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Orcutt Christian Church

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 Emmanuel

The Narrow Path
Elder Benjamin Colon II
10/08/2021

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Good morning, everyone.

Before we get into the today's sermon, I would like to recap the last two.

The first sermon focused on the divinity of Christ. First let me state that there is nowhere in the New Testament where Jesus uses the words "I am God." It can't be found, and many challenge His deity base on this fact. However, He does make the staggering claim using other words. The one I want to remind you takes us to John 18, where we have the record by John of the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas came "guiding a detachment of soldiers, some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. **Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him,** went out and asked them, 'Who is it you want?' 'Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied.'" Jesus responds by saying

simply, “I am he.” When He does, the group draws back and falls to the ground. What is going on here? This is a detachment of soldiers who come to make a routine arrest, but instead of having to chase after their suspect, He walks up to them and asks who they want. When they say, “We want Jesus of Nazareth,” He answers, “I am.” This was the same declaration which upset the Jews so much before. Jesus says, “I am,” and the soldiers fall to the ground. Why? Let’s take a look at (Exodus 3:13-14) Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites (Jews) and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, what is His name? Then what shall I tell them? God said to Moses, “I am who I am, this is what you are to say to the Israelites: **I am** has sent me to you.”

At that very moment when the soldiers fell to the ground, Jesus gave Himself into their care. Something of the divine glory and power and majesty and wonder of who Jesus is emanated from Him even in that moment when they asked a routine question and He gave His reply, I am, the very name of God. There are more examples, and you can read the sermon online if you like.

The second sermon covered the validity of the Bible. I used a statement by Dr Voddie Bauchman that said: “I chose to believe the Bible, because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the life of other eyewitnesses, that reported supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claimed that their writings are divine rather than human in origin. We then followed up on Dr Bauchman’s statement with a review of 2 Peter 1:16-19. This sermon is also online for you to read for a clearer understanding behind the validity of the Bible.

Now that we recapped and have everyone up to date on the sermon series thus far, I would like to start with a story.

In 2010, 33 Chilean miners went underground to mine for copper and gold. While they were working more than 2000 feet below the surface the mine collapses. All 33 miner avoid being crushed and make it to a safe zone where they waited 69 days until they are rescued. On day 69 a hole was drilled to their location big enough to place a capsule that could hold one man at a time, and slowly each man was pulled to safety as the world watched. The event is intense to say the lease, but each man survived. They even made a movie about it called The 33.

This event got me thinking. These 33 men stuck down in a cave over 2000 feet below the surface waited 69 days for rescue. When it came, it came in the form of a capsule big enough to hold and carry one man at a time to the surface. Then I thought, did anyone of those men think to themselves, “is there any other way?” _____ No way! The reason I say no way, is because everyone of them understood their situation. It was, get into the capsule and get up of there or die for certainty. And this is what I am going to share with you all today. The situation every person finds themselves in this world, and the only means of escape.

As it is written “none is righteous, not one, no one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have become worthless, no one does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:10-12)

No one does good, not even one. Understand that he means it. No one does good, not even one. There is not one person outside of being redeemed by Christ who has ever done anything that was truly good. NEVER!!! Because that which is not of faith is sin. Our righteousness is of filthy rags before the Lord.

So lets take me. I am a registered nurse who spent an entire year with other frontliners caring for people during a global pandemic. All year from a human perspective we were hailed heroes. But apart from repentance and faith, apart from being

born again, it was not good. Because if it is not motivated by the glory of all mighty God, it's not good.

No one does good. Because most people don't understand the egregious nature of sin and the role it plays in each of our lives, we will have a difficult time understanding the narrow gate and hard way teachings of the Bible.

The issue when it comes to our situation, we believe the opposite. The common belief is that most people are good, and we believe most people are on their way to heaven when they die. In fact, it is also commonly believed that there are only a few people (Narrow is the gate) that are destined to hell, Hitler, Stalin, Charles Manson, etc.

Most people, even church-going folk are only willing to name a few names of people that are going to hell. And it is often a list of the worst sinners of sinners. Nobody else but the worst sinners will the average person say is going to die and be separated from God for eternity. Because we honestly believe that most people are inherently good.

Jesus says the exact opposite. People are wicked and evil. And there are very few people who ever find the narrow gate. It is not easy to find. It is hard to become a Christian. It is hard to be a Christian. It is not easy. The life of a Christian is not easy. Why is it so difficult? No one does good "Their throat is an open grave, they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood. And their path is ruin and misery and the way to peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:13-18)

That is the problem. There is no fear of God before their eyes. They believe that me and all frontliners who placed ourselves in harm's way to save those suffering from a plague,

are good being motivated by the glory of all mighty God No!
It's not good.

There is no fear of God that says regardless of what I do in my flesh I am not, will not be, and have never been good before all mighty God. No, we believe if we do good deeds and do a lot of them, we're good enough for God.

This is not what the bible teaches. We are ruined at the very level of our DNA. Every-last one of us. And there is no fear of God before our eyes. Our situation is that sin has infected every-last one of us down to our DNA. We can't run from sin. Instead, we embrace our sinful nature in active rebellion. We act on it. We love it!

Listen to **Ephesians 2:1-3**

“when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins, wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the powers of the air, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience; among whom we also all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

That's the nature of man. That is why it is so hard to become a Christian. That is why it is hard to be a Christian. That is why it is hard to find the narrow gate. That is why people lie when they stand up and say “if you say these words, congratulations you are in the family of God. It is a lie. You can say those words everyday for the rest of your life and die and be separated from God. There are two gates. There are two paths. There are two crowds. On that broad road is a group of people who attend church on a regular basis and use a very familiar biblical language. Very crafty truth surrounding a lie, leaving many people on the broad road with no idea that they are on the broad road. Why? Because someone guaranteed one day they

were on the narrow road, and it was easy as a simple prayer. Then sometimes the broad road follower gets a glimpse of the narrow road, and they are quickly redirected.

Finally, let's discuss the destinations which show us that a Christian life must be completed faithfully. Test yourself! And when you test yourself, make sure you enter narrow gate. That enter through repentance and faith. Repentance because you understand that you are a sinner. A wretched one in both nature and deed. And that you deserve that which a holy and righteous God must give to those who sin, and this is His wrath, eternal punishment. That's repentance.

Repentance is recognizing that; repentance is being so sick of yourself you can't stand yourself and you want to get away from yourself. Because you recognize that everything in you is filth and wretched and does not deserve to be in the presence of a holy God. And you turn from that and cry out to the only one who can make you any different. That's repentance.

Repentance in faith. Faith in what? Faith in the Jesus of the scripture. Faith in the God man. Faith in the one born of virgin. Faith in the one who performed miracles. Faith in the one who died on the cross. Faith in the one who rose again on the third day. Faith in the one who is coming again, to judge the living and the dead. Faith in the only one who is an answer to the sin problem from which you are in repentance. Faith in the One. Faith in him alone. His completed work. Not his work and! But his work alone. That faith! That's faith! No, not just the name. But the person and work of Jesus Christ. Place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Cry out to him that he might save you and forgive you of your sins.

Just as Chilean miners entered the capsule big enough for only one man at time to be take up to safety as there only means of being saved from their situation. Enter the narrow gate. Walk

the hard road. The one with only a few companions. Then and only then will you find life.