

Week 1:

God's boundaries are like caution tape. They are there for our good. When we cross them we are in sin.

Every human being has a sinful nature.

Week 2:

We talked about how God uses Epic Failures

We discussed *why* we have a sinful nature: because Adam and Eve failed in the garden.

Our sinful nature is why we naturally gravitate towards things that are wrong and we have to guard ourselves against sin.

But God didn't leave us there in our sinful nature...

### **Romans 5:19**

**19** For as by one man's disobedience (**EPIC FAIL**) many were made sinners, so by the obedience (**EPIC WIN**) of one shall many be made righteous.

He overcame our Epic Failure with an Epic Win!

### **God's Epic Win: The Answer to Man's Epic Fail**

Last week, we learned that Adam and Eve sinned; they committed an Epic Fail!

Why was this fail so Epic?

Because not only did it affect them, but it affected every other human being that would ever come after them! Billions and billions of people were affected, and were started on their way to eternal separation from God. That's what I call an **EPIC** Fail!

Let's go a little further in the story of Adam and Eve...

After adam and Eve failed, the Bible says:

### **Genesis 3:7**

**7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; (**they experienced shame for the first time**) and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

For the first time, they both experienced shame. They realized that they were naked and they made something to cover themselves.

### **Genesis 3:8**

**8** And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife **hid themselves** from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

Notice what sin caused Adam and Eve to do. It caused them to **cover themselves** and **hide**. Sin still does the same thing. We try to cover everything up and we isolate or hide ourselves from people who will hold us accountable.

I've had several friends that stopped hanging around me and stopped talking to me because they were living in sin and they didn't want to be confronted. They "hid" themselves from me. Adam and Eve did the same thing.

### **Genesis 3:9**

**9** And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where art thou?**

God is still asking the same question here tonight: *Where are you?*

God wasn't asking them a geographical question, He was asking them a spiritual question, and He already knew the answer. When God asks a question, it's not so that *He* can know the answer (He already knows everything), it's so that *we* can understand and know the answer.

God wants you to think about this tonight: *Where am I? Am I where I should be with God? Am I right with God?*

After being confronted by God, Adam and Eve confess what they had done, and then God declares a curse upon the serpent, the woman and the man, which we talked about last week.

I want you to notice what God did after He declares the curse.

### **Genesis 3:21**

**21** Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make **coats of skins**, and clothed them.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they attempted to cover themselves by fashioning garments out of fig leaves (Genesis 3:7), but God said that wasn't good enough. This verse tells us that God made them garments out of animal skins.

To cover man's sin and guilt is never easy, pretty or convenient. It requires life and death and the shedding of blood. Something has to pay for sin. God killed an innocent animal so that man's shame in the garden could be covered. This is done to set an precedent: blood has to be shed to cover sin!

## **Hebrews 9:22**

**22** And almost all things are by the law purged (**cleansed**) with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (**pardon, forgiveness**).

Something or someone has to pay for sin through the shedding of blood.

I don't know why God set up the rules like this. It's His universe and He makes the rules. God set it up so that in order for sin to be pardoned, and failure to be forgiven, there had to be the **shedding of blood**.

That's why when God saw Adam and Eve covered with fig leaves, He said "That's not gonna cut it! I'm going to shed the blood of an animal in order to properly cover up your sin."

This is the beginning of the trail of blood that goes through the Bible.

All through the Old Testament you will read of the Jews, God's chosen people, sacrificing and shedding the blood of innocent animals in order to cover their sin.

This continues for hundreds and hundreds of years. Time and time again the Jews would go to the temple with their sacrifice to cover their failures.

The book of Hebrews (Hebrews 10:4) tells us that it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to **take away** sins, it could only **cover** them. And that's why Jews would have to go time after time to the temple to sacrifice. They couldn't just do it once and be done with it, they had to go repeatedly.

In a sense, this only pushed the penalty of sin ahead another year. It didn't solve the problem, it was only a quick fix.

But one day, God said "This has gone on long enough. I am going to go to Earth and I am going to shed *my* blood for sin once and for all!"

The Bible tells us that God caused a young virgin girl named Mary to conceive a child and that this child, named Jesus, would save His people from their sins.

He wouldn't just come and *cover* sin temporarily, but He would **take them away completely**.

## **John 1:29b**

**29b** Behold the Lamb of God, which **taketh away** the sin of the world.

Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for sin. He went to the cross and shed His blood and it is through His blood that we can have our sins washed away. Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

## **Ephesians 1:3, 7**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

**7** In whom **we have redemption through his blood**, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

I like to think of redemption by thinking about a bottle deposit. You take old worthless soda cans and empty bottles to the bottle deposit, and in return they give you something of worth (in this case money).

