

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Real Salvation

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 3:4-9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2115

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The devil is a counterfeiter.
 - i) He would rather us have a form of religion but not genuine and real salvation.
- b) We have many churches today that are filled with baptized pagans; full churches of empty people.
 - i) These are people who have never been saved.
 - ii) They have culture, but they don't have Calvary.
 - iii) They have ritual, but they don't have reality.
 - iv) They have form, but they don't have force.
 - v) They have religion, but they don't have righteousness.
- c) Today's message is a warning to everyone, lest you be deceived and miss real salvation.
- d) 1 John 3:4-9
- e) Many people are deceived because they have a gross misunderstanding of what true salvation is.

2) THE REBELLION THAT PROVES OUR SINFULNESS (1 JOHN 3:4)

- a) We may sit in church, well-dressed with smiles on our faces, but God looks down into our hearts and sees the rebellion that is there.
- b) 1 John 3:4
 - i) There are many definitions of sin in the Bible, but this verse may contain the clearest and the best:
 - (1) Sin is breaking God's law.
 - (2) There are other verses in the Bible that define sin:
 - (a) Romans 14:23
 - (b) James 4:17
 - (c) 1 John 5:17
 - ii) Sin is the transgression of the law; it is lawlessness.
- c) God created the whole universe, and He built into this universe both physical and moral laws.
 - i) The whole universe works according to the fixed laws of God.
 - ii) God gave these laws because He wanted order.
 - (1) Without law, there is no order.
 - (2) Without law, we would have chaos rather than a cosmos.
 - (a) God made the stars to move in their orbits.
 - (b) He made the tides to ebb and flow.
 - (c) He made our bodies to work according to certain principles.
 - iii) These laws are built into nature and into the moral system of things.
- d) We often speak of the laws of nature, but there are no laws of nature.
 - i) There are only God's laws that nature obeys.
 - (1) Instead of talking about Mother Earth, we need to talk about Father God.
- e) The universe works according to law.

- i) In the physical universe, there are laws.
 - (1) There is the law of gravity.
 - (a) We don't break the law of gravity; instead, we demonstrate it and are broken on it.
- ii) In the moral universe, there are laws.
 - (1) We have the Ten Commandments.
 - (a) We don't really break the Ten Commandments, but we are broken on them.
 - (b) When we transgress God's Ten Commandments, we are then a sinner.
- f) God is not a cruel, vengeful Deity making all of these rules to harm us.
 - i) These laws are for our welfare.
 - (1) The law of gravity is for our benefit.
 - (2) Moral laws are also for our benefit.
 - (a) Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," He is saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
 - (b) Every time God says, "Thou shalt," He is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
 - ii) God made these laws for us.
- g) Sin is the transgression of the law; and when we transgress, we break God's law and His heart because He loves us.
- h) There is a lawless spirit in all of us.
 - i) The Bible says that sin is the transgression of the law and that all have sinned, so that means that all of us have transgressed God's laws.
 - (1) Romans 3:23
 - ii) We have all broken God's Ten Commandments.
 - iii) Different sins have different repercussions, but sin is sin.
- i) We have tried many things to try to fix the problem of lawlessness and rebellion in this world.
 - i) We have tried education.
 - (1) Men's hearts cannot be changed by education.
 - (a) Nazi Germany was educated.
 - (2) Education makes man a clever devil.
 - (3) Education is not the answer.
 - ii) We have tried psychology.
 - (1) We think that perhaps we can train and analyze people, but we still have a flood of lawlessness.
 - iii) We have tried legislature.
 - iv) We have tried the police force and prisons.
 - (1) When we let people out of prison, they oftentimes go right back to their crime because the problem is in the heart.
 - (2) A person can be restrained outwardly, but he's still a rebel in his heart.
- j) 1 John 3:4

