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August 31st, 2008

The Exclusivity of Christ

- I. Introduction:
- A. Like last week, I hope this morning to clarify what we are about here at Calvary Baptist Church. I want to be up front about what we believe and what sets us apart from other campus ministries and groups or organizations that call themselves Christian or Baptist.
 - B. We are an evangelical church. The foundation and core of our identity rests in a few doctrinal convictions:
 - 1. God exists and created everything.
 - 2. God created humanity to live in relationship to him.
 - 3. Humanity has rebelled against God and sought independence from the creator.
 - 4. This rebellion has led to our separation from God resulting in our blindness to God and our impending death.
 - 5. God has revealed Himself a blind and wicked humanity through the person of Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, to whom the Holy Scriptures attest.
 - 6. The Bible witnesses to Jesus Christ and is true in whatever it affirms in the original manuscripts.
 - 7. Individuals can be reconciled to God through faith in Christ alone as the one who has born the sin of all who believe.
 - 8. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, proving that God the Father has accepted his death on our behalf, vindicating Christ as innocent, ensuring His exaltation at the right hand of the Father, and assuring us that all who believe in him will share in everlasting life at his return.
 - C. This morning, I want to evaluate our belief that Jesus Christ alone is the way to God. This is our belief, and I want to question that from Scripture for the purpose of showing that we all must believe this because the bible teaches it.
 - D. Some objections to the doctrine of the exclusivity of Christ:
 - 1. Many people know God through many different religions. There can't be just one way.
 - 2. God is in all of us, and Jesus demonstrates that we can all be one with God.
 - 3. All the major religions essentially teach the same message about loving God and others. Jesus shows how much we should love people.
 - 4. Jesus simply illustrated that God cares about reconciling people to himself, but he was not the means of accomplishing that end. Christ was illustrative not constitutive.
- II. **Proposition**: Jesus Christ alone is the savior of the world through whom all must be reconciled to God for apart from faith in Jesus Christ, none can know God.
- III. **Organizational Sentence**: We are going to look at three reasons why Jesus Christ is the exclusive way to know and experience God.
- IV. **Reason #1**: God is separate from us and hidden. (John 1:1-18; John 3:16-21, John 12:44-50, John 14:1-7))

A. John 1:1-18

1. The Word was eternally with the Father as a distinct person, and is eternally God.
2. The Word created all things that are created.
3. The Word is the giver of life in that He created all things.
4. The Word is the light to mankind to reveal the Father to a dark world.
 - a. Notice that 'world' is used here not to describe each individual person that is alive on earth; but rather, it is used to refer to a realm. He was *in* the world. This is a location which includes all that is created.
5. The Word was promised beforehand by the OT prophets.
6. The Word took on human flesh and became a man in order to reveal the glory of God.
7. Those who believe in the Word who became flesh are given the right to be called children of God.
8. No one has seen God, but the Word has made him known to the world.
9. This prologue to John's Gospel introduces us to Jesus who is the central character in His gospel.

B. John 3:16-21

1. God loved the world, that is, He loved the darkened broken creation.
 - a. Again, 'world' does not mean every single individual in creation, but it refers to the realm of creation which is broken and in darkness.
 - b. Notice v.17 where it says that God sent His Son *into the world*. This makes no sense if 'world' means every single individual.
2. God loved His creation so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - a. John 1 connects the Word with life and life with light. To have life, we must believe in the light, Jesus Christ.
 - b. Those without the light, Jesus Christ, cannot see God and have life.
3. God sent His Son into the world not to judge it (the first time) but to save it.
4. Whoever does not believe in the Son is condemned.
5. Jesus is the light, and whoever does not receive the light does so because they love the darkness. God is hidden and they don't want to see Him because by coming to Jesus Christ, we are exposed as wicked sinners.
6. Those who believe in the light are exposed as wicked sinners, but they are changed so that they begin to do what is true.

C. John 12:44-50

1. Jesus explains that whoever believes in Him believes in God the Father who sent Him.
2. Whoever sees Jesus and believes the Father.
3. Jesus came submitted to the Father. Whatever He says comes from God the Father.

