Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:
Human Being: Fallen

Speaker:
Peter Privitera

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Scriptures:
Romans 1, 3

Theme: Gain conviction about the human condition to make sense of the world we're living in.

Introduction: Therapeutic Psychology has its own framework for the starting point and the end goal of life. It also has its own interpretation of what humans are and what is wrong with them. It is this last category that we turn our attention to: What is wrong? Says who? Therapeutic Psychology offers a fundamental understanding of the human condition that is at odds with the biblical account. As always, the Scriptures must be our ultimate guide on these matters.

The human condition can be summarized with two biblical realities:

1. Mankind Has Fallen Short

- Sin is anything that offends God (attitudes, words, deeds, thoughts, etc.).
- Sin is not determined by our personal assessment or of other people's assessments–sin is always defined in relation to God.
- Falling "short of the glory of God" means failing to fully image God in his glory.
- The fallen condition of man is not simply "good to know": we need to know it and let it inform our understanding of humanity.
- Therapeutic Psychology uses categories like "toxic" and "trauma" to allow for victimhood mentalities rather than coming to terms with our own sin.

2. Mankind Is in Rebellion and under Wrath

- Mankind's fall into sin was not something that happened to us. Rather, when man sinned, he took aim at God–sin is rebellion.
- Romans 1 teaches of the noetic effects of sin, that sin affects our ability to reason and consider the things of God.
- Christians are not immune to the noetic effects of sin, and much of the sanctification process deals with our battle against a mind that is tempted to exchange the glory of God.
- God will judge the world on the Last Day, but Romans 1 teaches that even now his wrath is being revealed.

Questions:

1. How does the biblical explanation of the human condition make sense of what you see around you?
2. In what ways have you or others around you imbibed the therapeutic framework of mankind's condition (i.e. that it is inherently good, not sinful)?
3. Where do you currently find yourself falling short of God's glory? How does the gospel help to you know God's grace?

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