

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

Chapter 10- Luke 10:25-28

201- The Way to Heaven- Part 3

May 12, 2013

Luke 10:25-28

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 And He said to him, "**What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?**"

27 And he answered, "**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**"

28 And He said to him, "**You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.**"

To the Glory of God

Now we are continuing to look at this amazing statement by Jesus here in this Passage. Here, the Lord Christ equates possessing eternal life to loving God perfectly and continually and loving people to the very same extent or the very same degree as we love ourselves- and last week we began to look closely at just how this works and so we examined the two most important aspects taught in the entire Bible:

- ✓ What has God revealed about God
- ✓ What has God revealed about Man

We need to always remember that if you do not rightly understand Who God is and you do not rightly understand who Man is- then the rest of the Bible will either be misunderstood or not understood at all.

So the very first thing we need to grasp is- God. And we need to know and value all the particularities of His Character and Nature. And God has been so good to reveal Himself to us in two main ways:

- ✓ Creation
- ✓ Scripture

We can learn many things about God by observing and analyzing the wondrous Creation around us. And whatever information we get from looking at all that God has made is what Theologians call, "General Revelation" because it reveals general information about God.

So for example- we can know that God is bigger than we are and stronger than we are and that He is smarter than we are by observing the details and the intricacies and the precision of the Universe around us.

But even though the Divine Revelation that we find in Creation is "General" in nature- it is so sure and so powerful and so important that every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth will be held accountable to love and serve God by having no more information than what they get from the Universe. And that is why **Romans 1:20-22** says:

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

And the kind of "fool" that God is talking about here is not the silly funny kind of fool but this term is used here as a *moral* condemnation against those who refuse to accept what they see with their own eyes and give Glory to God based on nothing more than what they observe all around them in the created Universe. And this is why God said in **Psalms 14:1**

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."...

So the information that we get solely from the General Revelation of the Universe around us is so pervasive and so sure and so "in your face" that it takes nothing less than a darkened heart and a darkened soul to withhold love and adoration and respect and worship of God from nothing more than what we can observe from the created Universe around us.

But even though that is true and God will absolutely hold all people accountable to gladly love and serve God from just the information that we get about God from the Universe- God didn't stop with His General Revelation and He has been merciful and gracious to us to give us even more Divine Revelation that is in far greater detail and far greater specifics than the General Revelation of the World around us and that infinitely superior Revelation is called, "Specific or Special Revelation" and that Revelation is found in only one place- the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

And from *that* Divine Revelation- where God moved upon 40 different writers- who lived on three different Continents over a 1400 year time frame- to pen down the only collection of Words on the face of the earth that are inspired, inerrant, infallible, sufficient, authoritative, and relevant- we have eternal and absolute Divine Truth; we have the Word of God; we have the Will of God; and the Mind of Jesus Christ. So if you want God to speak to you today- read the Bible and if you want God to speak audibly to you today- then read the Bible out loud.

And from this Special Revelation we learn how to be saved; how to set up the Church; how to raise our children; how to spend our money; how to order our lives and how to please God and go to Heaven.

So while we may learn about the Omnipotence of God from the General Revelation of Creation- we learn how to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and the difference between "Right" and "Wrong" and how to inherit eternal life from the Specific Revelation of Scripture.

Now I want you to look very closely at how this lawyer phrased the question to Jesus back in verse 25:

Luke 10:25b

... "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Now why did he phrase his question like this? Why didn't he ask Jesus, *"Will You forgive me?"* or *"Will You take me to Heaven?"* Why did this man ask Jesus what *he* himself could do? Why is the emphasis of his question on what he could do for himself or what action he could take or what task he could complete himself to inherit eternal life?

In other words- why is this man asking Jesus how he can "inherit" Salvation because that is the same thing as him asking Jesus,

- ✓ *"What can I do to earn Salvation"*
- ✓ *"What can I do to work for Salvation"*
- ✓ *"What can I do to be worthy of Salvation"*
- ✓ *"What can I do to deserve Salvation?"*

All of these questions are the same thing. And that presupposes that human beings need to do something in order to be saved- which is exactly what the Bible teaches is wrong. So what we have to understand, dear friends, is that the way this man asked this question tells us volumes about how he views God and how he views himself and how he understands Salvation in the first place. And what we also have to know is that how this man views God, man and Salvation is not just particular to him- because all men normally and naturally think this way- all lost people think that they need to do something for themselves; in their own power; and through their own volition so they can inherit eternal life- just like this man thought so. And my question is why? Why does this man think this way and why is this the way that all lost people view Salvation to be? And I hope to show you today that the wrong and incorrect way that this lawyer views God and himself and Salvation is what it fundamentally means to be lost and fallen in the first place.

And this is why I tell you that we need to understand what God has revealed- not only about Himself- but also what God has revealed about us.

You see- in our day- we are bombarded with a view of Man that is false; it is a myth; it has been fabricated and invented by men. IT isn't in the Bible; God never said it; in fact- it is the opposite of what God and the Bible say.

And the encapsulated summary of this wrong view of Man is best understood through the disciplines of the so-called "sciences" of Sociology, Psychiatry, and Psychology.

These three disciplines put forth a narrative that says this about Man:

Man is basically Good. He may periodically do "bad" things- but deep down- in the very core of his being- Man is Good. So Man is Good- *internally*- in his fundamental goodness and in his good heart and in his good nature. And therefore what is wrong with Man is all *external*- in his environment and his lack of education and his lack of access to prosperity.

This false narrative goes on to teach that

If this Good Man is presented with improvements in his *external* environment and is allowed to be educated and given access to prosperity- then the amount of bad he does will automatically decrease and he will then reach his full potential.

Now you can slice this and dice this all you want to- but this is Doctrine; This is Theology. And even though this view of Man is completely contrary to what the Bible says- this is what people believe and this is what people teach and this is what people defend. So this is a man-made doctrine that is at odds with Scripture and that proposes another view of man that the Bible does not teach and that fights against what the Bible does teach.

Therefore- the goals and ambitions of those who have bought into this false narrative into play are to find out how to invigorate and build up this internal goodness of Man that lies deep inside him through a series of efforts designed to raise his self-esteem; his self- satisfaction; his self- gratification and his self- realization and then "tap into" the basic internal goodness of Man and release that internal goodness into his environment.

And the result of affirming the basic goodness of all men- we will reduce crime; reduce poverty; reduce lawlessness and people will live good and wonderful lives with little or no problems. And this is just a natural way of saying that they will be "saved".

Now you need to know that this concept was not always believed or taught and that it is relatively new- about 200 years old. And you need to know that according to those who first initiated this concept into our culture- this narrative is the foundation behind what is now called- "the self- sciences" which talk about self-esteem; self-fulfillment; self-actualization; self-help; self- realization; and self-gratification.

And you need to know that this man-made view of mankind is also the basis of what is now called, "Science Fiction" which puts forth the narrative that all problems inherent with Mankind- including war and crime and disease and poverty can be reduced and eventually eliminated through Technology; Science; Government; and Education- without Jesus; without the Cross; without Grace; and without Salvation.

Now all that I just said would be nothing more than academic argument were it not for the fact that many, many decades ago- the Government of the United States along with the Government of all 50 States along with the efforts of all the major Businesses along with the entire Public School system of this country have completely bought into this false narrative and the result is that since around 1965- we have spent the entire net worth of all the Fortune 500 Corporations in a war against Poverty and other efforts to clean up the inner cities and education programs designed to raise self- esteem and self- awareness in people- that by any standard of measurement have been abject failures.

And so even though this new view of Man has been thoroughly discredited- it is today enormously popular and is widely accepted; widely taught; widely believed by an entire army of eager and energetic evangelists- and sadly it is now being promoted from behind the pulpit in many of the modern Churches.

