

God's Perfect Plan

John 14:6

Introduction:

- A. The Bible communicates God's will to mankind.
 - 1. Though the Bible was written by men, its message is from God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - 2. The men who wrote the books of the Bible were directly guided by God in what they wrote (2 Pet. 1:20-21).
 - 3. God has communicated His will to man through the pages of the Bible.
- B. The Bible answers our most important questions in life.
 - 1. Everyone must wrestle with some important questions in life.
 - a. Why are we here?
 - b. How did we get here?
 - c. What is our purpose on earth?
 - d. Where are we going?
 - 2. Only the Bible can provide us with the information that we need in order to properly answer these difficult questions.
- C. The Bible presents God's plan for mankind.
 - 1. The Bible contains a consistent message and a consistent story from beginning to end.
 - 2. Its message concerns God's plan to have a perfect and everlasting relationship with His people.
- D. Consider the perfect plan of God as it is revealed in the Bible.

Body:

I. God Created Everything Perfect.

- A. God created everything in six days.
 - 1. The first chapter of the Bible tells us that God spoke the universe and all that is in it into existence over a period of six successive days (Gen. 1:1-31).
 - 2. The crowning work of God's creation was the creation of man in the image and likeness of God on the sixth day (1:26-27).
 - 3. At the conclusion of God's work in creation all that He created was declared "very good," just as He had perfectly planned it to be (1:31).
- B. Man enjoyed a perfect relationship with God.
 - 1. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were placed by God in a perfect environment in which to live in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8-25).
 - 2. They enjoyed a perfect relationship with God, their Creator.
 - 3. All of their needs were provided for in the Garden.
 - 4. They lived in a perfect paradise in fellowship with God.
- C. God gave man His law (Gen. 2:16-17).
 - 1. There were two special trees in the garden—the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - 2. Man was allowed to eat of the Tree of Life.

3. But, man was not allowed to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
4. And God said that man would be punished if he broke this law.
5. As part of God's perfect creation, man was not created as a mindless puppet or robot.
6. Instead, man was created with the freedom to choose to either obey or disobey God's law.

II. Sin Entered The World.

- A. The first man and woman sinned against God.
 1. Using the serpent, Satan tempted the woman and deceived her into doing that which violated God's law (Gen. 3:1-5).
 2. Both the man and woman disobeyed God's law by eating the forbidden fruit, and in so doing, they sinned against God (3:6).
- B. Sin separates man from God.
 1. Sin is the violation of God's law (1 John 3:4).
 2. When man breaks God's law he sins, and when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they broke God's law--they sinned and destroyed their relationship with God.
 3. Man started out in a perfect relationship with God, but when he violated God's law he became separated from God.
 4. The Bible refers to the separation that takes place when man sins as being "dead" in sin (Ephesians 2:1).
 5. Adam and Eve died spiritually, being separated from God, and they also began dying physically, because they could no longer eat of the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:22-24).
 6. Ever since that time mankind has suffered physical death as a consequence of Adam and Eve's sin, because access to the Tree of Life was lost.
- C. Every capable person has committed sin.
 1. We do not suffer spiritual death because of Adam's sin, because it is impossible to inherit the guilt of someone else's sin.
 2. Each person becomes separated from God through his own sins, not the sins of Adam or anyone else (Ezekiel 18:20).
 3. Ever since the beginning, man has continued to sin against God so that all have become guilty as sinners (Rom. 3:23).

III. God Planned To Send A Savior.

- A. God planned to provide a solution to the problem of sin.
 1. There was nothing man could do to remove the guilt of his sin.
 2. All who sin are cut off from God and are doomed to eternal destruction (Rom. 6:23).
 3. Illustration: Sin is like having a debt you cannot pay.
 4. But God had a plan do provide man with a Savior who would crush the head of the serpent and free man from sin (Gen. 3:15).
- B. God began to unfold His plan through Abraham.
 1. God made three promises to Abraham in connection with His plan to redeem mankind (Gen. 12:1-3).

