

## Luke 3:7-9 Proclaiming Good News: Hard Truth About Humanity

The good news of God's salvation involves a diagnosis and prognosis of and a remedy for the human condition.

- 1) What is the diagnosis?
  - a) Total depravity
    - i) "brood of vipers" (7a)
    - ii) Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 18. A. *The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.*
    - iii) Q. 19. A. *All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.*
  - b) Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."
  - c) Romans 3:9-12 "For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written, 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.'"
- 2) What is the prognosis?
  - a) Divine retribution: "the wrath to come" "cut down and thrown into the fire" (7b, 9b)
    - i) WSC Q. 84 A. *Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.*
    - ii) James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."
  - b) Imminent judgment: "even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees" (9)
    - i) Acts 17:30-31 "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."
    - ii) Resurrection is an eschatological event, therefore, the end has already begun with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which means that the final judgment is "near." How near? We don't know. We are just told to be ready at all times (Luke 12:35-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8).
- 3) What is the remedy?
  - a) Need for conversion
    - i) "fruits in keeping with repentance" (8a)
    - ii) The nature of the tree must change (Luke 6:43-45)
  - b) Beware of snake oil
    - i) "do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" (8)
    - ii) Proudful presumption rather than humble faith
  - c) Sovereign grace
    - i) "God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham"
    - ii) Surprising conversions of sinners (Luke 5:27-32; 7:36-50; 19:1-10)
    - iii) Luke 18:27 "What is impossible with men is possible with God."
    - iv) Galatians 3:13-16 We become the children of Abraham through union with Christ
- 4) What will you do with this remedy?
  - a) Have you repented of your sin and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - b) Are you praying for the lost?
  - c) Are you offering people the real remedy for their fallen condition?