But there is another view of Man that disagrees with this view. And this other view is not new- it is ancient. This view didn't come from Man at all but this view came from the Mouth and the Mind and the Heart of the Owner and Creator of the Universe. And this view is clearly and repeatedly articulated in the Special Revelation of sacred Scripture and this other view is radically different from the view put forth by the Sociologists and the Psychiatrists and the Psychologists.

This view says:

Man is basically Evil and fallen and corrupt as rebellious and sinful because of the fall of Adam. And while he may periodically do "good" things- from a human perspective- deep down- in the very core of his being- Man is entirely lost; entirely fallen and entirely depraved. His heart is darkened and he not only *does* darkness- he *loves* darkness rather than light.

Therefore- this inspired and inerrant view of Man goes on to teach that:

What is "right" about Man is all *external*- in Heaven; On the Cross; and in Jesus; and in the Bible.

And the conclusion of this view teaches:

Therefore- if any man will be rescued from his sin and his own depravity and the Wrath of God against his sin- he must turn *away* from himself and reject himself- Jesus said, "Deny himself"; and with the power that God graciously gives him and with the desire that God graciously gives him and with the faith that God graciously gives him- confess his inability and unwillingness to love and serve God and look outwardly to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and Salvation.

Now this view is terribly offensive to Man- who in his self-righteousness honestly believes- in spite of incontrovertible evidence that he is "good". But this Biblical view of Man teaches that the Fall of Adam was so radical and so pervasive that it ruined not only Man's *ability* to love and serve God but it also radically ruined his *desire* to love and serve God- so much so- that ever since the moment when Adam fell- Man has been entirely separated from God and entirely lost- and he is completely satisfied in that condition.

Now to see this in its fullness requires us to go back to that moment in Garden- so let's turn to **Genesis 3**- and see what happened.

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"
4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!
5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.
8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"
10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."
11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;
15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."
17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Now with this single act- Adam and Eve- along with the entire human race (who was in the loins of Adam)- lost their "First Estate" – those unique conditions and attributes and relationships that they enjoyed before this moment- and the entire human race has now entered into a *state of being* that is termed, "Fallen". So it is no coincidence that this event is now called, "The Fall"- and with that Fall- Mankind was now "lost" and now needed a Savior.

The Christian Church has consistently affirmed and publicly taught the simple but profound Truth of the Fall of Man (along with its radical and negative effects on all of Mankind) for over 2,000 years. All of the Apostles taught it; all of the early Church Fathers (those men who led the Church immediately after the death of John- the last Apostle) taught it; and those men to whom God revealed the various aspects of the Reformed Faith (Tertullian; Athanasius; Augustine; Luther Knox; Calvin Edwards, Spurgeon, the Puritans, etc.) all taught this Truth.

In addition- the Apostle Paul taught especially deeply and thoroughly about the implications of The Fall on us in his penetrating Teachings found in **Romans** and **1Corinthians**. In addition- Dr. Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus from Joseph to Adam.

Now as I said- it is very important to understand several key aspects of The Fall in order to have a Biblical view of how this Event affected all of us and to understand the dynamic between Jesus and this lawyer here in **Luke 4**.

Before The Fall- the Bible teaches that Adam had an unrestricted and unfiltered Relationship with God. God Personally "walked" (fellowshipped in spiritual union) with Adam and Adam personally "walked" with God. The best way to describe this Relationship is "Love". God genuinely loved Adam and Adam genuinely and naturally and freely loved God.

And from this original Divine Relationship- it was the *normal* and the *natural* desire of Adam to love, serve, and obey God. It was his "nature" to do so. But after Adam decided to willfully rebel against God and sin- the human *nature* of Man was radically and negatively changed and the wonderful Relationship of Love between God and Man was destroyed.

