



The Sinner's Need of Christ

It was a place of perfect bliss. A utopic life. And the best part was that there was no end in sight for the husband and wife. They never thought a bad thought, never had a backache, never even quarreled. They were never bored, lonely, or glum. In fact, they were perfect in being and in love. They loved to be in the presence of God so much that all their desires were pleasing to Him. This is what God intended for His creation which was made in His

image (Genesis 1:27) – humanity. And this was reality for Adam and Eve until the day they ate the forbidden fruit.

This is our second sermon in a series called “Steps to Christ: How to Be Ready for Jesus to Come”. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, there would be no need for this sermon; we would still be in perfect bliss. However, due to their bad choice, we live in a world full of sinners – including you and me. So let’s look at the sinner’s need of Christ.

“In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with [God]. But after sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide himself from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him. The sinner could not be happy in God’s presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him.” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 7)

Romans 8:7, 8 — “Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within That power is Christ.” (*Ibid*, p. 8)

1 Corinthians 2:14 — “The idea that it is necessary only to develop the good that exists in man by nature, is a fatal deception.” (*Ibid*, p. 8)

John 3:3 — Since we are born in such a state where we cannot understand and know God, then we need to be born again, i.e., “receive [from God] a new heart, new desires, purposes, and motives, leading to a new life.” (*Ibid*, p. 8) The heart that once fled from God now flees to Him. This is the work of God, not us.

Genesis 28:10-17 — Jacob felt deserted and alone because of his own sin, but God offered a stairway – a ladder – to heaven. This was not a ladder intended to create an arduous climb to God; rather it was as if God had thrown open the gates of heaven and said, “This ladder is a means to connect you to Me.”

John 1:51 — Jesus applied Jacob’s ladder as a symbol of Himself, the only source of communication between God and man. “In the apostasy, man alienated himself from God; earth was cut off from heaven. Across the gulf that lay between, there could be not communion. But through Christ, earth is again linked with heaven. With His own merits, Christ has bridged the gulf which sin has made, so that the ministering angels can hold communion with man. Christ connects fallen man in his weakness and helplessness with the Source of infinite power.” (*Ibid*, pp. 9, 10)

John 14:6 — Jesus is Jacob’s ladder which connects us with God again and offers us the promise of being recreated and prepares us to meet Jesus when He comes.

“Shall we not regard the mercy of God? What more could He do? Let us place ourselves in right relation to Him who has loved us with amazing love. Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.” (*Ibid*, p. 8)



The second step in order to have a relationship with God and be ready to meet Him is to acknowledge that your sinful nature has robbed you of your ability to have that relationship. Ask Jesus, our Ladder, to connect you to God and eternal life; He alone is able!

Dear Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and that no matter how hard I try or how sincere I am, that sin keeps me from You. I also know that You are the only Ladder that can connect me to God and give me eternal life. Please forgive my sins so that they won't separate us anymore, and give me a new life with You. I choose to follow You for the rest of my life. Thank You for giving me salvation right now.

Amen.