

Calvary: The Final Appeal

The Case Against Us:

When God created man, the bible tells us that God saw that everything, including man was “good.” In other words, things were as they were created to be. All of creation was the handiwork of God and was created for His purposes and testified of His glory.

Man, as created was designed to represent God here on earth. As God’s representative and steward on earth, He was to care for, protect and manage God’s creation as God so desired.

Adam knew how things should be and how they should not be because God instructed Him in such matters. His definition of right and wrong, or “good and evil” came from God. It was in this state of communion, fellowship and submission to God’s authority that man was both designed and well equipped to function.

Adam’s sin came, not when he gave in to the desire to be unrighteous or evil, but when he gave into the desire to determine for himself what was good or evil. It was not some gross perversion that was Adam’s downfall. In fact, we can see in the Genesis story a sense of morality even after the fall in that they desired to cover their “nakedness.” Adam desired to be righteous. He simply wanted to decide for himself what that righteousness should look like.

The problem was that a created being cannot determine for itself why it was created nor what it’s proper manner of behavior should be. Such knowledge belongs only to the Creator. In other word’s man was never designed to function independently of God.

The Establishment of the Law:

The word “**righteous**” simply means that things are as they should be; they are “right.” As Adam sinned, he declared to God that He would control his own life; he would determine for himself what is right and wrong. The problem is that man is not capable of obtaining “rightness” if the very act of his attempting to be “right” is a deviation of the way things should be.

True righteousness only exists in the fulfillment of God’s purposes and therefore can only be defined by God. In **Ezekiel 33:13**, God says:

“ When I tell the righteous person that he will surely live, but he trusts in his righteousness and commits iniquity, then none of his righteousness will be remembered, and he will die because of the iniquity he has committed.” (HCSB)

When Adam sinned, he declared that he was trusting in his own righteousness and not God’s.

The “Law” was established when God saw that what He had made was “good” or as He intended it to be. Anything that violated what He intended to be deviated from this “goodness” and thus broke the law.

Romans 8 speaks of two laws: the **Law of the Spirit of Life**, and the **Law of Sin and Death**. Anything that deviates from the Law of the Spirit of Life, comes under the jurisdiction of the Law of Sin and Death.

Genesis tells us that life itself came from God. He breathed this life into the nostrils of Adam. **John 1** tells us that ***“in Him, (God) was life, and that life was the light of men.”*** When Adam sinned, he declared his own sovereignty. In so doing, he separated himself from the source of life and thus died spiritually and began to die physically. He violated the Law of the Spirit of Life and thus suffered the consequences of the Law of Sin and Death.

Old Testament Provision of Grace:

The Law of Sin and Death demanded that any violation of what was pleasing to God must result in death since it deviated from the source of life. In God’s mercy, He allowed a temporary substitute for such violations and thus the “sin offering” was established.

This offering consisted of the sacrifice of an animal in place of the life of the sinner. Thus the animal paid the penalty for the person’s sin on the altar of sacrifice.

The Hebrew altars were adorned with four horns or “keras”; one on each corner of the altar. These horns served three purposes:

1. They served as an anchoring point for the chords that bound the sacrifice.
2. They were the first places that the blood of the sin offering was applied.

† ***Leviticus 4:25 HCSB*** ***“Then the priest must take some of the blood from the sin offering with his finger and apply it to the horns of the altar of burnt offering. The rest of its blood he must pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering.”***

3. They were clung to as a last resort for criminals pleading for mercy.

† ***1 Kings 1:50-51 HCSB*** ***“Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, so he got up and went to take hold of the horns of the altar. (51) It was reported to Solomon: “Look, Adonijah fears King Solomon, and he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon first swear to me that he will not kill his servant with the sword.’”***

The Final Solution:

Since it was man who sinned and brought death upon the whole of God’s creation, it was ultimately man who must pay the penalty for such sin. The problem is that Adam was not in a fallen state when he sinned, he was in a righteous state. Therefore, only a righteous man could answer for Adam’s sin.

However, since mankind had fallen from God’s righteousness, there were no righteous men. So God Himself became a man, just like us except without sin, to stand in the place and represent all men on the altar sacrifice.

Man representing God sinned and damned the whole human race. God, representing man paid the penalty for that sin and saved the whole human race.

† ***Philippians 2:5-8 HCSB*** ***“Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, (6) who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. (7) Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He***

had come as a man in His external form, (8) He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death--even to death on a cross."

† **Luke 23:33 MKJV** ***"And when they came to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him and the criminals there, one on the right, and one on the left."***

The word "Golgotha" is the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek word "Calvary".

The word "Calvary" in the Greek pronounced "kranion" derives from the base word "keras"

"KERAS" - Thayer Definition:

- 1) a horn
 - 1a) of animals
 - 1b) since animals (especially bulls) defend themselves with their horns, the horn with the Hebrews (and other nations) is a symbol of strength and courage, and used as such in a variety of phrases
 - 1b1) a mighty and valiant helper, the author of deliverance, of the Messiah
 - 1c) a projecting extremity in a shape like a horn, a point, apex: as of an altar

Calvary was the altar of sacrifice for the sin of man.

At Calvary, Jesus not only bound himself to our sin, but bound himself to us through an eternal blood covenant; a covenant that says our debt is paid in full!

When the enemy comes to accuse us of sin and demand justice, we can cling to Calvary for our refuge.

Isaiah 53:4-6 HCSB "(4) Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. (6) We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all."

Our Salvation:

The Righteousness that God desires in us is only fulfilled in submission to Him. He must make us righteous – and He will if we will let Him. He paid for the right to do so with His own blood.

In grasping for control of our life, we lost it. To get it back, we must let it go. Submission is the heartbeat of the Christian life. You want peace – submit to God. You want joy – submit to God. You want victory – submit to God. You want to make a mess of things – keep striving for control. Once you understand this principle, Christ's

statement in **Matthew 16:25** makes perfect sense: ***“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”***

Sin is the most costly thing in the universe. **Pardoned** - the cost was paid by the death of the Son of God on the Cross. **Unpardoned** – the cost is your eternal soul.

God has already granted the pardon, but it's up to us to receive it.

ILLUSTRATION: In 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "A pardon is a slip of paper," wrote Marshall, "the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged." For some, the pardon comes too late. For others, the pardon is not accepted.