And the result of Man's nature being *radically* and *negatively* ruined is that now- all of Man's loves and affections and desires were transposed from God onto "other things". After the Fall- Man does not now normally or naturally love God. We no longer have either the *ability* or the *desire* to love God or the things of God- hence *no one* in their lost and fallen condition even seeks after God- and we saw that last week from **Romans 3**.

So if any human being is going to love God after the fall- God must Sovereignly and mercifully intervene in that person's life and impose on that person gifts and abilities and desires that that individual does not want or desire or request or even seek after in his lost condition. And we saw last week that this powerful; violent; invasion and imposition and interruption of God to man is what is called, "Grace".

So what we have to understand is that it is not because of individual acts of sin that we periodically manifest that makes us to be sinners- but the Bible teaches that "by nature"- all of Mankind is now fallen and underneath God's Wrath. Please turn with me to read **Ephesians 2:1-3**

**1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now**

working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

In fact, as we saw last week from examining **1John 4:19**- Human Depravity is so pervasive that in order for *anyone* to love God after The Fall- God must do something Sovereignly and powerfully to that person first.

1John 4:19

We love (God), because He first loved us.

Fallen Man now loves, desires, enjoys, and seeks after Sin; Self; and "things that are passing away" rather than God. So it isn't that fallen Man periodically sins- it is far worse than that. The Bible teaches that fallen Man actually *loves* his sin and he *enjoys* disobeying God. The insulting and humiliating Truth about the Fall is that as a result of Man's willful rebellion against God- the Bible teaches that all of Humankind now *naturally* and *normally* seeks to rebel against God and God's Will. Please turn with me to read **John 3:19&20**

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

And **Romans 10:21** says:

But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

And one the most damaging proofs about the inherent wickedness of Man is that every time a new technology is invented- one of the first uses of that new technology is for someone to devise ways to sin with it. And this makes us all to be in a far *worse* condition than most people are willing to accept. But it gets even worse.

Because while it is true that fallen Man does *not* normally or naturally love God or the things of God- the Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches that Man *does*- by nature- actually "hate" God and he looks at the things of God as being patently absurd; and he has absolutely no inclination to be in fellowship with God.

1Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

So as we learned last week- this verse teaches that fallen Man does not normally or naturally possess either the will (desire) or the ability (power) to accept the things of the Spirit of God in and of himself- without Divine Intervention. Man lost both of those aspects in The Fall.

So the Grace of God toward fallen man is that God will Sovereignly intervene on behalf of His elect and for God's Own Glory- God will provide both the will and the power to love and serve Him.

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Now that we are fallen- there are five things that now define Fallen Man's Separation from God. Because of the Transformation of the human nature- it is now the *normal* and *natural* inclination of all of Mankind to:

- 1) Attempt to correct his fallen Condition by and through his own Efforts- outside of Grace
- 2) Seeks to run and hide from God
- 3) Is afraid of God
- 4) Is hostile to God's Will
- 5) Competes with God for Sovereignty

Now all five of those aspects are really very important for us to know and understand- but what is connected to this lawyer here in **Luke 10** has to do with the first two more than the last three. So for the sake of time- I want to dive deeper into these first two characteristics of what it means to be fallen:

1. It is now the normal and natural inclination of all of Mankind to attempt to correct his fallen Condition by and through his *own efforts- outside of Grace*

Genesis 3:7-11

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The "knowledge" of their nakedness (evil/sin/separation) in their now fallen mind and heart brought about a natural desire to "fix" this problem by and through human effort (sewing fig leaves together) outside of the Wisdom; Strength; Power; and Permission of God.

But this human engineered "Effort" to re-establish the Relationship between God and Man *without* God and without Grace only adds insult to injury as it now perpetuates the Problem that exists from their now fallen condition.

So because of The Fall- it is now Man's *normal* and *natural* desire to try to bring *himself* back into God's Presence- but in his self-righteousness and arrogance- Man seeks to do that by what he does for himself *without* God's Help or God's Permission. And this fallen desire is the basis of all false religions and human philosophies throughout history.