- i) We may think that our transgression is an innocent, little offense and that we haven't sinned much.
 - ii) What we don't realize is that what we do is not the problem; it's what we are that is the problem.
 - (1) A person is not a liar because he tells lies.
 - (a) He tells lies because he's a liar.
 - (2) A person is not a thief because he steals.
 - (a) He steals because he's a thief.
 - (3) The problem is in the human heart.
 - (a) Jeremiah 17:9
- 3) THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT PROCLAIMS OUR SONSHIP (1 JOHN 3:5-6)
- a) 1 John 3:5-6
 - i) This is the righteousness that proclaims our sonship.
 - ii) If we are in Christ (if we are saved), the Bible says that we are not going to sin.
 - b) There are many people who say that they're saved and on their way to Heaven, but there's been no change in their life.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - ii) If your religion hasn't changed your life, you better change your religion.
 - (1) You do not have the Bible kind.
 - c) What we have today is an easy believe-ism.
 - i) This is where people believe that they are saved simply by believing in Jesus and believing that He died for their sins.
 - ii) The devil also believes and trembles.
 - (1) James 2:19
 - d) We are saved when we bow the knee to Jesus Christ, when we make Him the Lord of our life.
 - i) That is an act of faith.
 - e) We are not saved by reforming our life.
 - i) Our Lord never tells us to clean up, and then He will save us.
 - ii) We come to Jesus just as we are.
 - f) Jesus came to save us from our sin.
 - g) In our passage in 1 John 3, the Apostle John says that if we belong to Him, then we're going to be like Him.
 - h) 1 John 3:7
 - i) This is the righteousness that proclaims our salvation.
 - ii) If we are not righteous, then we are not saved.
 - (1) The very word "Christian" means "Christ-like."
 - (a) In Christ, there is no sin.
 - (2) We cannot be Christ-like and live a life of sin.
 - i) 1 John 3:6
 - i) The word "abide" means "to be at home with," "to dwell with."
 - (1) It speaks of union and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (2) The reason why many people have their names on church rolls but are still living in sin is because they've met creeds, but they've not met Christ.
 - (a) They've met causes but not Christ.
 - (b) They've met churches but not Christ.
- ii) When we abide in Him, we sin not.
 - (1) This is not talking about sinless perfection.
 - (a) There is no one who is sinlessly perfect.
 - (b) The saints in the Bible sinned.
 - (i) Abraham lied about his wife.
 - (ii) Moses lost his temper.
 - (iii) Peter denied the Lord.
 - (iv) David was unfaithful.
- iii) In the Greek language, this is in the present continuous tense, which means that as a Christian, we don't make sin our lifestyle.
 - (1) The New American Standard version says, "Whosoever is born of God does not practice sin."
 - (2) This doesn't mean that we cannot slip and fall or make a mistake.
 - (a) 1 John 1:10
- iv) When we give our heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a radical, dramatic change.
 - (1) And because we are saved, we have the nature of God in us, and we do not habitually practice sin.
- j) 1 John 2:1
 - i) God's desire for us is that we not sin.
 - (1) But if we do slip and fall, Jesus Christ is there.
 - ii) "Advocate" is another word for "lawyer."
 - (1) We have someone who will plead our case before Heaven.
- k) 1 John 2:3-4
 - i) The word "keep" here is a navigational word that sailors used.
 - (1) They would steer by the stars.
 - (a) The stars are fixed in Heaven, just like God's laws are fixed.
 - (2) They called steering by the stars "keeping the stars".
 - ii) If we know Jesus, then we are going to keep His commandments.
 - iii) This doesn't mean that a sailor couldn't get blown off course.
 - (1) But it does mean that he has a guide for his life and a direction in which he's going.
 - (a) He has a fixed standard that he's living by.
- l) A person who does not care for God's commandments, who lives as he pleases and is habitually practicing sin, does not know God.
 - i) They are not saved.
- m) There are many people today who have joined churches who have never met Jesus.
 - i) They have never really been saved.

