

V. SAVED FROM GOD

1.36.57

*“Any idea of a Divine Being who kills His Son
I just reject wholeheartedly. **That’s a sick God**
and **a sick story.**” Rob Bell*

*“I think it’s important that when we read the Bible
we realize that **we’re going to read things that offend**
our sensibilities. So that’s why **we need to let the bible,** we
need to let the word of God, **correct our sensibilities** when
they’re wrong” Alisa Childers*

1. Emilio Ramos brought up the common misconception that “God loves the sinner and hates the sin,” and he mentions that in this idea sin is “divorced” from the sinner. Steven Lawson answered this with the jarring statement that “God hates the sinner in his sin.” Which verses are shown in the film to support this claim? What does this mean about God’s orientation toward the sinner?

*“God is omnipresent. **God is everywhere present.** And not
only is God present in the heights of heaven, but **God is also**
present in the depths of hell... That’s a terrifying thought
that **the sinner will never escape** not only the wrath of
Christ but **Christ Himself!**” Steven Lawson*

*“As my eyes were opened to my own sin more and more,
and to the amazing holiness and perfection of God, and
the incredible divide between myself and my Creator,
I began not to see hell as this cosmic injustice, but
I began to see that **it’s something that every one of us**
deserved and **how incredible God’s mercy is** that He’s
chosen to offer us a way to be saved!” Russell Berger*

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT: He is _____ in all _____.

2. In the realization that God not only hates the sin but also the sinner, it follows that God's wrath is poured out upon sinners in hell who never receive grace. Not only this, but God is not absent from that punishment. Rather, He is present as the one inflicting it (Psalm 139:8; Matthew 10:28; Revelation 14:10). Does this bother you? If so, why? Should your feelings, or anyone else's for that matter, get in the way of accepting truth? Read Job 1:13-22, 2:7-8 and 40:1-5. If anyone had reason to let their feelings get in the way of accepting truth, it was Job (he lost everything, and *from his perspective it was for no discernible reason*), yet how did he respond to God? What should your response to difficult truths be? (See Psalm 32:10, 115:11, and especially 118:8)

*"But Gods love is of such a character that **He is even able to love**, to show love and to demonstrate love, **towards the objects of His wrath**. It is as though with one hand **God is holding back his justice** against this world and, with another hand, **He is pleading for men to come...** but **one day both hands will be dropped!**"* Paul Washer

*"There are **many motivations** in scripture. We can make **mistakes** about biblical motivation by going a couple of directions. One mistake **is to not say there is a plurality of motivations...** The other mistake **is to say that there is not a priority of motivations.**"* Dr. Bryan Chapell

3. First, what are the "plurality" of motivations listed by the teachers in the film? Second, what are some of the scriptures listed to provide support for these motivations? Can you add more scriptures that show God-endorsed motivations?

*"The fundamental question is:
'How do we bring heaven here?'"* Rob Bell

*"All men want to go to heaven. **All men want to avoid hell.** But **it's primarily for self-idolatry and self-preservation.**"* Paul Washer

4. In the film, there are references to the fact that *mankind desires a utopia*, a perfect society free from murder, violence and destruction—basically, *heaven on earth*. Many in history have tried to usher in utopia by implementing man-centered philosophies, such as those of Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler. Why doesn't this work and why will it never work? (See Romans 3:10-18; John 3:19; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 6:10; Isaiah 9:6; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Philippians 2:9-11)

*"The question is not, 'do you know you're a sinner?'
The question is, 'Has God, through the gospel, so worked
in your heart **that you hate the sin you once loved, and
love the righteousness you once hated?**' The question
in the gospel call is not, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'
The question in the gospel call is this: '**Do you want God?**'
You see, almost everyone wants to go to heaven. **They
just don't want a righteous God to be there when
they get there.**"* Paul Washer

SOLA GRATIA: _____ alone.

GOD IS _____: God gives undeserved _____ & _____.

*"It's the grace of God **much more than the fires of hell**
that became the focus of my attention."* Russell Berger

*"Even Hitler was allowed to enjoy a beautiful sunset, but it's only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ that a person goes from **being at enmity with God**—under God's curse, under God's wrath—to a place of safety and blessing and peace..." Emilio Ramos*

5. There are two different kinds of God's grace which theologians recognize, those are God's _____ grace which He gives in this world to both believers and unbelievers (Matthew 5:43-45), and then there is His _____ grace which he gives only to believers in this world and which extends into eternity (Ephesians 2:4-5).

6. Emilio Ramos defines *reconciliation* and Paul Washer defines *redemption*—pick which word is correct for each definition below and fill in the answer.

_____ is Christ's payment of the ransom price which sinners, as slaves to sin, owe as a debt to God so that they might go free.

_____ means God has restored us to a right standing with Him while we were still His enemies.

Romans 5:10 describes which doctrine above? _____

Romans 3:23-24 describes which one? _____

*"The **ransom was paid to** the justice of **God**."* Paul Washer

7. Propitiation means the appeasement or satisfaction of God's _____ to incur divine _____.

8. The saints of the old testament, such as Noah, Abraham, and King David, were described in the film as sinners. Yet God still forgave them (Genesis 9:20-27, 17:17; 2 Samuel 7). By what means was God able to forgive them? Explain

your answer. What verses were given to substantiate their forgiveness?

9. In the film, Michael Durham points out David's most wicked sin of adultery with Bathsheba, which included the premeditated murder of her husband (2 Samuel 11). He pointed out that the law required that David was to suffer the death penalty for his sin (Leviticus 20:10; Numbers 35:30)—that there was *no sacrifice* David could carry out to appease God. What does Pastor Durham say David had to appeal to in order to escape the just punishment of the law?

