TITLE: Why God Saves…

TEXT: Jn. 3:16-17; Ro. 5:8; Jn. 15:13; Isa. 43:25;

Gen. 1:26-31, 3:8-10; 1 Sam. 6:19; Ex. 33:18-23;

Gen. 2:16-17; Jn. 4:23-24; Gen. 2:7; Ephe. 3:16-19

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever asked yourself why does God save us? Why did He go through the lengths that He did so that we can be forgiven our sins and brought into right relationship with Himself?

 After the first 10 generations of man, man had become so sinful that the righteous was reduced to one man, Noah, and his family, so God, through the flood, wiped out mankind to start all over again with Noah and his family.

 But even though Noah had a heart devoted to God he was still a sinner and that sin procreated again into the human race just as it did with Adam and Eve after they had become sinners.

 The world today is once again full of sin, possibly the same, or even worse, than it was in the days before the flood.

 So why doesn’t God just do what He did then? Pick a Godly few and wipe everyone else out and start all over again?

 The answer Scripture makes pretty plain---Because of His love for man. Love for both the saint and the sinner.

Scripture is full of references that speak of this love that God has for us.

**John 3:16-17(NKJV)**  **16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**  **17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

**Romans 5:8(NIV)**  **8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**John 15:13(NIV)**  **13Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**

I could go on and list many more texts from Gods Word that speak of His love for us…

 But that does not really answer the question of why…

Why does God love us with this great love?

 So great a love that He came to stand condemned in our place, giving His life as a ransom for our sin?

Interestingly, He did it for Himself!

 **Isaiah 43:25(NIV)**  **25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

(Repeat this with me)

How is the blotting out of our transgressions for God’s sake?

 I always thought that it was for our sake to have our transgressions blotted out-- not Gods…

 But His Word says here that it is for His sake that a way has been made for our transgressions to be blotted out.

So, how is it for God’s sake that our transgressions, our sins, are blotted out?

To find the answer we need to go back to the very beginning….

**Genesis 1:26-31(NIV)**  **26Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”**  **27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

 **28God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**  **29Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.**  **30And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.**  **31God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

The creation account---God created in His perfection and we see that creation was designed for man to rule and reign over.

After man had sinned in Genesis 3 we find something interesting revealed to us about man’s previous relationship with God

**Genesis 3:8-10(NIV)
8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.**  **9But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”**  **10He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”**

What does this tell us?

 For one thing, that before sin, God came and walked and talked with man in the Garden in the cool of the day. Adam and Eve had a direct and personal relationship with God. They were able to see God, walk with Him, talk with Him, express their love for Him and Him to them….It was what defines relationship and true fellowship….

 So we see here God’s original purpose for man—He created us for relationship and fellowship with Himself!

 To be loved by Him and to love Him back.

Once man sinned, became a sinner, that intimate, personal relationship was broken.

 Man, as a sinner, could no longer walk and talk with God in the literal sense.

 Man, because of his sin, hid from God and for good reason. Now, for man to enter the literal presence of an all holy, all righteous God would mean instant death.

 After this time in Genesis chapter three, after man becomes a sinner, we have no other accounts of man being able to enter the literal presence of God.

 From now on God will speak to man from above or man will be able to see manifestations of God such as Moses and the burning bush or Jacob wrestling with the angel of the Lord, but man never comes into the direct presence of God again, which is what man was originally designed and created for.

We have an illustration of this in the book of 1st Samuel. The Israelites had been living in disobedience to God in the time of Samuel the prophet. They had been fighting the Philistines and were defeated in each battle so they took it upon themselves to take the Ark of the Covenant with them into battle. To them the Ark represented the presence of God. Israel is once again defeated and the Ark is captured by the Philistines and taken back into their cities as a prize of war.

 When in their cities the wrath of God comes against them and many people are infected with tumors and die so they move the Ark to another of their cities but the same thing happens there also.

 So they end up sending the Ark back to Israel on a cart being drawn by two cows.

 When the Ark arrives in the field of an Israelite where they are harvesting the new crop of grain the people greatly rejoice.

 But a few of the men open the Ark and take a look inside of it…..Here is what happens:

**1 SAM 6: 19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, 20 and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?"**

What happened? The Ark was what represented Gods presence among His people and as such was Holy. When the men presumed to look in the Ark it was the same as thinking that they could look into the face of God…..The result—they were struck down and died…

 Moses became pretty tight with God and wanted to experience being in His literal presence but listen to what happens….

