



There is No Plan B

Brownsburg Church of Christ

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PM Assembly



Introduction:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” This statement sets the paradigm for our nation. It is a beautiful statement established deeply in the theology of creation and demonstrating that because each of us is a unique creation of God we have intrinsic value. Like every painting by Van Gogh, Monet, or Picasso, we are individual masterpieces, but from the hand of the Master of Masters. However, in our culture this idea of equality of persons has subtly shifted to an equality of ideas, beliefs, practices. Since everyone has equal value everything each one thinks and believes is of equal value and validity. In the context of faith and religion, this produces a pluralistic society claiming that everyone is right (in their own way) and no one is wrong. The only sin is to suggest that one’s ideas might actually be more valid than another’s. That sin is magnified if in your determination that someone is wrong you also tie it to eternity and suggest they will be damned eternally because they are in error.

Because that is the greatest sin in our society, many of us sit paralyzed by the fear that we will be marked as the greatest sinners. People will mock us, ridicule us, ostracize us. We will be dubbed the narrow-minded fools who think our God’s way is the only right way. And this would be truly awful, if it weren’t true. You see, if we are going to accept the Bible, then we have to believe that our God’s way is the only right way. Because that is exactly what the Bible claims. We cannot hold the Bible in one hand and religious pluralism in the other. If we believe the Bible to be God’s Word, we need to recognize that God has a Plan A to save all of mankind and there is no Plan B.

As many of you know, I recently read and reviewed the book *Radical* by David Platt. While I disagreed with a great deal of what he said, he had a chapter by this same title, “There is No Plan B.” It was outstanding. I want to share with you what I was reminded of in that chapter. We will notice 7 truths from **Romans** that demonstrate the absolute and utter urgency that we pursue God’s Plan A because there is no Plan B.

Discussion:

- I. Truth #1: Everyone you know has seen God’s testimony.
 - A. **Romans 1:18-20** is pretty plain. God has created the universe in such a way that it is a testimony of God’s very existence. God’s divine power and eternal nature are demonstrated all around us. When we look to the sun, the moon, the stars, we are seeing the very testimony of God. The mere fact that there is something rather than nothing declares a great Maker.
 - B. **Psalm 19:1-6** says that the heavens declare God’s glory and proclaim His handiwork. Simply watching the sun cross the sky is itself a great testimony. Nothing is hidden from its heat. That is, everyone can see this great work. Everyone can see the design of it. Everyone has the testimony of God before their very eyes.
 - C. Notice carefully that this applies to everyone. Everyone has this evidence. Everyone is subject to it. Everyone is made accountable because of it. In fact, in **Romans 1:20**, Paul draws the simple conclusion that because this testimony of God is universally seen, no one has an excuse. And yet, we say, there are many who just don’t accept it. True, and that leads us to our second truth.
- II. Truth #2: Everyone you know has rejected God.
 - A. That’s right. While many people see the testimony and accept that God exists, every person to one degree or another rejects God. They either rejects that He exists or they reject Him as God of their lives in some facet. Paul continued in **Romans 1:21-32** to describe how people have reacted to God. No doubt, in the context of **Romans** he is specifically highlighting all the Gentiles. But can we not even see ourselves in some of Paul’s statements? What about disobedient to parents? What about slanderers and gossips? What about envy and deceit? What about haughty and arrogant?
 - B. **Ephesians 2:1-3** describes us all. Even those of us who have believed in God all our lives have rejected Him at some point and pursued the prince of the power of the air, following him and his ways. **Titus 3:3** says we were all once slaves to various passions and pleasures.
 - C. Everyone has rejected God. Perhaps they have gone to the extreme of not even believing in Him at all. Or perhaps they have simply turned from His lordship and let the creatures be their gods instead (maybe even letting themselves be their own god). But everyone has done that.

III. Truth #3: Everyone you know is guilty before God.

- A. **Romans 3:23** is pointed. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (ESV). Because we have all fallen short of God’s glory, we are all guilty. We do not get to compare ourselves to each other. We must compare ourselves to God. We are all guilty. Paul really drove this home in the preceding verses, **Romans 3:9-20**. Notice what Paul says in **vs. 19**. The whole world will be held accountable. That includes everyone. That includes every person we see. That includes our neighbors, our family, our friends, our co-workers, our schoolmates, everyone.
- B. We’ve already read **Ephesians 2:1-3**, but notice in it the universal guilt. We are all condemned. There are no exceptions. I’m reminded of that scene in *The Sixth Sense* when Cole Sear (played by Haley Joel Osment) explains, “I see dead people. They don’t know that they’re dead.” As we are walking around, that is exactly what we are seeing. We are seeing dead people. They don’t know that they are dead. But everyone all over the world has died in their sins.

IV. Truth #4: Everyone you know has been condemned for rejecting God.

- A. **Romans 5:16** says one trespass brought condemnation, speaking of Adam’s fall. But **Romans 5:18** explains that same condemnation passed onto all men. **Romans 5:12** says sin came into the world through Adam producing death. Because all men sinned, death proceeded to all men. **Romans 6:23** says the wages of sin is death. This is a spiritual death, an eternal death. It is the separation of our soul from God. And everyone is facing it. No one is exempt. Everyone stands condemned before God. Everyone!
- B. In **Romans 2:1**, Paul seems to be rebuking the Jews for arrogantly believing they can sit in judgment over the Gentiles as sinners. Paul said they are just as condemned because they practice the same things. That can be said of everyone. Every person we know has sinned and stands condemned before God. **Romans 2:12** explains why this is so bad. We have all sinned and therefore will be judged and perish. No exceptions!

V. Truth #5: God has made a way of salvation for everyone you know.

- A. So far, the news is bleak. But there is good news. According to **Romans 3:21-26**, God has established a way of redemption, a way for salvation. (By the way, our special lesson on April 24th is all about this way of salvation). God not only is just, but He is also a justifier. He wants to justify us. That is, He wants to declare us innocent and grant us life. He is offering us His free gift according to **Romans 6:23**. That gift is eternal life.
- B. God offers us that gift in the person and propitiation of His Son, Jesus Christ (**Romans 3:25**). According to **Romans 5:6-11**, Jesus died for us while we were still sinful, ungodly, and weak. We can be justified by His blood.
- C. The great news is this is offered to everyone. **Romans 1:16** says the gospel is God’s power of salvation for Jews and Greeks (Gentiles). According to **Romans 2:11**, God shows no partiality and is offering this salvation to everyone we know, everyone in the world. **Romans 4:9-12** says this salvation is offered to the circumcised and the uncircumcised. That’s everyone. No one needs to be left out. Everyone can be saved by Jesus Christ.

VI. Truth #6: Everyone you know can only come to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

- A. But, while God’s plan of salvation is universally offered, it is not universally applied. **Romans 1:16** says the gospel is God’s power to save. But that implies people have to turn to the gospel. If people do not turn to the gospel, they cannot be saved. Period. Nothing else has that power. **Romans 3:21-26** says God wants to justify everyone, but He will only justify those who have faith in Jesus. **Romans 8:1** says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. That implies something about those outside of Jesus. They are still in their condemnation.
- B. According to **Romans 9:15, 18**, God can have mercy on whomever He wants. Upon whom does God show mercy? Upon those who have faith in Jesus and submit to God’s righteousness (**Romans 9:30-10:3**).
- C. Jesus said of Himself, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (**John 14:6**, ESV). There are no exceptions. Buddha won’t get you to God. Mohammed won’t get you to God. Joseph Smith won’t get you to God. Ignorance won’t get you to God. Enlightenment won’t get you to God. Gnosis won’t get you to God. The Pope won’t get you to God. Edwin Crozier won’t get you to God. Only Jesus Christ is the way to the Father. There is no other. That is why Peter declared in **Acts 4:11-12**, “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (ESV).
- D. This doesn’t seem fair. We just think it can’t be right. Surely people won’t be lost just because they didn’t believe in Jesus. What about all those people who didn’t even hear about Jesus. Will they be lost? Surely God won’t condemn people for not even hearing about Jesus. Of course not. Remember what we learned in Truths #1, #2, and #3. God isn’t condemning folks for not hearing about Jesus. We are condemned because we have rejected God despite His declaration of Himself in the world. We all have seen the evidence and we have all rejected it and we have all become guilty. The point is not that God condemns people for not hearing about or listening to Jesus. The point is that the only way He saves all the condemned people is through Jesus. Jesus is God’s Plan A and there is no Plan B.

VII. Truth #7: No one you know will have faith in Jesus unless we tell them about Him.

- A. But there is another part to God's Plan A. That is us. According to **Romans 10:13**, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. However, the following verses share a profound message (**Romans 10:14-17**). They will not call on someone in whom they do not believe. They will not believe in someone of whom they haven't heard. They will not hear unless someone teaches them. And no one will teach them if no one is sent.
- B. Why did God do it this way? I don't know. He could have written the message of Jesus across the sky. He could have placed it in the dreams and visions of all people. Instead, He has chosen to use us. Even when God did use visions, as in the case of Paul (**Acts 9**) and Cornelius (**Acts 10**), He still used people to actually provide the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to them. "Some wonder if it is unfair for God to allow so many to have no knowledge of the gospel. But there is no injustice in God. The injustice lies in Christians who possess the gospel and refuse to give their lives to making it known among those who haven't heard. That is unfair."¹
- C. Jesus is God's Plan A for saving man. There is no Plan B. We are God's Plan A for getting that message to people. There is no Plan B. Will we go with the message?

Conclusion:

Everyone you know has seen God's testimony. They have all rejected God. They are all guilty before God. They are all condemned because of their guilt. But God has a plan to save us all and that Plan A is Jesus Christ. So if we only get to the Father through Jesus Christ, how do we get in Jesus Christ? **Romans 6:1-4** provides the answer. We enter Christ and His death when we are baptized into Him. **Romans 10:9-10** explains that through faith and confession we will be saved. But the reason is because our faith and confession lead us to submission. Jesus said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**, ESV). This is God's Plan A for getting into Christ. There is no Plan B. There is no other way. Have you followed God's way?

¹ *Radical*, David Platt, Multnomah Books, Colorado Spring, 2010, p 159.