And when the lost world sees people praying five times toward Mecca as they seek to earn Salvation or as they witness people doing all

kinds of things in the name of trying to be good enough to get into Heaven by and through what they do for themselves- the world calls these people, "religious" and they admire them.

But we must understand, dear friends that this "Effort" by fallen Man is not "noble" or even "good" but is actually one of the main ways that the wickedness and rebellion and self-righteousness of Man's evil heart is now manifested. Lost people honestly believe that they can do something to earn eternal life and a place in Heaven.

And what you need to understand is this fundamental Truth is the basis of all false and man-made "works based" Salvation systems and philosophies that teach that Man has to "do something" in order to achieve God's Favor or earn Salvation or in the words of the lawyer in **Luke 10**- inherit eternal life and enter into Heaven.

Now even though all of these false religious systems go by different names- the only real difference between them is in the specific actions and duties that the various false religions teach that we have to "do" to earn God's Favor.

For example- some wrongly teach that in order to earn God's Forgiveness and Favor- we have to partake of Communion. Others teach that we have to be Baptized. Still others teach that you have to be a "good person" by serving others while others fly airplanes through buildings and in that way- they believe- they can re-establish this Divine Relationship with God.

But *whatever* the leaders of these false religions teach- the Scriptures teach that true Salvation is *wholly* a *solely* a Sovereign Work of God and that *no one* is saved by and through what we do for ourselves (human works).

Ephesians 2:8&9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Now very carefully- let us examine this Passage:

Ephesians 2:8a

For by grace you have been saved through faith...

Here the Apostle Paul teaches that true genuine Salvation is not brought about by what we do for ourselves but rather by what God does for us. So when Paul says Salvation is:

- ✓ By Grace
- ✓ Through Faith

Notice that Paul didn't include anything other than Grace and Faith here. No other acts; no other actions; and no other qualities. Salvation comes to lost Man solely by God's Grace and it is realized individually solely through Faith. And Paul means that the agency by which Salvation comes to man is not inherent in man to begin with. So Salvation is not matter of lost people applying willpower to their lives to improve his own condition before God. But as we have already seen- we have neither the power nor the inclination to do that in our lost condition.

So God must Sovereignly intervene on behalf of that lost person first- before he wants it and before he asks for it and way before he could or would ever cooperate with it- and *grant* to him and *give* him and *impart* to him things that he does not normally possess.

And Paul says right here that those things that God Sovereignly gives to lost Man is "Grace" and "Faith".

Ephesians 2:8b

... and that not of yourselves...

Now when you study the grammar of the original Greek- you will see that this phrase attaches to the word, "faith" not the word "Salvation". So the Apostle is teaching here that the faith that it takes to trust in the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved does not normally or naturally reside inside of lost man. This kind of faith is not inherent in Man; it does not originate from Man; it is not part of what Man already possesses.

Theologians call this faith- "Saving Faith" and it is the powerful and effective faith that it takes for all of us to trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ and be saved. But from where does this faith come?

Ephesians 2:8c

...it is the gift of God;

So the faith that it takes for us to be saved is a gracious and merciful gift from God to the lost person. So God must grant us the faith that it takes to believe; God must give us the ability to trust in Him. It is much more than us simply putting forth human effort here and making a decision- this faith is a gift.

Ephesians 2:9

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Here the Apostle says that true Salvation is not the result of *anything* that we do for ourselves- it is the result of the gracious intervention by God to lost people to mercifully grant to them both the Grace and the faith that they need to be saved.

And the reason that Salvation is set up this way is so that God receives all the Glory and man receives none. As I have taught you- God does all that he does so that he alone receives all the Glory. God has done all the work here and so by rights- He alone is the only One entitled to receive all the Glory.

Therefore- every effort by *anyone*- however sincere they may be- to teach that lost and fallen humans can re-establish this broken Relationship with God that we lost in The Fall by and through *anything* that we do for ourselves is not noble- but is, in fact- highly displeasing to God and is a vicious attack against God's Sovereignty and Grace by wicked and fallen Man.

So part of what it means to "be fallen" is that Man honestly thinks he can regain what he lost by and through his own efforts without God.

Now a little bit later- God showed His utter rejection of all human efforts to correct the Fall by completely ignoring what they Adam and Eve did and of clothing them Himself:

Genesis 3:21

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

This Act of God shows us two things:

- ✓ God Alone must Sovereignly cover our sin
- ✓ Blood must be shed for Sin

God covering the nakedness of Adam and Eve *Sovereignly* signifies our utter inability (and unwillingness) to correct our fallen condition through any human effort and our desperate need for God Alone to forgive and cleanse us from all sin.

Secondly, the fact that the animal had to be killed before its skin could be made to cover their nakedness signifies a Divine Principle that God ordained between blood and sin:

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

2) Fallen Man Runs and Hides from God

Genesis 3:8

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 1:28-32

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,
29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,
30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;
32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are
worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who
practice them.

Because of The Fall- the *normal* and *natural* inclination of all Mankind to run and hide from God rather than run *to* Him and embrace

Him and love Him. Fallen Man does not want God in his life in any way and seeks to maintain this absolute separation in every area of his life.

So right off the bat- we see that this lawyer is suffering from at least both of these first two attributes and that is why he phrased the question the way he did.

And the reason why Jesus connected his Salvation to loving God shows us that even though this man is wicked and sinful- Jesus is standing before this Jewish lawyer right here and presenting him with the Truth of eternal life- that this man cannot do anything to be saved- he cannot earn it; he cannot inherit it as though it was something he is entitled to.

This is why Jesus said:

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus said those who have been given the ability by God to understand that they are lost and are spiritually bankrupt are the ones who can be saved.

Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

The ones who have been given the ability to grieve over their sins- are the ones who will be saved.

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Jesus says here that the ones who have been given the ability to understand that they do not already possess the righteousness that they need to go to heaven but who hunger for the external righteousness of Jesus Christ- will be saved.

So what keeps people from being saved? I've said this so many times in so many passages. What keeps people from being saved when they understand the Gospel is the issue of whether or not they will admit their own wretchedness. Please, here me. It's not about whether

people want a better marriage, or a better life, or a better this, or a better that. What Salvation is about is eternal life and it is about accepting the indictment of Scripture that you are lost and headed for eternal hell because you do not love God and love others perfectly, which only demonstrates that you are a sinner and that violates the perfect Law of God.

And since we cannot keep God's Law perfectly or continuously due to the inherent weakness of our flesh- our only option is to cry for mercy.

If you're going to try to maintain your own sense of self-righteousness- you will completely cut yourself off from Salvation- that's the issue here with this man. And that's why they tried to kill Jesus back in **Luke 4** when at the synagogue He said to those people in the synagogue, *"You are the poor, prisoners, blind and oppressed, and if you don't see yourself as poor, prisoners, blind and oppressed and cry out for mercy to God, you will not believe and receive the gospel."*

And after just one sermon in His hometown- they tried to throw Him off a cliff and execute Him. Not because they didn't want eternal life- but because they hated the indictment that He had rendered upon their true spiritual condition as lost people. But if you're going to be saved- that's where you have to go.

So this man is no different than the rich young ruler. In effect he is saying, *"O yes, I love God perfectly and I think I love my neighbor perfectly- but maybe you can just define neighbor differently."*

I mean, this is just sickening horrendous self-righteousness here. All this man would have had to do was cry for Mercy and God would have forgiven him; Jesus would have embraced him; and eternal life would have been granted to him.

So this man had the opportunity to come to the acquisition of the eternal life that he sought. But his self-love, his pride, and his religious self-righteousness damned him.

Now where do you fit in with this?

Let's pray.