God does the same thing! He takes a worthless life tainted with sin and He redeems it and turns it into something of worth. And this is all done **through His blood!**

## **1 Peter 1:18-19**

**18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**19** But with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

You couldn't pay enough money or do enough good to wash away your sins.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away sin! It was true in Peter's day, and it is still true **TODAY!**

If you have sin in your heart, all you need to do is **get it under the blood of Jesus.**

How do we apply the blood of Jesus?

Repentance  
Baptism  
Holy Ghost

When these three things occur in your life, the blood of Jesus completely cleanses you. The Bible refers to this as the new birth experience. You are born again and a brand new life in God begins!

In Acts 2, there was a group of people who realized they were guilty and they approached the apostle Peter. They realized they were Epic Failures. They were responsible for the death of Jesus! So they asked him what they must do to be saved and Peter, without hesitation, responded:

### **Acts 2:38**

**38** Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

It's as easy as one two three!

Repent, be baptized, be filled with the Holy Ghost!

Think of your life as a tupperware container. When we have sin in our lives it's like having moldy food in our container. It's gross, it stinks, and it has to be thrown away!

**Repentance** is when you empty yourself of sin. It's like throwing the moldy food in the trash can. But even after you throw away the moldy food, the container is still dirty and has some residue on the sides. That's why you have to wash it! **Baptism** is when your container is washed. You come up out of the water in Jesus' name and your life is sparkling clean. Every trace of the sin is completely gone. But even though you're emptied and washed clean, you are still an empty container, and that's why we need the Holy Ghost! The **Holy Ghost** is when our container is filled back up with something better! It's like throwing away old moldy Mac & Cheese and filling back up with a home cooked meal. There is no comparison. And sin cannot compare to what the Holy Ghost is like!

Some people believe that repentance is enough, but I would have to disagree with them.

Let's look at two brief reasons why, as we close:

### **Exodus**

In the book of Exodus we read about the Children of Israel, the Jews. They are in bondage to the Egyptians and God uses a man named Moses to deliver them from slavery.

Moses leads the people out of Egypt and they come upon the Red Sea. God uses Moses to part the sea and the people walk through on dry ground. If the people were

content to not go through the sea, the armies of Egypt would have killed them. They had to go **through the water** to be saved. Once through the Red sea, the people were led by a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire through the wilderness. If they didn't follow them, they would have died in the desert. They had to **follow the pillar** to be saved and make it to the promised land.

It took leaving Egypt, walking through the Red Sea, and following the pillars in the wilderness to be saved. If they left out a step, they would have died!

Leaving Egypt is like **repentance**. It's wonderful to walk away from sin, but if you don't go through the water by being **baptized**, the enemy will come and take you out! And even if you repent and are baptized, if you don't follow the pillars, which represent the **Spirit of God**, you will never make it to the promised land of Heaven! You must repent, be baptized and receive God's Spirit. It takes all three!

## **Tabernacle**

The tabernacle is where the Jews would make sacrifices to God. There were several pieces of furniture in the tabernacle, but let's look at three important ones: the brazen altar, the laver of water, and the ark of the covenant.

The brazen altar is where the slaughtered animal would be burned up. **Blood was shed upon the brazen altar**. The laver of water was used to wash the blood from the priest before he would minister. **Blood was spilled upon the laver**. The ark of the covenant was kept in the inner part of the tabernacle where God's presence dwelt. Blood from the animal was sprinkled upon the ark. **Blood was upon the ark**.

I'm not going to go into the details of why right now, but these three pieces of furniture represent repentance, baptism, and the Holy Ghost. Blood was involved at all **three** points in the tabernacle, and blood is involved at **all three** parts of the new birth! Jesus' blood *is* applied at repentance, but not only at repentance. It is applied at baptism and when you receive the Holy Ghost also!

If you want your sins to be forgiven, you must repent, you must be baptized in Jesus' name, and you must be filled with the Holy Ghost! Only when done in entirety do we experience salvation and forgiveness of sin!

The only reason we have access to this at all is because of Jesus' Epic Win. Jesus overcame man's **Epic Fail** with an **Epic Win**!

When Jesus died on the cross, maybe at first it looked like an Epic Win for the *devil*, but Jesus didn't stay in the grave. He rose in three days and He won ... **EPICLY**!

In one fowl swoop, Jesus defeated death, the devil, and the power of sin. He made salvation available for all of mankind. All things were put under His feet. His name was

highly exalted above every other name. He led the captives to freedom. He took the keys of Hell from the devil. And all power in Heaven and in Earth was given to Him.

That's an **EPIC** Win. And the best part of this Epic Win is that we can share in it.

And when we do share in it, our Epic Fail sinful nature is removed!

**1 Corinthians 15:57**

**57** But thanks be to God, which **giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**