

Theme: Salvation from sin comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

I. Intro – Sinners in the Hands

- A. Given on July 8, 1741, Enfield Ct.
- B. Preach excerpts
- C. Powerful sermon! People fainted!
- D. Today's sermons – Morally Challenged People in the Hands of A Totally Understanding Higher Power
- E. Which view is more biblical?

II. Our Plight – Under Sin (vv9-20)

- A. All humanity is under sin (no one, all v9-12)
- B. All humanity avoids God (v10-12)
- C. All humanity speak and act sinfully (v13-17)
- D. All humans fail to fear God (v18)
- E. Humans can not help themselves (v19)
- F. The law can not save us (v20)
- G. All humans under the penalty of death (6:23)

III. Our Salvation – Christ Alone (vv21-26)

- A. Righteousness comes from God (v21-22; Phil 3:9)

- B. Salvation is in Christ alone (vv21-22; 24-26; Acts 4:12)
- C. Salvation must come from outside of us! (Luther)

IV. Our Access – Faith Alone (vv21-26)

- A. Access is by faith alone (vv21-22; Gal 2:16; 2:21)
- B. Salvation is given freely – God's grace (vv23-24)
- C. Grace & faith - Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9

V. The Price – Christ's Death (vv25-26)

- A. God appeased His wrath through Christ (v25)
- B. God's justice is maintained in Christ (vv25-26)
- C. The conclusion: just and justifier! (v26)

VI. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do we see our utterly desperate situation?
 - 1. We truly are sinners in the hands of ...
 - 2. WE are polluted – and so our actions are
 - 3. Salvation must come from outside
- B. Do we see what God has done for us in Christ?
 - 1. Christ has done what we could not!
 - 2. His death has paid for our sin/cosmic treason

3. He has brought salvation to us!

C. Do we see that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone?

1. We can not earn salvation – it is of God

2. We are called to faith – understand, assent, active trust

3. Do you believe – all three ways?

D. The Table of the Lord

Our Redemption in Christ (God's Saving Grace)

Romans 3:9-26

May 20, 2007

Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Philippians 3:9

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2:16

21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Galatians 2:21

21 **I do not set aside the grace of God**, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Galatians 2:21

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

So that, thus it is that natural men are held in the hand of God, over the pit of hell; they have deserved the fiery pit, and are already sentenced to it; and God is dreadfully provoked, his anger is as great towards them as to those that are actually suffering the executions of the fierceness of his wrath in hell, and they have done nothing in the least to appease or abate that anger, neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold them up one moment; the devil is waiting for them, hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up; the fire pent up in their own hearts is struggling to break out: and they have no interest in any Mediator, there are no means within reach that can be any security to them. In short, they have no refuge, nothing to take hold of; all that preserves them every moment is the mere arbitrary will, and uncovenanted, unobliged forbearance of an incensed God.

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood. Thus all you that never passed under a great change of heart, by the mighty power of the Spirit of God upon your souls; all you that were never born again, and made new creatures, and raised from being dead in sin, to a state of new, and before altogether unexperienced light and life, are in the hands of an angry God.

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as

worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment.

O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment.