

Lecture 13 – The Doctrine of Sin (cont.)

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment: ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Key Terms

Guilt, pollution, depravity, inability

Objectives

*Trace and summarize the Bible’s understanding of the effects of sin.

*Explore the implications of the Bible’s understanding for our day-to-day relationships with believers and unbelievers.

The Doctrine of Sin

II. The Doctrine of Sin

A. A biblical description of sin

B. The fall of Adam and Eve into sin

C. Original sin in Romans 5:12-19

D. The effects of the fall: An examination of the Pauline doctrine of the ability/inability of unsaved persons

Three important questions to remember as the discussion progresses:

- How does Paul describe the will of an unsaved person? Is his will morally free or morally bound?
- What can an unsaved person do to be saved? Specifically, is an unsaved person able to believe in Christ?
- Is either the Arminian or the Calvinist view of prevenient grace correct? Is another view correct?

1. Investigation of 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

a. The context: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

- 1) Verses 1-5: Paul’s preaching is centered on the crucifixion.
- 2) Verses 6-10: The Gospel message is a message of wisdom.
- 3) Verses 10-13: The Holy Spirit has access to the secrets of God.
- 4) Verses 14-16: Paul contrasts the unspiritual person with the spiritual one.

b. Further exegesis of verse 14

1) The “things of the Spirit of God”

- a) The spiritual things expressed in _____ words
- b) What God has freely given
- c) The _____ of God
- d) The deep things of God
- e) What God has revealed by His Spirit
- f) God’s secret wisdom
- g) A message of _____
- h) Paul’s message
- i) The message about Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- j) The testimony about God

2) The revelation given by God to the apostles

3) The role of the Holy Spirit

- a) He reveals the things of God to the apostles.
- b) He enables people to _____ the apostolic message.
- 4) Conclusions
 - a) The unsaved person does not _____ it.
 - b) It is foolishness to him.
 - c) He cannot _____ it.
- c. Tentative address of the three important questions.
 - 1) First question
 - 2) Second question
 - 3) Third question
- 2. Investigation of 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
 - a. The context: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
 - b. Exegesis of 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
 - 1) Verse 1
 - 2) Verse 2
 - 3) Verse 3
 - 4) Verse 4
 - 5) Verse 5 (*see below*)
 - 6) Verse 6
 - c. Conclusions: Address of the three important questions
 - 1) First question
 - 2) Second question
 - 3) Third question
- 3. Investigation of Ephesians 2:1-3, 8-9 (*see below for explanation and diagram*)
- 4. Four states of man and his will as described in the *WCF*, ch. 9
 - a. State of _____
 - b. State of _____
 - c. State of _____
 - d. State of _____

2 Cor. 4:5 In vv. 3-4 Paul has taken time to explain why some do not believe this clear, luminous Gospel. Now he returns to his main thought (from v. 2): “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.” We have nothing to do with the hidden sins of the unsaved; we do not act in secrecy; we do not adulterate the word of God through ungodliness. On the contrary we proclaim the truth with openness before God and man. Now he further explains. “For (*γὰρ*) our message does not concern ourselves; we preach the Lord Jesus Christ; he is the content of the message of New Covenant ministry; he is the whole reason why the Gospel is glorious and clear.” Paul’s reference to Christ’s Lordship may be his way of saying that he was commissioned to preach the message of another, even Jesus Christ. The apostles do not preach themselves; they are slaves of Christ and of their hearers because of Christ. They have come to believe the message; they acknowledge Jesus is Lord. They are his servants who serve others that they too might come to know this glorious Lord.

Ephesians 2:1-3, 8-9

Paul is in the “indicative” section of Ephesians; the “imperative” begins at 4:1. As is his manner he extols the grace of God in Christ in 2:1-10 by contrasting the “before and after” of salvation (vv. 1-3 describe the “before”; vv. 4-10 the “after”). How does Paul describe the situation of his readers before they were saved?

- a. They were spiritually dead—devoid of the life of God (v.1). They needed to be made alive spiritually (v. 5).
- b. They used to live in sins (v. 2).
- c. They followed the ways of the sinful world system, the ways of Satan who works in unsaved

- people's lives (v. 2).
- d. They fulfilled their sinful desires (v. 3).
- e. They were children of wrath (v. 4).

Diagram

With Hoekema's input we can diagram the effects of the fall:

