

# A Perfect Rescue Plan

Hebrews 9:24 – 28

## I. Intro

- A. Last week – spiritual gravity of sin; sin a viral pandemic, no one is immune, all born with & bound by sin nature; touched on remedy for sin – two world dimensions, physical and spiritual, because sin is a spiritual issue there must be a spiritual remedy
- B. Today, expound on that remedy, the only remedy to this seemingly impossible dilemma of the gravity of sin
- C. **IMPORTANT** – not one ounce of human effort or human ingenuity had/has any bearing on this solution – entirely dependent on God
- D. **READ Hebrews 9:24 – 28**

## II. Surrendered Belief

- A. **Question:** Can a person enter into heaven by simply believing in God? Variety of meanings of “believe” – when it comes to faith, difference between intellectual belief and saving belief [**SLIDE POINT**]
  - i. intellectual belief – simply an agreement the something is true; example – agree Atlanta is in Georgia or Baltimore in Maryland; case of faith – agree that Jesus died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, etc. but just agreeing on those facts doesn’t mean a genuine spiritual transformation has taken place in that person’s life
  - ii. saving belief – complete and total trusting dependence on someone; jumping from burning building to ground below have to completely depend and totally trust the person below to catch; in our faith, means we completely trust and totally depend on Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and the blood He shed for us to be made “right” with God and that can’t be accomplished any other way – nothing else can save us; belief of surrender
- B. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and God warned them beforehand the consequence would be death, that not only became true for them physically but also spiritually; sin doesn’t just destroy physically, it destroys us spiritually; destruction impacts every area of life but worst destruction occurs is in our relationship with Creator God
- C. Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV)

4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- D. Because of sin, we are born imperfect/unholy and we cannot have relationship with a perfect/holy God; sin separates us from any possible relationship/fellowship with God – the very definition of spiritual death

- E. When sin entered human race through disobedience of first man/woman, God could have relented on punishment for their sin (death) but He didn't because God is perfectly just – a perfect judge would allow nothing less than carrying out a penalty for disobedience
- F. On the other hand, God also was perfectly in love with Adam and Eve (he's also perfectly in love with every man, woman, child regardless of their decision about Him); because of His perfect love, God offers a perfect rescue plan for the whole human race

### III. Perfect Plan of Justice and Mercy – the Beginning

A. From the beginning of creation, first relationship between human beings and God, we see picture of God's perfect rescue plan

B. Genesis 3:6-7 (ESV)

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (2 points)

- i. **1) eyes of both were opened** – shame suddenly swept over them like a tidal wave, they instantly became aware of their exposure, their nakedness; same happens when we willfully and intentionally do wrong (if not, stone-cold hearted person)
- ii. **2) Their attempt to cover/hide their nakedness** – little fig leaves, completely inadequate; same is true when we try to hide/cover our willful/intentional wrongdoing – may be able to hide it from other people but we can never hide from God (God searching for Adam in the garden after the trespass, knew where they were, He wanted them to come out and confess); The more we try to hide our sinfulness, the more we fail

C. [SLIDE POINT] Most amazing thing is God provided complete/total covering for Adam and Eve but there had to be a death (of an animal) in order for that to happen – there had to be blood shed and a life taken, the animal died in the immediate in their place, a substitute death; the beginning of God's perfect plan of justice and mercy

D. Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

E. Long before Jesus ever walked the earth, over and over God gave man details about a substitute that would serve as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world – sacrifice that would end all other sacrifices

**i. Passage from last week - Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)**

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

**IV. Perfect Plan of Justice and Mercy – the Climax**

- A. Jesus' sacrifice, death on cross, shedding of His blood was simply a beautiful climax to God's perfect rescue plan He had provided since the fall of that first man/woman**
- B. This plan, which started with Adam and Eve, traveled throughout history culminating with the cross of Christ underscoring the reality/truth of words – REFER v. 22, 26**
- C. [SLIDE POINT] The cross – God's ultimate demonstration of His justice and mercy for us**
- D. Through the cross, God destroyed the gap between us and Him:  
Colossians 1:21-23 (ESV)**

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,  
22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,  
23 if indeed you continue in the faith ... **(that faith from a surrendered, saving belief)**

**V. Close**

- A. Ultimate reason for our existence – to have a close relationship with God, our Creator**
- B. Sin separated us from God and our relationship with Him became distant; Christ's sacrifice, once and for all, enabled the way for that relationship to be restored and the distance to be closed up – imperfect humans reconciled back in a relationship with a perfect God**
- C. God's perfect rescue plan – the cross of Jesus**
- D. "It's About the Cross" VIDEO**