call "abortion" is "infanticide."
      - (ii) Now, abortionists have tried to change the term "abortion" to a nicer term, and they call it "pro-choice."



- (iii) They have gone even further to find a better term than “pro-choice,” and they now call abortion “reproductive rights.”
        - (iv) They have taken this a step further to now calling it “reproductive freedom.”
        - (v) No matter what it is called, it is still the killing of unborn babies.
      - (b) The Bible speaks of lust, but we now call it “adult entertainment.”
      - (c) The Bible calls sexual immorality “fornication” and “adultery.”
        - (i) We now call it “sexually active” and “having an affair.”
      - (d) The Bible calls sexual perversion “sodomy.”
        - (i) We call it today an “alternative lifestyle.”
    - (6) We are trying to redefine sin out of existence, but the Bible calls it sin.
      - (a) Romans 3:23
  - iii) Because we believe not.
    - (1) John 16:9
      - (a) The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, not only because of what we are and what we have done, but also because of what we have not done; we have not believed.
    - (2) There is a horrible, condemning sin that most of the world never thinks about: the sin of not believing on Jesus Christ.
    - (3) What is sin?
      - (a) Sin is a clenched fist in the face of God.
      - (b) Sin is failing to bow the knee to the Lord Jesus.
      - (c) Sin is high treason against Heaven’s King.
        - (i) Only the Holy Spirit can teach us this about sin.
    - (4) When we see that we have never bowed the knee to our Maker (the one who died in agony and blood for us on the cross) and that we have ignored, spurned and refused Him, then we will understand why the Bible calls us sinners.
    - (5) John 3:18
      - (a) Unbelief is the greatest sin and is the parent sin out of which all other sins have grown.
        - (i) It was unbelief that caused Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden.
    - (6) A courtroom may convict us of crimes, conscience will convict us of wrong doing, but only the Holy Spirit of God will truly convict us of sin.
    - (7) When we understand that we have never really opened our hearts and received Him as our Lord and Savior, then we will seek His mercy.
      - (a) Luke 18:13
- 3) THE COMPLETION OF SALVATION; THE TRUTH CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS (John 16:10)
  - a) The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and of righteousness.
  - b) John 16:10
    - i) The Lord Jesus left His Father’s house, came to this world of woe and lived a sinless life, took our sins to the cross, suffered and died in agony, rose from the tomb on the third day, is alive and victorious over sin and death and Hell, and He ascended to the Father to present His blood there before the Father in that tabernacle in Heaven.



- ii) Jesus Christ has paid the price for redemption, and there is only one way that man can be righteous.
  - (1) It is through Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension back to the Father.
- c) Only the Holy Spirit can teach us the way to righteousness.
  - i) Man is ignorant concerning sin and righteousness.
    - (1) The average person thinks he is a sinner if he does wrong and is righteous if he does right.
    - (2) The average person thinks that righteousness comes by doing and being good.
      - (a) Romans 10:3
  - ii) Man can be sincere and be sincerely wrong.
  - iii) The only hope we have of righteousness is Jesus.
- d) Some claim that they are pretty good people, and they rely on their goodness; but Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day that publicans, sinners and harlots would go to Heaven before they would.
  - i) Matthew 21:31
- e) Isaiah 64:6
  - i) "Unclean thing" refers to the bandages that were wrapped around a lepers sores.
    - (1) Even our righteousnesses, the things we boast about, are as filthy rags in Jesus' sight.
- f) The only way that we will go to Heaven is through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus and our faith in that fact.
  - i) If a person could be saved any other way, then Calvary was the blunder of the ages.
  - ii) If there were some other means of salvation or other options, then why would God choose to let His Son die in agony and blood?
    - (1) Galatians 2:21
      - (a) If a person could be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, then Calvary was a blunder.
- g) The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness becomes a substitute for the new birth.
  - i) The only way we understand this is when the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts.
  - ii) No preacher can teach us this.
    - (1) The Holy Spirit convicts us that our only hope of Heaven is to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.
- h) We are sinners because of what we are, what we do and what we've not done; when we receive the Lord Jesus, He does many things for us:
  - i) He changes what we are.
    - (1) We are by nature children of wrath; but when we get saved, we become partakers of the divine nature.
      - (a) The Bible calls this the new birth.
    - (2) Christians are not just nicer people or people who have been reformed, but Christians are those who have had a change of nature.
  - ii) He forgives what we've done.
    - (1) Every stain and every blemish are gone and buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.



- iii) He gives what we need, which is righteousness.
    - (1) He took our sin so that we might take His righteousness.
    - (2) Romans 4:5-6
      - (a) When we believe on the Lord Jesus, repent of our sins and place our trust in Him, then God gives us a new nature, forgives us and takes His righteousness and imputes it to us.
        - (i) “Imputes” means that He puts it on our account.
      - (b) We are then as righteous as Jesus Christ because He has given us His righteousness.
        - (i) He takes our sin, and we take His righteousness.
- 4) THE CONDEMNATION OF SATAN; THE TRUTH CONCERNING JUDGMENT (John 16:11)
- a) This passage in John 16 is in the perfect tense.
    - i) It does not say that Satan is going to be judged, but it means that it is already taking place.
      - (1) The prince of this world is the devil.
  - b) We are not waiting on the outcome of things to see who's going to win: Christ or antichrist, God or Satan.
    - i) John 12:31
  - c) Many people believe that somehow sin will get by and that God will be merciful, even if men do not repent of sin and receive His righteousness.
    - i) This is not true.
    - ii) Our Lord must reign, and His enemies are defeated.
      - (1) There is no contest.
      - (2) Truth is mightier than error.
      - (3) Love is stronger than hate.
      - (4) Holiness is higher than sin.
      - (5) Our Lord has won the victory.
  - d) Satan's cause is a lost cause, and he rules a doomed domain.
    - i) He has already been sentenced, adjudicated a criminal, and he has been judged.
    - ii) He will one day be thrown into the Lake of Fire.
      - (1) God did not prepare Hell for you.
      - (2) If you go to Hell, you will be an intruder.
        - (a) Matthew 25:41
          - (i) Hell is not a myth.
          - (ii) Jesus Himself, who is infinite and fathomless love, warned about Hell.
  - e) Sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.
    - i) Only the Holy Spirit can teach you that.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) John 16:9-11
  - b) It is an unfathomable tragedy to refuse the love of God, who gave His own dear Son to die for





us in agony upon the cross.

- c) Being a church member does not save us; church membership will not get us to Heaven.
- d) Jesus Christ is the only way.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16



# Three Things that You Cannot Learn in School

**SERMON REFERENCE:** John 16:7-11

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I want you to take God's Word today and turn, please, to John chapter 16. And I want to talk to you about the convicting, convincing power of the Holy Spirit. Title of the message; "Three Things that You Cannot Learn in School." Thank God for school, but there are some things that no school teacher can teach you. For that matter, there are some things that no pastor can teach you, no Sunday School teacher can teach you, but only the Holy Spirit can teach you. Now men, women, boys and girls, by nature, are stunningly ignorant, stunningly ignorant. I think of Nicodemus; he was a master in Israel, a ruler of the Jews. Jesus had to remonstrate with and said in the Gospel of John chapter 3 verse 10, "Aren't you a master in Israel and yet you don't know these things?" Jesus was talking to him about spiritual things.

Now I hope that you'll open your heart today to this truth. Now this is truth that only the Holy Spirit can give you. You say, "Well, Pastor, if only the Holy Spirit can give this truth, then why are you preaching?" Because He uses human instruments, He uses the Word of God, but He is the Teacher. I've said many times, "I can preach truth, but only He can impart truth."

Now look in John chapter 16 and verse 7, Jesus says, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you. But if I depart, I will send Him unto you." Now the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit, the divine Paraclete. In John 15:26, Jesus said, "I am going to Heaven, but I will send the Holy Spirit to take My place." Now notice in John 16 verse 8, "And when He is come," that is the Holy Spirit, "when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment." Now the word reprove actually means convict or convince. "He will convict, He will convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment." Those are three things you'll never learn in school: the truth concerning sin, the truth concerning righteousness, and the truth concerning judgment. Notice John 16 verses 9 through 11, "Of sin, because they believe not on Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and ye see Me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

Now I want you to open your heart today to truth because the need of this hour beyond the shadow of any doubt is truth. Truth is the issue. There is cowardice and there may be some today who are cowards who are afraid of the truth. There is laziness that accepts part of the truth. There's arrogance that thinks it knows all of the truth. And there is true humility before God that opens one's heart so that you might receive what the Holy Spirit of God wants to teach. Now I want to say there are three tremendous truths, that if you've never seen them, you've never been saved. You say, "Well I understand sin, righteousness, and judgment." Maybe you do intellectually, but until the Holy Spirit of God teaches you these things, you will never know them.