- 4) THE REDEMPTION THAT PROVIDES OUR SALVATION (1 JOHN 3:5-9)
 - a) When God tells us how to live, that doesn't mean that we can automatically do it apart from Him.
 - b) 1 John 3:5
 - i) The Lord Jesus is manifested to take away our sins.
 - c) In the Old Testament, Leviticus 16 tells us about the ritual of the scapegoat.
 - i) The priest would take two goats.
 - (1) Both goats would represent us.
 - (2) The high priest would lay his hand on the head of one of the goats and confess the sins of the people; thus, placing the sins of the people on the head of that goat.
 - (1) That goat would then be killed.
 - (2) This goat pictures the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Our sins were laid upon Him, and He died on the cross for our sins.
 - ii) Then, they would take another goat, called the scapegoat, and lead him away into the wilderness never to return.
 - (1) This pictured the Lord Jesus taking away our sins into the grave of God's forgetfulness, never to be brought up against us again.
 - d) We are redeemed from the penalty of sin.
 - i) Jesus took that away.
 - (1) 1 John 3:5
 - ii) John 1:29
 - e) We are redeemed from the power of Satan.
 - i) 1 John 3:7-8
 - ii) Jesus came to take away our sins and to destroy the power of the devil.
 - iii) This is why the Apostle John is saying that if you're still living like the devil, it is because you belong to the devil.
 - (1) We sometimes criticize sinners for sinning, but that's what they do.
 - (a) Sinners sin.
 - iv) 1 John 3:8
 - (1) The word "destroy" here does not mean "annihilate" in the Greek language.
 - (a) It means "to make ineffective."
 - (2) On the cross, Jesus ruined Satan's kingdom, and now Satan has no power or authority over us.
 - (a) Before you were saved, you were Satan's slave.
 - (i) You were free to do what you wanted but not free to do as you ought.
 - (b) Jesus came to set us free.
 - v) Because we have new life in the Lord Jesus Christ, we will never face the penalty of our sins.
 - (1) Jesus took our sins away, and we don't have to obey Satan.
 - vi) Satan's power is broken.

- (1) Jesus destroyed the destroyer.
- f) We are redeemed from the principle of self.
 - i) 1 John 3:9
 - ii) If Jesus only dealt with our sin, then we would still have ourselves to deal with.
 - (1) But not only did He die for my sins, He also died for me and what I am.
 - iii) When we get saved, we get a new dynamic.
 - (1) When we were born the first time, we had physical life.
 - (2) When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we receive spiritual life.
 - (3) John 3:6
 - (4) 1 John 3:9
 - (a) “Whosoever is born of God”
 - (i) Our spiritual parents are the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - (ii) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (5) The Word of God is our spiritual father, and you can’t separate the God of the Word from the Word of God.
 - (6) It is the Spirit that quickens and gives life.
 - (a) John 3:6
 - (7) There is the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and a conception takes place in the womb of grace; and we become a new person.
 - (a) We have a new life and a new dynamic.
 - iv) We have a new desire.
 - (1) 1 John 3:9
 - (2) When we are born, the natural life of our parents is in us.
 - (3) When we get saved, we are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God.
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (b) There then is a divine life principle in us, and that principle gives us a new dynamic and a new desire.
 - (4) 1 John 3:7
 - (a) If Jesus Christ is in us, we will have a new dynamic and a new desire.
 - (5) When we were born physically, that was settled once and for all.
 - (a) When we are born again, that is settled once and for all.
 - (b) We cannot be unborn physically, and we cannot be unborn spiritually.
 - (6) Some people think that if they have eternal security, then they would sin all they want to.
 - (a) But when we love Jesus, we don’t want to sin.
 - (b) When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ and get saved, then God’s nature comes into us.
 - (i) We then have the nature of God in us, and we don’t want to sin.
 - (c) When we give our heart to Jesus, we want to live for Him.

- (i) If you don't have that desire, then you need to evaluate whether or not you are saved.
- v) We have a new deterrent.
 - (1) 1 John 3:9
 - (a) He cannot sin because he's born again.
 - (i) This is present continuous tense.
 - 1. We cannot habitually live in sin.
 - (2) If Jesus Christ is in us, then we cannot go on carelessly, thoughtlessly, continuously, practicing a lifestyle of sin.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God will chasten us.
 - (b) We will be under conviction.
 - (3) We are living for Jesus.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) The devil had rather send someone to Hell from the church pew as he had the gutter.
 - i) Do you know Jesus?
 - (1) This question is not where do you go to church or are you a member of a church, but do you know Jesus?
- b) 2 Corinthians 13:5
- c) Are you saved?
- d) If this were your last moment, do you absolutely know that you would go to Heaven?
- 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