The God Who Seeks You

The Bible is the record of God's plan of redemption. After creating the world, God's assessment of His handiwork, including human beings, was that "it was very good." But by Genesis 3, the human race had become sinful, instantly losing the close relationship with God that had prevailed from the beginning. This fall (into sin) was the greatest tragedy humanity has ever experienced. God made us in His image, to experience a blessed life in His presence. Sin ruptured that relationship, frustrating God's plan for man.

But that's not the end of the story! The remainder of the Bible outlines God's unfolding plan to rescue and create a new spiritually alive humanity from out of the residue of fallen sinful humanity. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, abounds in promises that one day God would bring a Messiah or deliverer. The second part of the Bible, the New Testament, describes the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son and Messiah, to rescue God's lost people from their prison of sin. The miraculous coming of Jesus from heaven to earth is the key event and climatic apex of redemptive history.



"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10 NLT).

Jesus died on a cross 2000 years ago to pay the penalty of the sins of all God's people. The perfect second person of the eternal Trinitarian God, the incarnate God/Man, sacrificed His life to bear sin's death penalty in my place, willingly dying for me at Calvary. Why? So that those who respond to Christ in faith, believing Him to be God's remedy for their sin problem, might be freed from sin and never fear death again. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, bringing sin into the world. Jesus, the second Adam, perfectly obeyed God, living a life without sin. His perfect obedience has been transferred to my account and my sins have been transferred to His account. God's grace and justice meet at the Cross. My sin debt has been paid by Christ. Not only has God forgiven me in Christ, but He sees that my life is covered by the righteousness of His Son. That's the incredible length that God has gone to, to seek me and to enable me to live with Him - now and forever! But there's more, much more! Through Christ,

" I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, "Here am I, here am I" (Isa. 65:1 NIV).

firstly, God also gives to each new believing Christian His Holy Spirit, to live within us and to keep us spiritually connected and united with Christ; and secondly, a new ability and power to live and experience life in the way that God always intended - no longer satisfied with mere existence in the physical realm, but now possessing a new God given and impelling desire from the Holy Spirit to live for God and His glory, experiencing anew the abundant life and blessings that God long ago prepared for His human creatures. This new life in Christ begins at conversion and transcends death for all eternity.

" … and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31 NLT)

God gave proof of these things by raising Christ from the dead on the third day - just as Jesus and the Bible predicted! Jesus Christ is God's solution to the human sin problem. Alienation from God, and the fear and shame and guilt, that result from sin are removed. Jesus came to set believers free from sin's prison; to enable them to experience God's abundant life now and forever. So why keep hiding? Let yourself be found by the God who seeks you!

Contact
info@covenantbiblechurch.net

Hide



Seek

Introduction

Children like to play Hide and Seek, a game in which someone finds a place to "hide" while the "seeker" closes their eyes, counts out loud (to an agreed number), and then tries to "find" the hidden player. In the game, the child who is hiding is so wrapped up in the fun of the game, that they usually do not realise that their hiding place is often rather obvious to the one seeking them, especially if the seeker is an adult.

Ironically, this is also how we humans live our lives: we try to hide ourselves - both from God and from one another. Knowing that we're not perfect, we try to conceal our true selves i.e. what we're really like!



The Bible introduces its readers to the one, true God who, as an invisible Spirit being, is present everywhere and knows everything. Psalm 139 asks a rhetorical question: *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"* And the answer is "nowhere!" Why? Because the infinite Creator God sees and knows everything about every one of His image-bearing finite creatures, every moment of every day.

It Began in the Garden

Genesis 3 reveals God's truth about humanity. The first couple, Adam and Eve, though created "very good" (Gen 1:31) just like the rest of God's created works, succumbed to the tempters deviousness and disobeyed God. Instantly "sin" became the new reality for mankind. Prior to this, *"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame"* (Gen 2:25), but after they disobeyed God *"the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked..."* (Gen 3:7). Next time God came to visit with His creatures who had now fallen into a state of sin, *"they **hid themselves** from the*



Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Gen 3:8). In response to God's question *"Where are you?"* Adam replied *"I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid"* (Gen 3:9). Earlier, in Gen 2:16-17, God had indicated that Adam and his wife were "*free to eat from any tree in the garden*," except one. If they disobeyed this command God said *"you will certainly die."* Satan contradicted this clear, unequivocal command of God, telling Eve that *"You will certainly not die"* but rather *"your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"* (Gen 3:4-5). Adam and Eve took the bait: they chose to disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit. Instantly their nature and constitution as human beings changed: they died spiritually, plunging humanity into sin and servitude to Satan. Having lost moral innocence, they experienced shame and fear for the very first time i.e. they realised that they were naked, and sought to hide themselves from God's presence.

Sin has consequences!

God made mankind for a relationship of intimacy with Himself centred on a knowledge of goodness, holiness, righteousness etc - attributes which are central to the nature and character of God. Before their fall into sin, Adam and Eve had no moral knowledge of evil i.e. they lived their lives in close harmony with God and with each another, characterised by moral good. But when they disobeyed God and became sinners, God banished Adam and Eve from His special garden paradise, driving them out of Eden, and placed a curse on them and God's wider creation. The ramifications of mankind's Fall into sin were immediate and comprehensive: in the next generation, Cain killed his brother Abel, and by Gen 6, God comments on *"how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time"* (Gen 6:5). Mankind lost its paradise homeland in Eden and fellowship with God, and was exiled "out of Eden" into the wilderness, consigned into a futile existence, rather than true life, in a broken and sin cursed world.

"Hiding" Ever Since!

Every descendant of Adam and Eve - the God appointed representatives of the human race - has inherited their sin nature. We are all flawed people. We all begin life in bondage to our sin nature. Though we still know what is right, our thoughts, words and actions rarely align consistently to even our own moral standards, let alone God's absolute standard of morality. Sin binds us all in a spiritual prison of fear, shame and guilt, which we are powerless to escape!

> *"Everyone rejects God; they are all morally corrupt. None of them does what is right, not even one!"* (Psalm 14:3 NET).



In our hearts, we long for something better, but where to turn? God's absolute holiness and moral purity scares us; so we try to avoid Him by trying to hide! This has been the state of mankind since Eden e.g. "living" an empty and largely meaningless life, separated from God, and without any hope of real change.

> *"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. [2] You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil – the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. [3] All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else"* (Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT).