



## **Advanced Bible Correspondence Course**

### **Lesson 4 The Misery of Man**

#### **LORD'S DAY 4**

**Q. 9. DOETH NOT GOD THEN DO INJUSTICE TO MAN, BY REQUIRING FROM HIM IN HIS LAW, THAT WHICH HE CAN NOT PERFORM?**

**ANSWER: NOT AT ALL (A); FOR GOD MADE MAN CAPABLE OF PERFORMING IT (B); BUT MAN, BY THE INSTIGATION OF THE DEVIL (C), AND HIS OWN WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE, DEPRIVED HIMSELF AND ALL HIS POSTERITY OF THOSE DIVINE GIFTS.**

**(A)EPHESIANS 4:24 (B)GENESIS 3:13, 1 TIMOTHY 2:13, 14 (C)GENESIS 3:6, ROMANS 5:12**

#### **An impossible requirement?**

Is it not an injustice to oblige someone to do that which he cannot do? Is this not unfair and unmerciful? In His Law, the Lord commands us to things impossible for fallen man to do. Is not God unjust then? No! God made man capable of doing what the Law commands. But through the fall, Adam and his descendants lost those gifts. Paul says, "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12). That we cannot keep the Law any more is no excuse, but guilt. We are not forced to sin, but we sin voluntarily.

#### **All men are sinners**

When God demanded obedience, Adam acted on behalf of all men. Alas, he was disobedient, and judgment came upon all of us. We call this original sin. This means that Adam's sin is imputed to us. But also that through his fall, we inherit a sinful nature. In Adam we all did sin. Man listened to the devil, who urges us to transgress God's Law. But at the same time we *ourselves* became willfully, that is with malicious intent, disobedient to God's Law. It is our own fault that we cannot do anymore what God requires from us.

**Q. 10. WILL GOD SUFFER SUCH DISOBEDIENCE AND REBELLION TO GO UNPUNISHED?**

**ANSWER: BY NO MEANS; BUT HE IS TERRIBLY DISPLEASED (A) WITH OUR ORIGINAL AS WELL AS ACTUAL SINS; AND STILL PUNISH THEM IN HIS JUST JUDGMENT TEMPORALLY AND ETERNALLY (B), AS HE HAS DECLARED, “CURSED IS EVERYONE THAT CONTINUES NOT IN ALL THINGS, WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM”. (C)**

**(A)GENESIS 2:17, ROMANS 5:12(B)PSALM 50:21&5:6, NAHUM 1:2, EXODUS 20:5&34:7, ROMANS 1:18, EPHESIANS 5:6 (C)DEUTERONOMY 27:26, GALATIANS 3:10**

### **The wrath of God**

The Lord is not only the Lawgiver, but also our Judge. He is terribly displeased with our sins. He has a holy abhorrence of sins and He punishes them. Moses says, “*Who knoweth the power of Thine anger? Even according to Thy fear, so is Thy wrath*” (Psalm 90:11). Sin arouses wrath in the holy God. He is not indifferent in respect to evil. God punishes evil. This punishment has to do with our original sin, which is our sinful nature from birth. But it also concerns our actual sins. By actual sins, we do not only mean sins committed in deed, but also sins of thoughts and words. We are born as sinners and every day we add more sins. And so our debts become as high as the heavens. Would God then leave them unpunished? No, sin stirs up God’s wrath. We read in the epistle to the Romans, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness*” (Romans 1:18).

### **Punishments**

The Lord judges with a righteous judgment. He is perfectly fair. God is righteous, and therefore He must punish sin. Two kinds of punishment are mentioned: temporal and eternal. All of us receive temporal punishments during our lifetime: illnesses, adversities, calamities and death. All the miseries in this life are the consequences of sin. It is not God’s fault that we suffer, but it is ours. Eternal punishments are those that everyone must suffer who dies without faith in Christ.

