



4. Something is wrong!

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. Here we reflect on a topic that frequently comes up, “What’s wrong with sin, when it does not harm anyone?”

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

1. Is something wrong with the world?

I need to address a question asked about sin, before moving to talk about Jesus. People ask “What’s wrong with sin, especially if it doesn’t hurt anyone other than me? Before I attempt to answer that question, here is a question. “Do you agree that something is wrong with this “wonderful world” we live in?”

At times, I am sure like me you get discouraged watching any news channel on TV, or viewing a sad forward on WhatsApp that confirms “There is something seriously wrong with this world.” Wars, atrocities on children, rapes, floods and discrimination make me cry out, “Things were NOT supposed to be this way!” Do you ever find yourself feeling like that?

2. Is something wrong with me?

Then on some occasions, when I am being really honest, I find myself saying, “It is not just a problem out there. I have to admit, when I look at myself there is something wrong inside me as well.”

For example, it would be impossible for me to describe to you how much I love my immediate family – Shammi, Misha and Ranjit. Words are simply not adequate for it. In my mind I carry an idea of the kind of husband and father I would like to be to them. I could become quite poetic about it. But the reality is that I am not that kind of husband or father. I regularly fall short of my own standards. I might get close on an occasion or two, but I realize I can’t keep it up consistently.

The amazing thing about it is that when I fall, it is not because I am confused about what to do, or because I don’t know what to do. Even when I do and I know how to do it, I find that I don’t. Most of the time, it is due to my selfishness. Is this something true in your life as well?

3. Does the Bible have an explanation?

The Bible is clear the world we experience is not as God intended it to be and does confirm something has gone seriously wrong. As mentioned in the previous talk, the Bible explains there is an evil power at work in the universe, seeking to frustrate God’s purposes for creation and for humanity. This power is personal and

intentional and is called different names in the Bible - Devil, Satan, and Beelzebub. This power has a single agenda to corrupt and destroy what God has created. Yes, we are back to the tumour Sin with a capital S which makes us all sinners who sin.

Though created by God for an intimate relationship, since the time Eve and Adam sinned, we have bought the terrible lie, that if we distance ourselves from God we will discover true joys of freedom. Instead, the lie has led to a separation from God and has bent this world out of shape. That's what is wrong with Sin and why we need to deal with it. Since we are powerless to fix it, in the next talk we will look to Jesus. God bless you.

REFLECTION TIME

- “Things were NOT supposed to be this way!” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give three reasons for your position.
- In preparation for the next episode, can you write three reasons why you believe Jesus is the solution for the problem of sin.

WHY ARE THINGS WRONG IN THIS WORLD?

“What’s wrong with the world?” That was a question a British newspaper, *The Times*, invited various writers to answer in 1908. The shortest and most striking reply came from a famous Christian thinker and writer:

Dear Sirs,

I am.

Sincerely yours,

G. K. Chesterton.

“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23). The problem with the world is the sin in every human heart – and its ultimate effect is death. Sin and death are the two fundamental problems with us and our world. (Abridged from **Our Daily Bread**)

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