**Exodus 33:18-23(NIV)**  **18Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”**  **19And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.**  **20But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”**  **21Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.**  **22When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.**  **23Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”**

 When Moses said: show me your Glory, what he was asking was to see God in His fullness, literally see God Himself as He really is and see the literal face of God.

God’s response--**“you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”**

Why? I mean Adam and Eve saw His face and walked with Him and talked with Him in the Garden in those early days of creation before they fell to sin.

Once man fell to sin the part of man that actually allowed intimate relationship with God died and because of that death man lost his intimate connection with God.

**Genesis 2:16-17(NKJV)
16And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

God said**: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

When man first disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit he did not drop dead physically although that is when his body started to die…But there was an instant death! The Life giving Sprit that God had breathed into man after he was created is what died instantly. And it was that Spirit that enabled man to literally walk and talk with God. It was that Spirit that was man’s connection with God.

**For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

Hebrew for “in the day” is:

**yôm *yome***

**From an unused root meaning to *be* *hot*; a *day* (as the *warm* hours), whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term.**

The time determined by the term here is day, a specific 24 hour period, or at the time of eating, death will occur.

The Hebrew word used here for death is the normal one:

***mooth* A primitive root; to *die* (literally or figuratively); causatively to *kill:—* (be) dead (put to, death) very suddenly.**

How would this death of spirit break the intimate fellowship man had with his creator?

Jesus explains in:
**John 4:23-24(NIV)
23Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**  **24God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”**

**God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”**

**Genesis 2:7(NIV)**  **7the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.**

With this breath of God man was not merely given animated life but spiritual life, and when man sinned the animated being started to die physically but the spirit died or left man instantly, and the result was a break in relationship and fellowship with God.

So God finds a way to restore that relationship and fellowship…..He did it through giving His only Begotten Son on Calvary’s cross and He did it for Himself!

**Isaiah 43:25(NIV)
25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

This reveals to us just how important, how special, you and I are to God!

The great price that He paid for our redemption was because of the value that He places upon us to Himself!

 It is His Spirit that He breathed into us after creation and when that Spirit died within us I believe He experienced the pain of that death…

Example:

 Couple married for 50-60 years and are as close as the day that they got married. One of them dies---the remaining one suffers greatly because of that death because that death has brought about separation. It is like a part of them has died…

 And if it were in their power to bring them back they would do it for themselves, for their own sake!

When a Christian parent loses a young child we believe that child will go instantly to be with the Lord.

 Yet the Parents will grieve, not because their child is not in a good place, but because of the personal relationship and fellowship that the parents will no longer have with the child that they love so dearly.

 If they could bring that child back most would in an instant even though they are now in a far better place.

Why? For their own sakes! To ease their own pain of separation!

We actually see something like this happen in Jesus day.

 Jesus had some close friends whom He often would stay with when in their area. Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha.

 We all know the story---Lazarus dies, Jesus waits 3 days before coming and then He raises Lazarus from the dead.

 Maybe He did it for His sake because of the loss of such a good friend, maybe He did it for the sisters sake because of how much they missed him…

 But what about from the perspective of Lazarus?

 He was already in Paradise! He was already in a place where there was no more crying or mourning or sickness or pain---He had “arrived” as they say…

 Then Jesus brought him back---back into a world with sorrow and sickness and pain and to a place where he would have to face death a second time.

 Have you ever thought about that? Lazarus actually had to die twice!

I don’t know for sure for who’s sake it was other than it probably wasn’t for Lazarus’s sake.

God says: **I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

 Why does God desire so to save us, why so willing to blot out our transgressions, why pay such a high price for the possibility of our salvation?

 For selfish reasons….He wants to once again have the intimate fellowship and relationship with us that He created us for in the first place…..

**I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

The question that lies before each of us today is how have we responded, how will we respond, to a God who thinks so highly of us that the salvation and redemption that He offers is for His own sake?

**Ephesians 3:16-19(NIV)
16I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
18may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
19and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

 Have you come to fully know and appreciate and grasp just how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Do you realize that the sin that has separated you from God has grieved His heart so much because of what that sin has not just cost you, but because of what it has cost Him? The close and personal relationship with Himself that He designed you for…

**I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

Why does God want so desperately to see us saved?

Why does He desire that our sins be forgiven and blotted out? Why would He pay the great price that He paid for the possibility of our redemption and Salvation?

For His own sake! Because He loves us so much that any separation from Himself tears at His own heart….

How will we respond, how have we responded to that great love?