D. John 14:1-7

1. Jesus calls us to believe in Him which is to believe in the Father.
2. Jesus has prepared a place for those who believe in Him which is with the Father.
3. If we want to be with God, we must come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other way.

V. **Reason #2:** God is an enemy to us. (Romans 5:6-11; Romans 3:14-?; John 3:1-8)

A. Romans 5:6-11

1. We were weak in our ability to come to God. This image consistently used to describe us as incapable of coming to God as opposed to being in a position where it is difficult but still possible.
2. Christ died for the ungodly.
3. Christ died while we were still sinners.
4. We were enemies of God, but we have been reconciled to God by the death of Jesus Christ.

B. Romans 3:9-12

1. All people, Jews and Gentiles are under the power of sin.
2. Sin corrupts us so that we are unrighteous (legally guilty).
3. Sin corrupts us so that we do not understand who God is; we are blind.
4. Sin corrupts us so that we do not ever seek God.
5. Everyone turns our own broken way.

C. John 3:1-15

1. We must be born again in order to see God's kingdom.
2. We must be born again, which is to receive new life from God's Spirit, in order to enter God's kingdom.
3. God's Spirit moves to make us reborn like the wind. We don't control Him and we don't know when or where He is going to move to bring new life.
4. We know who has been born again by a person's faith in Jesus Christ.

VI. Reason #3: God is just and must punish sin. (Romans 3:21-26)

A. Romans 3:21-26

1. Before Jesus Christ came, everyone was under the wrath of God.
2. But now that Jesus has come, the righteousness of God has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ, not through the law.
3. The righteousness of God comes to anyone through faith.
4. It doesn't matter who you are. Everyone is a sinner under God's wrath, but anyone who believes will be made right before God.
5. God set forth Jesus Christ as a satisfactory sacrifice to bear His wrath in our place to prove that He is a just God who punishes sin.
6. But, He also killed Jesus so that He might justify those who believe.

V. Conclusions:

- A. God is hidden and cannot be understood or known in a relational way because the whole world is in darkness as a result of our sin. Every religion in the world claims to know God. But, they do not see God. They see perversions of Him.
- B. God is not only hidden, but when he showed Himself by sending His Son, we sinners rejected Him because we love the darkness because it hides our wicked rebellion. Most people reject Jesus or pervert who He is, not because He doesn't make sense, but because we want to continue to be our own masters so that we can do wicked things like make ourselves great so that others will worship us or hurt others for our pleasure.
- C. God is just. God punishes evil. We are evil. God will punish people for their evil. God punished Jesus on the cross for sins He did not commit. Unless we believe that Jesus died to take away our sin, we are still guilty and must be punished, no matter how much good we do.

D. To things to remember:

1. You cannot claim to be a follower of Jesus and deny that He is the only way to know God and be forgiven of sin. Jesus either is God and the only way or He was a liar and a wicked or crazy man. You cannot get to God some other way because you actually hate God and can't find Him if you reject Christ. You need to be born again. You need God to seek you first. If you believe that He has, you have been born again. If you insist no one has the only answer on how to get to God, then you pervert what Jesus says about Himself.
2. If you believe that Jesus is the only way to know God, then you must be profoundly humbled. God sought you. You did not seek Him. You didn't understand God. God made Himself known to you while you were blind and not seeking Him. You were an enemy of God seeking to do evil to Him. God changed your very being and made you new so that you could love Him. You were guilty. God forgave you at a costly price.
 - a. Because Jesus is the only way to God, we who believe must seek to tell others about Him. This is a call to evangelism and missions.
 - b. Because Jesus rescued us while we were His enemies, we have to be profoundly humbled to the point that we show great patience and grace towards those who do not believe. We must not demonize and ridicule non-believers, but love and accept them. We must confront them and reason with them in love, but never in self-righteousness.
 - c. Because God justified us, we must examine our hearts constantly for our attempts to justify ourselves in some way. This manifests itself in pride and shame.
 - d. Because God justifies us, we must not try and earn forgiveness from here on out. We must live as forgiven sinners who are motivated by God's grace and love and not out of a desire to do enough good to think God isn't mad at us anymore.