Now let's think of them one at a time. Three things that you'll never learn in school. First of all deals with the conception of sin. What is sin? Look in verse 9, Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit is come to convince men of sin," now watch it, "because they believe not on Me." Now the Bible teaches



that a man is and a woman, a boy, a girl, a human being, is a sinner for three basic reasons. First of all, he is a sinner because of what he is by nature. He is a natural-born sinner. The Bible says in Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 3 that, "He is by nature a child of wrath." Your little grandson, your little granddaughter, your precious newborn baby is by nature a child of wrath.

Now the Holy Spirit of God has to remove a certain kind of ignorance in our heart. We think that men are wicked and sinful because of what they do. We think a man is a sinner because he lies, because he steals, because he commits adultery or because he kills. He is not a sinner because he does these things; he does these things because he is a sinner. A man is not a liar because he tells lies, he tells lies because he's a liar. A man is not a thief because he steals; he steals because he is a thief. Matthew 15 verse 19, "These things," Jesus said, "come out of the heart."

I've told you before if you find an apple with a worm hole, you needn't worry all that much, it doesn't mean there's a worm in the apple. It means there was a worm in the apple. The worm did not eat his way in, he ate his way out. The worm was born in the apple. You say, "How'd he get in there?" The egg was laid in the blossom and then that worm was hatched and ate his way out of that apple. Now there is in the very blossom of human nature a thing that the Bible calls sin and what we see coming out is what has been born on the inside. You see, a man is a sinner because of what he is.

If there's a dog that's rabid, that dog is killed. Perhaps he's not bitten anybody. Why is he killed? Not because of what he has done, but what he is capable of doing. You see, the sin that we're capable of doing is the sin that is down in our hearts, latent, that God sees whether it ever comes to the surface or not, whether the worm ever gets to the surface or not, whether the dog ever bites anybody or not. That's the reason a reformation will never do for sin. You tell a man he's a sinner, if he's a man of this world, without the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, he says, "Well I'll do better, I'll quit." Maybe he's a drunkard and he says, "Well I won't drink anymore." Maybe he's an adulterer and he says, "I will not commit adultery anymore."

Take a log out of the forest, cut it down and bring it to the sawmill. That log may be crooked. Put it on the cradle there in the sawmill and run it through that sawmill and the saw, that big buzzing blade cuts off one side. Turn that log, run it through again and it'll cut off the other side. Turn it again and cut off the other and then finally you have a log from the outside, perfectly square, perfectly straight, but look at it from the end, and the heart is still crooked. That's the way men are, that's what reformation is. You may clean up the outside, you may say, "Well I am good, I am as straight and square as a man can be." But in Jeremiah 17:9, the Bible says of your heart that, "Your heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." Therefore, if a man is a drunkard and he stops drinking without getting saved, he'll go to hell sober. What I'm trying to say is this; that man has a problem and the problem is on the inside and you might as well admit it, you are a sinner, not primarily because of what you do, but because of what you are.

Now people have tried to explain away sin. The evolutionists says that, "Man is a sinner because he hadn't had sufficient time to develop." The environmentalist says that, "Man is a sinner because he's been molded and shaped by sources on the outside and what he needs is a better atmosphere." The educator says, "There is no such thing as sin, it is only ignorance, and if we could educate a man,



we would be able to deal with his sin.”

But let me tell you what a Minnesota crime commission report said, studying the matter of juvenile delinquency. I want you parents to listen to this; “Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it; his bottle, his mother’s attention, his playmate’s toys, his uncle’s watch, or whatever. Deny him these and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness which would be murderous if he were not so helpless. He’s dirty; he has no morals, no knowledge, no developed skills. This means that all children, not just certain children, but all children are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in their self-centered world of infancy, if given free rein to their impulsive actions to satisfy every one of them, every child would grow up a criminal.” That’s your little baby. You say, “Not my little baby,” yes, your little baby. He is by nature a child of wrath.

Now why is a man a sinner? He is a sinner, number one, because of what he is. And then because of what he is, he does what he does. Now if you say, “Well I take umbrage at the fact that you say that, ‘I’m a sinner by nature.’” All right, then let’s talk about what you do. Romans chapter 3 verse 10 through 12, “As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.” I want you to say in your heart, “Not even me,” agree with God, “There’s none righteous, no not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable. There is none that doeth good, no not one.” Folks, get that in your heart. Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Now your nature is the poisoned well. Your sins that you do are the poisoned bitter water that comes out of that well. You say, “Well, I don’t, I don’t kill and I don’t steal.” What about your thought life? Jesus said in the fifth chapter of Matthew, “Lust is adultery.” Jesus said, “Hate is murder.” Jesus destroyed a civilization with a flood because of the imaginations of men’s hearts.

Now you know the word sin has gone out of vogue today. We have redefined sin and redefined it out of existence. Do you know what the word abortion used to mean? It used to mean a miscarriage. If a baby inadvertently died in the mother’s womb, that was a sad and a tragic thing, and they said, “Well, that baby was aborted.” What the real word is, is not abortion, it is infanticide, killing a baby. But now we don’t like abortion, so the abortionists have changed that word. Now they take the killing of a baby and they call that abortion but they say, “No, let’s see if we can get a nicer sounding phrase,” and so they call it pro-choice. Doesn’t that sound a lot better than abortion? Certainly sounds better than infanticide. But you know they didn’t like that so much, they said, “Let’s get something better than pro-choice, let’s use reproductive rights.” And then, “Oh no, that’s not enough, let’s call it reproductive freedom.” No, let’s call it killing babies; let’s call it killing babies rather than reproductive freedom.

But you see, we don’t like the idea of sin. You know, the Bible speaks of lust. But we don’t call it lust. What do we call it? Adult entertainment. And we look around and we see the rape, sexual violence and immorality rampant in our land, but the word lust sounds too much like sin, doesn’t it? The Bible calls sexual immorality, the Bible calls it fornication. The Bible calls it adultery. Do you know what we call it? Sexually active, that’s what they call fornication today. That teenager is sexually



active. And what do we call adultery, having an affair. You see what we've done? Do you know what the Bible called a woman who sells sex? The Bible calls her a whore and a harlot. You know what the Bible calls a man who pays for her services? The Bible calls him a whoremonger. What do we call her today? A call girl. What do we call him today? A playboy. The Bible calls sexual perversion sodomy, calls these people who do this sodomites. What do we call them today? Homosexuals. We call them gays. What do we call it today? An alternative lifestyle, as if God has several lifestyles and you can pick the one you want. What have we done? We have defined sin out of existence. But the Bible calls sin sin and the Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. A man is a sinner because of what he is. He is by nature a child of wrath. A man is a sinner because of what he does, and he does what he does because he is what he is.

But what does our text say? What does the Bible say that the Holy Spirit has come to convict men of? Look again if you will and see what the Bible says that the Holy Spirit says in John 16 verse 9, "He is come to convict men of sin, because they believe not on Me." Now that's the part most of us can understand thus far. But when we get to this part, then we see that the Holy Spirit of God convicts a man of sin, not only because of what he is, not only because of what he has done, but the Bible convicts him of sin because of what he has not done. "Of sin, because he believes not."

When you talk about sin, telling lies, stealing, lust, the average American says, "Well, yes, everybody's got his little faults, everybody makes mistakes. But I don't think that God would let me go to hell forever because I told a lie. That would be like putting a man in the penitentiary for life for stealing a loaf of bread." Oh, friend, when you understand the nature of sin, you can't help the way you were born and therefore you do what you do because you were born with a sinful nature. But, oh, there is a sin, a damning sin, a horrible sin, a wicked sin, a vile sin, a terrible sin, a condemning sin that most of the world never thinks about. Do you know what it is? Not believing on Jesus Christ; not believing on Jesus Christ. "Of sin, because they believe not on Me." What is sin? Sin is a clenched fist in the face of God. Sin is failing to bow the knee. Sin is high treason against Heaven's King. Only the Holy Spirit can teach you that. When you see that you are guilty of high treason against Heaven's King, that you have never bowed the knee to your Maker, the one who died in agony and blood for you upon that cross, when you see that you've ignored, spurned, refused Him, then you'll understand why the Bible calls you a sinner. I pray the Holy Spirit of God will convict you of that.

Put this verse in your memory, in your margin. John 3 verse 18, Jesus said concerning Himself, the Son of Man, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not on Him is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Unbelief is the greatest sin and unbelief is the parent sin, it is the mother sin, the father sin, the sin out of which all other sins have grown. It was unbelief that caused Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden. Holy Spirit of God, help me to say this and I pray that people will hear it today. A courtroom may convict you of crimes; conscience will convict you of wrong doing; but only the Holy Spirit of God will truly convict you of sin. When you understand what sin is, you'll not be strutting your way to hell thinking you're too good to be damned. When you understand that you have said, "No," to the Lord Jesus Christ, if you've never really opened your heart and received Him as your Lord



and Savior, then you will say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Luke 18:13. The Holy Spirit of God teaches first of all a true conception of sin. "Of sin, because they believe not."

Here's the second truth the Holy Spirit will teach you. Something you'll never learn in school, not only the conception of sin, but the completion of salvation; the completion of salvation. Look if you will now in the next verse, John 16 verse 10, "Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more." He comes to convict of sin and of righteousness. To give a conception of sin and to show the completion of salvation. Now why does He say, "Of righteousness, because I go to My Father?" Well, He left the Father's house. He came down through that dark Judean night, out of the ivory palaces into this world of woe. He lived a sinless, perfect life, He came to that cross, He took my sin, your sin, our sin upon that cross. He suffered, bled and died in agony unmentionable, indescribable, horror and pain. He died upon that cross. He was laid in that cold tomb. He came out of that tomb the third day, living, risen, victorious over sin, death, hell and the grave. He ascended to the Father to present His blood there before the Father in that tabernacle in Heaven. That's what He's talking about when He says, "I go to My Father." "I am going back to My Father, it is done, I have paid the price for redemption, and now there is one way, one and only one way, that a man can be righteous; it is through My death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to the Father."

Now only the Holy Spirit of God can teach you that because man is ignorant. He is ignorant not only concerning sin; he's also ignorant concerning righteousness. What does the average person think? The average person thinks he is a sinner if he does wrong, so therefore he's righteous if he does right, isn't that right? Isn't that what the average person thinks? The average person thinks that righteousness comes by doing and being good. Put this verse in your margin, Romans 10 and verse 3. Paul spoke of the Jews of his day and here's what he said about them, "For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness," now listen to this, "being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

A man can be sincere and be sincerely wrong. Sulfuric acid and water look the same, clear, colorless liquid. H<sub>2</sub>O and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>; one is water, one is deadly poison. Poor Willy, he's gone from us, his face we'll see no more, for what he thought was H<sub>2</sub>O, was H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. If a man sincerely drinks a glass of sulfuric acid, does it matter how sincere he is if he is sincerely dead? The only hope that a man has of righteousness is Jesus.

You say, "But Pastor Rogers, I am not that bad, I'm a pretty good person." That's the reason that Jesus said to the Pharisees in Matthew 21:31, "Publicans and sinners and harlots are going to Heaven before you will." They were the crowds that sit in church on Sunday morning and when the invitation is given, they'll look around to see if any of those old sinners are going to go forward and give their heart to Jesus Christ. Let me tell you what Isaiah said to the people of his day in Isaiah chapter 64 and verse 6, "But we are all as an unclean thing," and by the way, the word unclean thing means the bandage that would wrap the leper's putrefying sore, "but we are all as an unclean thing," now watch this, "and all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in His sight." He didn't say the bad things you do, I'm talking about the things that you boast about. "All of our righteousnesses are as filthy



rags in His sight, and we do all fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.”

The only way that you will ever see the portals of Heaven, the only way that you can ever go to Heaven is through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and your faith in that fact. You need to learn this. If there were some other way, if, if a person could be saved by reformation, if a person could be saved by doing good, then let me ask you a question; if a person could be saved any other way, was not then Calvary the blunder of the ages? Think about it. Do you understand Calvary? Do you think that was one of the options whereby people can be saved? Do you mean there is some other way but God chose to let His Son die in agony and blood when there could've been some other way? That's the reason that the apostle Paul said in Galatians 2 verse 21, “I do not frustrate the grace of God, for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” What does that mean in plain English? If you could be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, Calvary was a blunder.