**Q. 11. IS NOT GOD THEN ALSO MERCIFUL?**

**ANSWER: GOD IS INDEED MERCIFUL (A), BUT ALSO JUST (B); THEREFORE HIS JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT SIN WHICH IS COMMITTED AGAINST THE MOST HIGH MAJESTY OF GOD, BE ALSO PUNISHED WITH EXTREME, THAT IS, WITH EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT OF BODY AND SOUL.**

**(A)EXODUS 34:6,7 & 20:6 (B)PSALM 7:9, EXODUS 20:5 & 23:7 & 34:7, PSALM 5:4,5, NAHUM 1:2,3**

### **God is merciful**

God is merciful. Moses called out when God appeared unto him on Sinai, *The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. (Exodus 34:6)*. Everything in God is holy and perfect, also His love. God's love is not like much human love, which often consists in nothing but allowing others their way. God's love is not in conflict with His wrath. God's love is a holy love: He loves holiness and therefore He hates sin. He can never call straight that which is crooked.

### **God is also righteous**

The love of God is sincere and is not in conflict with His authority and justice. God is not only love, but God is above all God! He is merciful but also righteous. David calls on Him, *"O righteous God!" (Psalm 7:9)*. Let us consider for once, against whom we have sinned. The Lord is full of majesty and glory. He is the King of kings. We have sinned against such a God. We have dared to stand up against the highest of authorities. Do we not therefore deserve the severest punishment?

### **Eternal death**

The most serious punishment is death. God spoke to Adam, *"For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17)*. Did it happen like this? Yes, when the first man had sinned, he became separated from God and His communion. This is spiritual death. He lost God's favour. And at the end of his life death came. That is corporal death. He had to die. Eternal separation from God would have to follow, under God's awful wrath. This is eternal death. It would have been just if the history of man had ended here. But ...God in His mercy thought of a way of deliverance.

### **Questions:**

1. *What covenant did the Lord make with Adam in Paradise?*

---

---

2. *Mention two kinds of punishments.*

---

---

---

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: Romans 1:18 “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.”

One sin ruined the whole race of Adam; it brought curse and wrath upon every soul of man. Every man that ever lived, that now lives, and that ever shall live upon the earth, is by nature a child of wrath, and the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against sin; not one soul excepted. How is this wrath revealed?

It was revealed at the giving of the holy law at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19). There the Lord revealed all the terrors and glory of his majesty, as the most holy, sin-hating God. O, think of the mount that burned with fire, the blackness, darkness, and tempest; the awful sound of the trumpet; the terrible voice of words, which they who heard, entreated that they should not be spoken anymore; and so terrible was the sight, that even Moses said, *“I exceedingly fear and quake.”* (Hebrews 12:21). O think of this, and think not what is called the least sin to be small; for it has lighted up the fire of God’s wrath.

See the wrath of God revealed in drowning the old world; in burning Sodom and Gomorrah; in the destruction of Korah; and in judgments upon the ungodly in all ages. *“God is angry with the wicked every day.”* (Psalm 7:11). The fire of his wrath and indignation ever smokes against all sin. Remember this and be watchful.

Reflect on the wrath of God revealed from heaven, in the sufferings of his beloved Son for the sins of his people. See the sin-atoning, curse-sustaining Lamb of God on the cross. There see what sin is; there view the indignation of God against it, and the awful vengeance he executed upon it. O my soul, think of thy Saviour’s inconceivable suffering for sin. Here see the exceeding sinfulness of sin; view its crimson dye in the purple gore of the Son of God. Ever think of this, love the Lamb, and strive against all sin.

The wrath of God is revealed against sin even in his own children. He hates their sins. Beware of any doctrine that makes light of sin; or which would represent that God has not the same abhorrence of sin, indignation and wrath against sin in his own children as in others. Do not hold the truth in unrighteousness; never think of reconciling a holy God to sin.

The wrath of God is revealed in the conscience of his people. By the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20) And the law works wrath. (Romans 4:15) It fills the mind with terrible apprehensions of the wrath of God, and a fearful looking for of his judgment and fiery indignation against sin.

Bless Jesus that his blood cleanses from all sin; and remember the awful day when God will *“take vengeance on them who obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ”* (II Thessalonians 1:8).

*Taken from “A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God” by William Mason*