

GOD'S OPINION OF MAN AFTER HE SINNED? (13)

In our last lesson we talked about the high opinion that God had for man. He made man in His likeness and gave him dominion over everything that was created (Genesis 1:27; Psalms 8:3-8). God wanted us as His children, He wanted to have fellowship with us, He delighted in our happiness, and was willing unselfishly to sacrifice for our welfare. He crowned us with glory and honor (Psalms 8:6).

These things should show us the excellence of God's love, but wait until you hear the rest of the story. All of God's creation brought praise to Him except us. The sun, moon, stars, earth, plants, and animals all obeyed Him. Man, the one for whom the creation was made, has been the ultimate rebel! We have "all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). While He had a high opinion of us and wanted us to be his children, we have not had a high opinion of God.

Romans 3:10-12

"As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; (11) There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; (12) All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one."

Man's selfish and ungrateful response to God's favor brought his fall. Man's actions greatly grieved and angered our Creator. Because God was the Creator and the ultimate authority, he was also the judge and the one who had to punish sin and evil. God is a Holy and Just God. That is part of his nature. If he did not punish sin, He could not be God. Just like a parent is responsible for punishing a child and civil government is responsible for punishing law breakers, God is the ultimate agent of punishment in the universe. This principle has been true from the creation: "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH" (Romans 6:23). "Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 6:12).

Romans 2:5-6

"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, (6) who will render to every man according to his deeds".

Yet, God's plans were not frustrated nor was His love for us restrained. Even before He made man, He knew man's opportunity for rebellion was very real, so God prepared a plan whereby fallen man could still have fellowship with Him. God was not willing that any should perish, but wanted all to repent and come back to Him (2 Peter 3:9). God held us in such a high position that He was willing to give up his ONLY son in heaven so that he might bring many SONS TO GLORY (Romans 8:28-30). We were bought with a price - a SON for more SONS! The sacrifice of God's only son allowed men to actively seek the glory, honor, and endless life that God had planned for us from the beginning (Romans 2:7).

Yes, God continued these plans even after man's fall. He continues to love us even in our rebellion!

Romans 5:8-11

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were STILL SINNERS, Christ died for us. (9) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (10) For if, when we were GOD'S ENEMIES, we were reconciled to him

through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (11) Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

God created us so he would have us to love. He showed his high opinion or brought glory to us by sharing his likeness and companionship with us. He gave us his nature and accepts us as sons and daughters. You are invited to be the son of THE king and creator of the universe. We are called to come boldly before his throne and enjoy his blessings. He is our loving Father who loves us even when we have rebelled. When we realize this we will love him, having a high opinion and estimation of Him, and we will thereby give GLORY to Him.

In our next lesson, we will see how God's justice and wrath were satisfied so that His love could still prevail and accomplish this grand purpose for us.

Questions:

1. What is the only part of God's creation that did not obey him?
2. There is none _____, not even one.
3. _____ is responsible in his universe for punishing wrong doers.
4. The wages of sin is _____.
5. God loved us while we were still _____.