Most of us think we're too good to be damned. I've said before, “The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness because a substitute for the new birth.” You say, “I don't agree with you,” and I'm sure you don't, but when the Holy Spirit of God speaks to your heart, then you'll agree. You see, I can't talk you into that. You'll sit here and mentally argue with me, you'll say, “I don't agree with that.” That's the reason I'm saying, friend, that you'll not learn this in school and no preacher can teach you this. The Holy Spirit of God will teach you one of these days that you're a sinner because you've refused the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit of God will convict you one of these days that the only way, the only way, your only hope of Heaven is to receive Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and when you do receive the Lord Jesus Christ, I want you to see what He'll do for you.

Remember we said that you're a sinner because of what you are, what you do, and what you've not done? When you receive the Lord Jesus Christ and his righteousness, then he deals with what you are. We are by nature children of wrath, but when we get saved, we become what? Partakers of the divine nature. The Bible calls this, “The new birth.” Christians are not just people who've reformed, they're just not nicer people, Christians are those who have had a change of nature, He changes what you are and then He forgives what you've done. Remember you do what you do because of what you are; He changes what you are and He forgives what you've done; every stain, every blot, every blur, every blemish, gone, buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness. “And though our sins be as scarlet, they'll be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they become as wool.” Friend, that's the Gospel.

But wait a minute, not only does He change what we are, not only does He cleanse what we've done, but He gives what we need, which is righteousness. You see, He took our sin that we might take His righteousness. These are precious verses I'm going to share with you. Romans 4 verses 5 and 6, put them in your margin, “But to him that worketh not but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith,” listen, “his faith is counted for righteousness.” “His faith is counted for righteousness, even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness, imputeth righteousness without works.” What does that mean? When you say, “Lord Jesus, I believe You died for me upon that cross, I believe You paid my sin debt, I know



that I'm a sinner, I need to bow my knee before You and believe on You and trust You," then God says, "Yes, I'll come into your heart, I'll give you a new nature, I'll forgive your sin, and then I'll take My righteousness and I will impute it to you." That means, "I'll put it on your account." Then how righteous are you? You're as righteous as Jesus Christ because you have His righteousness.

There was a maid who worked for a man and she got saved, he was an infidel, he ridiculed her. Her name was Betty. He said, "Betty, you claim to be saved, what does it feel like to be saved?" He, she said, "I don't think I could explain it where you could understand it." But she said, "It feels to me as if I'm standing in Jesus' shoes and He's standing in mine." A theologian couldn't have said it better. He took my sin, I take His righteousness. I can preach this truth; I pray God the Holy Spirit will teach you this truth. When He is come, He will convict you of sin, He will convict you of righteousness. You will see a proper conception of sin and you'll see a proper completion of salvation that Jesus ascended to the Heaven, back to the Father, to pay that sin debt.

Now here's a third and final thing that you'll not learn in school and you'll not learn from any preacher's preaching until the Holy Spirit of God brings it to your heart. Not only the truth concerning sin and not only the truth concerning righteousness, but the truth concerning judgment. Continue to read in John 16 verse 11, then He says, here's the third thing, "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." It doesn't say, "He's going to be judged," this is perfect tense, it means it's already taken place. Who is the prince of this world? The prince of this world is the devil, he's the god of this age, the prince of this world, but Jesus said, "He has already been judged." The people of this world seem to think that somehow we're waiting on the outcome of things to see who's going to win; Christ or anti-Christ; God or Satan. Friend, we sing about the cross, we called it the mighty cross. With that in mind, remember John 12 verse 31, Jesus facing that cross said this, "Now is the judgment of this world." "Now," right now, "is the prince of this world is cast out." Don't get the idea that one of these days we're going to see how it works out. Know what the average person thinks? The average person has the idea that either somehow the whole scheme of things will be nullified, or that somehow sin will get by, that God will be merciful even if men do not repent of sin and receive His righteousness. That is not true. Our Lord must reign, His enemies will lick the dust, there's no contest out there, truth is mightier than error. Love is stronger than hate. Holiness is higher than sin. And our Lord has won the victory.

Now, folks, listen to me, the Holy Spirit of God needs to teach you that Satan's cause is a lost cause, Satan sails a sinking ship. Satan rules a doomed domain, he has already been sentenced, adjudicated a criminal, he has been judged, sooner or later he's going to be thrown into that penitentiary, that lake of fire. God did not prepare hell for you. If you go to hell, which you may, but if you go to hell, you'll be an intruder. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 25 and verse 41, "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, 'Depart from Me you cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

I was watching television and I saw a little bit of a program before I turned it off that dealt with the subject of hell. It was something like the unsolved mysteries or something like that. And the idea of this program was that in the Middle Ages the church was losing its hold upon people, so the





church invented the idea of hell to keep people corralled, so that the preachers would have some tool to hold over people's heads to convince them they'd better turn or burn. That was the idea, that somehow this idea of hell was something that Dante or somebody invented. Do you know who the greatest hellfire preacher in the Bible was? J-E-S-U-S. Jesus. Absolute, infinite, fathomless love, and it was Jesus who warned about hell and He said that, "Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels," and, "Satan has already been judged," he is a condemned criminal, sin can't win and faith can't fail. You need to learn that. Only the Holy Spirit of God can teach you that. Of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The conception of sin, the completion of salvation, the condemnation of Satan. That's what the Holy Spirit of God teaches.

Suppose you're sick, you call the doctor, the doctor gives you an examination and then you can tell by the look on the doctor's face that he's very worried. You say, "Doctor, give it to me straight, don't put it in fancy language, don't hold out false hope, if I'm that gravely ill I need to know it." He says, "All right, you have an incurable illness, you're going to die." You say, "But doctor, I'm not ready to die, I've got a lot of living to do, I want to see my children's children, I've got plans. Doctor, isn't there some way that I can live. You said it's incurable." He said, "Well, let me say this. There is a new vaccine, a serum, that has just been developed. It is very rare, very expensive, not available, therefore your case is hopeless." "But doctor, doctor, if it's there, I mean if it's somewhere, then get it." The doctor says, "Well, do you have any money?" "Not much, just a little." Doctor says, "I'll see what I can do."

Imagine in a few days the doctor comes back to your bedside, he's not the man that left the bedside, he looks different, his hair is disheveled, his eyes are sunken back in his face, his clothing is torn, his clothing is bloody, his hands have tremors, he's shaking. And you say, "Doctor, where've you been? You look like you've been through hell. What's happened to you, Doctor?" He said, "I went out to get this medicine for you," he said, "I went to the foundations, I got what I could get. That was not enough, I took my own savings out of the bank, that was not enough, I mortgaged my house. Finally I got enough to get this vial of medicine for you. Then in my hurry to come to your bedside, I wrecked my automobile, I've just come from a wreck. I had my son in the car with me, my only son, my darling son, the light of my life, my one son. He was killed in the wreck. The blood on my garments is the blood of my son! Here's the medicine, take it, you will live." Suppose you took that vial of medicine, looked at it and then dashed it on the floor and the contents ran out in the rug, never to be reclaimed. Suppose you did that, then would you be able to point a finger in the face of that doctor and say, "Doctor, if I die, it'll be your fault. Doctor, it wouldn't be fair to let me die." No! Of course not, you say, "Adrian, that, that would be absurd." Yes!

Let me ask you another question. If God took Heaven's riches, His own dear Son, and if He died in agony and blood upon that cross and you refused such love, then you'll understand why the Bible says in John 19 verses 9 through 11, "The Holy Spirit has come to convict men of sin because they believe not on Me." "Of sin, because they believe not on Me, of righteousness because I go to My Father, of judgment because the prince of this world is judged." Many of you need to be saved today. Some have your name on church rolls, but that won't get you to Heaven. The devil had rather send



you to hell from the pew than from the gutter.

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, then right now is the time for you to get certain. Receive the Lord. My prayer, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit of God has used the message today to speak to your heart, because if the Holy Spirit of God is not speaking to you, you just heard one more sermon, that's all. But if the Spirit of God is saying, "Yes, you're the one that needs to be saved, there's no greater sin than to refuse My Son Jesus, and all of your righteousness is as filthy rags and there's no possible way that your sin can go unjudged if you don't get saved." If you can hear that and really hear it, then you will hear what the Holy Spirit of God is saying.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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