

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST -- SIMPLE AS A-B-C

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:3

INTRO: There is no doubt that there are some things in the Scriptures that are difficult to understand, 2 Pet. 3:16. And there is no doubt that studying the Bible can be & should be a life-long enterprise. But God has made clear & simple His plan of salvation. The things we must understand & do to become a Christian are well within the reach of each of us. Let us note the simplicity that is in Christ. God's plan of salvation is as simple as A-B-C.

I. "A" -- ALL HAVE SINNED.

- A. All accountable persons have sinned, and do sin, and no one can successfully deny it, hide it, or defend it.
Rom. 3:10, 23.

For there is not a just man on earth who does good & does not sin. (Eccl. 7:20).

- B. The wages of sin is death.
Gen 2:17; Ezek 18:20; Rom 6:23

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires & enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; & sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. (James 1:13-14).

II. "B" -- BEHOLD THE LAME OF GOD! John 1:29, 36.

- A. Tho we have worked sin & earned death, Jesus came to pay the price for our release. He died so we wouldn't have to, Rom. 5:8; John 3:16.

- B. He shed His blood -- gave us His life -- for the forgiveness or remission of our sins.

And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, & without shedding of blood there is no remission. (Heb. 9:22).

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls & goats could take away sins. (Heb. 10:4).

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (MT 26:28).

III. "C" -- COME UNTO ME. Matt. 11:28; John 6:37.

- A. As we have already seen, Jesus has done His part to make possible the forgiveness or remission of our sins. The sacrifice has been provided. All that remains is for each sinner to come to Jesus in such a way as to appropriate that sacrifice to his own sins.

- B. Jesus, in the great commission has made known the basic conditions men must meet in coming to Him for forgiveness of sins. MK 16:15-16; LK 24:46-47; MT 28:18-20.

Faith - Repentance - Baptism = Salvation, Remission

- C. Throughout the book of Acts, Jesus' apostles put that great commission into practice.
 - 1. On Pentecost, Acts 2:36-38
 - 2. The Samaritans, Acts 8:12
 - 3. The Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8:35-38
 - 4. Saul of Tarsus, Acts 9:4-6, 17-18
 - 5. Cornelius, Acts 10:43, 48; 11:18
 - 6. Lydia & her household, Acts 16:14-15
 - 7. The Philippian jailer, Acts 16:30-34
 - 8. The Corinthians, Acts 18:8.

CONCLUSION: Surely you can see what they did to be saved. You can see what I had to do to be saved. You can see what YOU must do to be saved. Our salvation does not depend upon our own goodness. It does not hinge upon the number of our sins, the frequency of our sins, or the supposed seriousness of our sins. The gospel plan of salvation is simple as A-B-C. All have sinned. Behold the Lamb of God! Come unto Me...

Jonestown, TX, December 29, 1968

Springhill, LA, April 1, 1973

La Porte, TX, October 23, 1977

Exton, PA, March 27, 1988

Exton, PA, July 22, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 19, 1992 (1 baptized)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 24, 2000