SOLA FIDE: _____ alone.

*"I would just challenge you to look at **the consistent witness** of the entire Bible. From the very beginning of the Bible it's very clear that **someone has to pay a price for sin**; something has to die. In the Old Testament, we have the sacrificial system; **the spotless lamb** had to give its life for the sins of Israel. So **God called for blood to be shed** and when the people trusted in the shedding of that blood, the promise of God for the forgiveness of their sins, they were forgiven. Not because there was anything about that animal's blood that saved them, but because **they were trusting in the sacrifice that God had provided for them**, which was a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice to come." Sean DeMars*

10. Paul Washer says, “There must be an atonement for us to believe in, and that atonement is Jesus Christ.” Why does he say that there *must* be an atonement to believe in? What does the atonement do that the Law by itself or forgiveness by itself doesn’t?

*“What gets suddenly caught and taught is that Jesus rescues you from God. But **what kind of God is that, that we would need to be rescued from this God?**” Rob Bell*

*“We are **saved from God Himself** and **there’s only One who can save** from God and that is God Himself.” Steven Lawson*

*“God has saved us **from Himself**, God has saved us **by Himself**, and God has saved us **for Himself**.” Paul Washer*

11. Progressive Christians say that God can’t be a God who rescues us from Himself, but the theologians in the film say God is most *definitely* rescuing sinners from Himself. What verses are shown as evidence that Christians are rescued from God’s wrath upon them? Based on those verses, are Progressive Christians dealing honestly with the witness from scripture itself?

*“John Piper is **dismissing another pastor** from Christian community. Well, like, what does this mean? **He’s asking questions!** Like, are we not supposed to do that?” The Deconstructionists Podcast*

*“And so that’s when **questions actually become statements** masquerading as questions. And I think that’s what John Piper was responding to.” Alisa Childers*

12. The controversy mentioned at the end of this chapter concerning John Piper was based upon several questions that Rob Bell asked: such as “What kind of God is that, that we would need to be rescued from this God? How could that God ever be good? How could that God ever be loving? And, How could that ever be good news?” There’s a fallacy that thinkers in history have titled “*poisoning the well*,” where someone engages in a preemptive attack against something they don’t like by smearing their opponent’s view in a negative light before those who might disagree ever get a chance to respond. Alisa Childers says that the kind of questions Rob Bell was asking had, “an answer embedded in the question.” Do you agree with Alisa and do these questions intentionally smear the biblically defined God in a negative light? Explain your answer.



THE BOTH-AND TRUTH

In a short clip featuring Paul Washer in this chapter, Paul spoke of the orientation of God toward the sinner based upon the implications of God’s love and wrath (see quote on page 46). As was covered in chapter four, God is not loving at the expense of His wrath or wrathful at the expense of His love. Rather God is both loving and wrathful at the same time. What are the implications of this, specifically in God’s attitude toward the sinner? In other words, what is the most accurate description of the *both-and* truth concerning how God views each sinner? See Psalm 11:5, Proverbs 6:16-19, Romans 5:10, John 3:16-18. (Question A.)

God’s wrath subsides toward His children (1 Thessalonians 5:9). If you are in Christ, you are “a new creature; the old things passed away, behold new things

have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are adopted into the family of God and “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:1).

KNOWING GOD’S WORD

For more on **grace**, read Ephesians 2:1-10, specifically verses 5 and 8 (see also 1:6-7; 3:8; 4:7; 4:29).

For more on **faith**, read the Romans 1-6 (and 10:9-10), Genesis 15:6, Hebrews 11 (especially verse 1), and Ephesians 2:8.

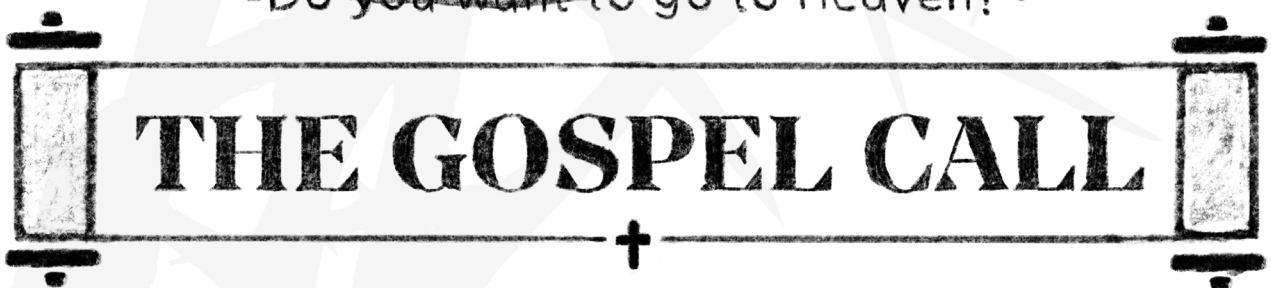
For more on **the tension between grace and law**, read the book of Galatians (see 3:24 [Romans 3:20-21]; 5:1-6, specifically verses 4; 5:14; 6:2; and also cross-reference Titus 3:5-6, Romans 3:31 and Matthew 5:17).

CHALKBOARD ILLUSTRATIONS



Love • Fear • Reward

~~Do you want to go to heaven?~~



Do you want God?

~~Do you know that you're a sinner?~~

THE GOSPEL CALL

Are you beginning to hate the sin
you once loved, and love the
righteousness you once hated?

"What kind of God is that, that we would
need to be rescued from this God?
How could that God ever be good?
How could that God ever be loving?
How could that ever be good news?"

-Rob Bell