- a. God promised that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation (v. 2).
 - b. God promised that Abraham's people would be given a possession of land (v. 1).
 - c. God promised that one who would come through Abraham's descendants would bring a blessing for all of mankind (v. 3).
 2. The blessing for all nations that would come through Abraham's family would be the Savior, Jesus Christ, who would come into the world as a descendant of Abraham.
 3. The key to understanding the message of the Bible is to understand that the rest of the Bible follows the fulfillment of these promises God made to Abraham.
 4. Abraham's descendants became the nation of Israel, and God made a covenant with them at Mt. Sinai through Moses (Ex. 19-20).
 5. As part of the law God gave them, they were instructed to shed the blood of perfect lambs and sacrifice them to God to atone for their sins.
 - a. Num. 28:3.
 - b. Lev. 17:11.
 6. The blood of these unblemished lambs foreshadowed the shedding of the blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, who would come to take away the sins of the world.
- C. God's prophets foretold the coming of the Savior.
1. Once Abraham's descendants became a great nation and received their land, just as God promised, he sent prophets who continually foretold the coming of the Savior.
 - a. Isa. 7:14.
 - b. Isa. 9:6-7.
 - c. Mic. 5:2.
 - d. Psa. 22:14-18.
 - e. Isa. 53:1-12.
 2. The details of the life, death, and resurrection of the Savior were recorded hundreds of years before He was born into the world.
- D. God's plan was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
1. Jesus Christ was born into the world as a descendant of Abraham and as God in the flesh.
 - a. Matt. 1:1.
 - b. Jn. 1:1, 14.
 2. He came as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).
 3. Just as the prophets foretold, He was born of a virgin in the city of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of God's plan (Matt. 1:18; 2:1).
 4. He began His public ministry at about thirty years of age during which He miraculously healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead, and taught people how they could receive salvation and eternal life.
 5. But just as the prophets foretold, He was rejected by His countrymen and was crucified, killed, and buried in a sealed tomb (Matt. 27:35, 50, 57-60).

6. He served as the perfect, sinless sacrifice for man's sins and then was resurrected from the grave the third day following His death as He said He would be (Matt. 28:1-8).
7. Forty days after His resurrection He ascended to heaven where He reigns at the right hand of the Father as King of kings and Lord of lords (Acts 1:1-3, 9-11).
8. His miracles and His resurrection proved Him to be the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31).
9. Ever since that time, salvation from sin has been made available to man through the blood of Jesus Christ.

IV. How Will You Respond To God's Plan?

- A. God's plan is rooted in His love for mankind.
 1. God did not have to come to man's aid in dealing with sin and death, and Jesus did not have to come and die for mankind.
 2. But God sent His Son into the world because of His great love for mankind and because of His desire to redeem man from sin (Jn. 3:16).
 3. God wants man to have everlasting life with Him in heaven, instead of man remaining in sin and facing everlasting destruction in hell (Matt. 7:13-14).
- B. God offers forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ
 1. Based on the perfect sacrifice of Christ and the perfect blood which He shed on the cross, man can have his sins taken away by Jesus.
 2. But it is important to understand that man must meet the Lord's terms in order to receive forgiveness.
 - a. Mk. 16:15-16.
 - b. Acts 2:36-38.
 3. Those who believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, and are baptized (immersed) in water into Christ for the remission of their sins are promised salvation.
 4. Those who obey the gospel are added to the Lord's church and are expected to live their lives faithful to Him and to His teachings (Acts 2:41-47).
- C. God's plan is the only plan that works!
 1. Man has continued to sin and has tried to change and corrupt God's plan through the centuries.
 2. But God's perfect plan remains in place and it is the only plan for the salvation of mankind.
 - a. Jn. 8:24.
 - b. Jn. 14:6.
 - c. Acts 4:12.
 - d. Acts 22:16.

Conclusion:

- A. Because of God's perfect plan, sinners can regain a perfect relationship with the Creator and can live with Him for eternity in a perfect place.
- B. Will you take advantage of God's perfect plan by obeying the gospel?