

Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 6 – “Prayer & Our Silver Coin”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 9th, 2024, in the Adult Sunday School.

Luke 15: 8-10 – “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?” “And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’” “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Review

The Woman searching carefully means that all of us in the local church, parents, singles, married couples, everybody who is interested in the salvation of the lost coin (the lost sinner in our midst) ought to search carefully for the reasons why that person is still lost. I spent some time trying to clear up common misconceptions that some persons have, even persons who come regularly to church. The misconception of the Fatherhood of God; that just because God is our Father in the sense of being our Creator, that He will not be a Father savingly to any person until they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and repent of their sins.

We looked at the fact that many people are ignorant of the Devil being the father of all the unbelieving people in the world. They are children, not of his substance, but rather his children by imitation and example. We looked at John 8: 38-45 and saw that many of the very religious Jews of Jesus’ day, who said that they believed in Him, were really those who hated him and did not want to listen to Christ’s word. He had to say to them – He who is of God hears God’s words. Therefore they did not hear, because they were not born of God.

We also looked at the fact that many persons who regularly come to church do not understand that the True Christian’s boast is in the Lord, not in themselves. We looked at 1st Corinthians 3: 21-23 where it says – Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God. The true Christian in a very real sense knows that all things belong to him now that he has found Christ. And he glories in this reality, and finds that he does not need to boast in men.

For the last several sessions, we have thought together about how the woman goes about to try to find the silver coin which she lost. She lights the lamp, she sweeps the house, and finally she searches carefully for it until she finds it. We thought about the truth that it is possible that perhaps a child or a young person or anyone else who regularly attends the services of the church, may not really have understood the gospel. After all, truth is something which must be revealed to them by the Holy Spirit to be saved.

1. It is possible that our children and others who regularly attend church do not really understand the truth of the gospel. They have misconceptions about it.

a. It is possible that they do not really understand what they should do to be saved.

Romans 10: 1-3 – “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.” “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”

“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Question # 1 – So, in thinking about children who have grown up in the church who have heard the gospel preached to them many times, what should we tell them to do in order that they might be saved? How should we instruct them to pray according to what Paul is saying here about himself and his prayers in verse 1?

Answer: They should pray from the heart, and they should be offering up their desires unto God for their own salvation, if they do not have it. Question 98 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, “What is prayer?” The answer it gives is: “Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.” If our children desire to be saved, they can be through Christ. And that immediately. They only need to believe in the righteousness of God in Christ in the gospel. Christ is the fulfillment of the law (verses 4-10) Therefore they should trust in Him now, and obtain a better righteousness than their own.

For it says in verse 3 – that they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

And if they do know the Lord, our children should be praying for the salvation of others around them that they want to see come to know the Lord. Paul was praying for his fellow countrymen the Jews. He was praying for ethnic Israel that they might be saved. I want you to notice that he did not pray for them as though the Jews no longer existed as a people, or no longer could be considered as a nation, now that Christ had come and fulfilled the law. He knew that many of them were hardened. But I want you to see Paul’s great desire was for their salvation.

Romans 9: 1-5 – “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.” “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God.” “Amen.”

Question # 2 – What kind of an attitude should we have in our mind and heart when we want people to be saved? What was the attitude that Paul had toward his fellow countrymen according to the flesh who were unsaved? (verse 2 of chapter 9)

Answer: He had great sorrow and continual grief when he thought of them in their unsaved state. Paul’s great desire was for the salvation of Israel, the ethnic Jews. However, we ought to greatly desire the salvation of other people around us who are either Jews or Gentiles, and if we know them as family members or as those whom we greatly desire to come to Christ, we should have sorrow and grief in our hearts over their hardness of heart, if they have it.

Question # 3 – Is it possible for our children and others to have a zeal for God, and yet that zeal not be according to knowledge, and they not know the Lord? (Romans 10: 2)

Answer: Yes, it is entirely possible. For the apostle Paul, before he was saved, he was just like this.

Romans 10: 4-13 – “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” “For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, ‘The man who does those things shall live by them.’” “But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, ‘Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” “But what does it say?” “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” “For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on the Him will not be put to shame.’” “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.” “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Question # 4 – If our children and others are ignorant of God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, and have not submitted to the righteousness of God, then what should we tell them by way of explanation, concerning Christ?

Answer: That Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (verse 4)