

CALVARY

"The Cross"

at the

"Crossroad"



LESSON 3



CALVARY

“Cross” or “Crossroad”

This is the junction where God meets man to deliver the opportunity to experience a redeemed and reconciled life.

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CALVARY – *The Intersection of Divine Intent and Human Will*

The idea of choosing, making choices and deciding has existed from eternity past; long before Chronos existed.



- It was decisive when God chose to make man in His image and likeness
- [Josh 24:15](#) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

One of the greatest proofs an omnipotent (all-powerful) God is the existence is His ability to share His authority without losing an iota of position, power or place.

God-deniers speculate that all of man’s actions can be attributed to random interactions of chemicals, atoms, and molecules that make up our physical bodies.

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God-deniers are unable to explain how such random interactions lead to man's ability to make all kinds of choices in life.

- Just think, would just God hold Adam and Eve accountable for their poor choice if their actions were the result of random or imbalanced chemical interactions?

God-deniers (atheist or agnostics), cannot explain why God created man in the similitude and form of His spiritual character, putting Adam and Eve in a position where they, like their Creator would have to make choices.

➤ **God chose to become flesh** in the form of Jesus Christ, had the ability to choose.

[Eph. 1:4a 'According as God hath chosen us in Christ before the *foundation of the world*]

❖ The “**foundation [katabolē] of the world**” is a reference to God's act of creation.

❖ When Scripture refers to something that has been true “*from* the foundation of the world,” it means “**for all of human history.**”

❖ But when Scripture refers to something that happened “*before* the foundation of the world,” the event occurred before anything was ever created, **in eternity past**

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- **God chose to reconcile** His failed creation by His grace **before eternity past**
 - ❖ His salvific plan is eternal and immutable; nothing can frustrate, amend, or impede it
 - ❖ God chose to save mankind through Christ even **prior to Man's failure in the garden**
- **God chose to redeem** His creatures by the shedding of blood (Gen.3:21; Heb. 9:22)

From the poor choice of the first Man and Woman, accountability and responsibility were meted out according to nature of their disobedience:

A. Eve was instructed about God's expectations, and was responsible for the first sin

B. Adam chose to defy the instructions given by God was held accountable for the first sin

- ❖ **I Tim 2:13-14** For Adam was first formed, then Eve. **And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**

One of the recurring questions discussed in theological tradition is that of free will and the nature of freedom itself and to the problem of evil.

In the "Disciples Prayer" (Matt. 6:9-10: Luke 11:2), Jesus taught "thy will be done" as in heaven, so in earth.

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- Jesus Himself pleaded for God’s will to be done in the Garden of Gethsemane. Prior to His crucifixion, He prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matt. 26:39).
- Jesus was committed to seeing God’s will accomplished, and the prayer “Thy will be done” was a **theme of His life**.
- The prayer was simply for God’s sovereign decree to be done as He desired
- Besides the **decreed will** of God, there is another aspect, which we call His “**revealed**” will or “**preceptive**” will – [God’s will which is made known to us, but is not forced on us]
 - E.g., it is God’s will that we speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and that we do not commit adultery (1 Cor. 6:18) or get drunk (Ephesians 5:18).
 - When we pray, “Thy will be done,” we are asking God to increase righteousness in the world, bringing people to repentance, and furthering the cause of Christ’s kingdom

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- When we pray, “Thy will be done,” we acknowledge God’s right to rule. We do not pray, “My will be done”; for we’re asking that God’s to be a demonstration of our trust that He knows what is best.
- When we pray “thy will be done,” it is a statement of submission to God’s ways and His plans; seeking for our will to be conformed to His.

In this Disciples Prayer, Jesus chose to acknowledge God as Father in heaven; and then He Jesus presenting three requests to the Father which are models for our submission to God”

- 1) That God would cause His name to be hallowed [make holy; consecrated; venerated]; i.e., God would act in such a way that he visibly demonstrates his holiness and his glory”
- 2) That God would bring His kingdom to earth; i.e., that the preaching of the gospel would convert sinners into saints who walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

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❖ He desired for God to rid the world of evil and create the new heavens and new earth where God will dwell with His people and there will be no more curse and no more death (Rev. 21—22).

3) That God's will would be done "in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). In heaven, the angels perform God's desire completely, joyfully, and immediately—what a world this would be if humans acted like that!

As a point of clarification, "Thy will be done" is **not an impassive prayer** of resignation, rather is an **open display** of Jesus exercising His human capacity to choose.

- Even His prayer in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:39) was not passive or fatalistic in the least
- He simply bared His heart before the Father and revealed His ultimate desire: for God's will to be accomplished.
- Praying, "Thy will be done," acknowledges that God has more knowledge than we do and that we trust His way is best.
- And it is a commitment to actively working to further the execution of God's will.

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Romans 12:1–2 says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- Understanding Who God is, we submit ourselves to Him and allow Him to transform us.
- The more we know God, the more readily our prayers will align with His will and we can truly pray, “Thy will be done.”
- We can approach God in confidence that “if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14–15).
- By faith, we know that praying, “Thy will be done,” is the best thing we can ask for.

Jesus had to make decision – just like you and I – and the key component in decision making is to “choose.”

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- The definition of who we are is the sum of all the decisions we have made in our lives, whether good or bad – inclusive of those times we did not make decisions.
- We responsibly arrive where we are in life by decisions and non-decisions
- Therefore, it makes sense to be like Jesus and control our lives and destinies as much as possible by choosing to choose.

Romanish apologist Steven Hemler, in his article “Man and the Existence of God” listed *Five Human Desires in man that Point to God*

In the article he stated that the presence of our ***enhanced human consciousness*** not only differentiates humans from animals, it also aids in making the case for the existence of God.

He asserted that’s through our human consciousness we desire five ***transcendental*** [going beyond the physical] experiences, none of which are necessary for survival for essential for making choices that immolate the Divine.

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Hemler chronicled these five transcendent desires as yearning for: (1) perfect **knowledge/truth** (2) perfect love (3) **perfect justice/goodness** (4) perfect **beauty**, and (5) perfect **home/being**.

Most interestingly, any earthly satisfaction of these five inner desires leaves us feeling frustrated and wanting more.

- That's because what we desire is a **perfect** experience of each of these five transcendental desires.
- But, since perfect knowledge/truth, perfect love, perfect justice/goodness, perfect beauty, and perfect home/being don't exist here on earth, why do we seek them?
- It makes no sense to desire or seek what is unattainable

What we seek is something transcendental, something beyond our world and beyond our earthly experience.

- **James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning

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What we seek is God, who is the Perfection of all our desires, so let's take a closer look at each of these five transcendental desires found within the human condition.

(1) Desire for Perfect Knowledge/Truth

- Have you noticed the desire for perfect knowledge in children when they ask “Why is that?” and when given an answer they continue to ask “Well, why is that?”
- Their sense of wonder creates a quest for increasing in knowledge and truth
- And have you noticed their displeasure with an incomplete or unsatisfying response?
- Humans have an innate desire for a full and complete explanation.
- This is evident in the ongoing work of science in seeking a more complete understanding of our world, and the wise know their knowledge is not complete.
- ❖ **II Peter 3:18a “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior..”**
- ❖ **Eph. 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ**

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❖ **Phil. 1:9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment

- There is an intuitive awareness there is more to be known than what we now know
- But why are we aware there is more to be known beyond what we currently know?
- It appears our conscious desire for perfect knowledge and complete truth has been written in our human nature by God, who is the Perfect Knowledge and Truth
- The knowledge of God is like a garment we put on that is way too big for us. We need to continually to grow into it.

(2) Desire for Perfect Love

- We humans also have a desire for perfect and unconditional love; which can mislead us into expecting perfect love from other human beings.
- When the relationship does not fulfill our desire for perfect love, this expectation leads to frustration and quite possibly to a decline in the relationship.
- **For example, as the imperfections in the love of our beloved manifest themselves, we at first become irritated.**

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- This irritation often leads to frustration, which in turn becomes dashed expectations.
- These dashed expectations may become either **quiet hurt** or **overt demands**, both aimed at extracting a more perfect love from our beloved.
- When this perfect love does not happen, thoughts of terminating the relationship may arise.
- Why do we fall prey to such an obvious error? Because our desire is for love to be perfect and unconditional, but the reality is otherwise.
- But what is the origin of our deep desire and yearning for perfect love?
 - ❖ **Psl. 119:20-21** “I am continually consumed by these irresistible longings, these cravings to obey your every commandment! ²¹Your displeasure rests with those who are arrogant, who think they know everything; you rebuke the rebellious who refuse your laws.
 - ❖ **Psl. 107:8-9** “So lift your hands and thank God for his marvelous kindness and for all his miracles of mercy for those he loves. ⁹How he satisfies the souls of thirsty ones and fills the hungry with goodness!

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- “But what is the origin of our deep desire and yearning for perfect love?
 - ❖ *For he satisfieth the longing soul*” is the summary of the lost traveler’s experience
 - ❖ God sets in us **longing** [shāqāq – from root to run, run about or rush; appetite] and establishes Himself as the only One Who can completely satisfies us
 - ❖ That longing leads us into solitude, separation, thirst, faintness, and self-despair, and all these conduct us to prayer, faith, divine guidance, satisfying of the soul’s thirst, and rest:
- Why would we have this desire for perfect love, especially when we are left feeling dissatisfied and frustrated when we cannot find it with another person?
 - ❖ God’s good hand is to be seen in the whole process and in the divine result--
“And [HE] filleth the hungry soul with goodness.
- Our desire for perfect and unconditional love can only be met by the Perfect Love (God).
- **God has implanted in us a conscious desire for a perfect love He alone can fulfill**

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(3) Desire for Perfect Justice/Goodness

- Mankind is designed with a conscious desire for perfect justice and goodness.
- E.g., even in young children an imperfect expression of justice from their parents will elicit the immediate response, “That’s not fair!”
- Adults do the same thing as they feel outrage toward groups, social structures, and even God when we perceive that we have not been treated fairly.
- This innate comprehension of right and wrong is known as the “natural law”
- ❖ **Rom. 2:14-15** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them
- ❖ 17th Century English Barrister Matthew Hale gave the following definition of the natural law: "It is the Law of Almighty God given by him to Man with His Nature discovering the moral good and moral evil of Moral Actions, commanding the former, and forbidding the latter by the secret voice or dictate of His implanted nature, His reason, and His conscious."

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- What could be the source of our desire for perfect justice and goodness?
- **Micah 6:7-8** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? ⁸ **He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good**; and what doth the LORD **require of thee**, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

(4) Desire for Perfect Beauty

- Occasionally, we think we have found perfect beauty when we look at a scene of natural beauty: a magnificent red sunset over the water or majestic snowcapped mountains against a horizon of blue sky.
- Yet, even then, we get bored and strive for an even more perfect manifestation of natural beauty
- Innately, we who are created in the image and likeness of God; Who assessed His work and declared that it was good.

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- We have within ourselves a continuous striving for artistic, musical, and literary perfection.
- Unfortunately, there is a penchant to become bored or grow frustrated with any imperfect manifestation of beauty.
- Since the notion of perfect Beauty cannot be obtained from a world of imperfect beauty, we are led to the realization that its' origin arises out of perfect Beauty itself.
- ❖ **Isa. 53:1-2** Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? ² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is no beauty that we should desire him.*
- ❖ **Ecc1 3:11** (NLT) Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

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(5) Desire for Perfect Home/Being

- The fifth transcendent desire is to be at perfect harmony and peace in our being and in our world.
- ❖ **Prov 21:19** It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman
- ❖ **Prov 26:21** As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.
- ❖ **Rom 2:6-8** Who [God] will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: ⁸But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,
- When our desire for perfect peaceful home is even partially fulfilled, throughout the ages this is referred to this as joy, love, awe, unity, holiness, and/or peace.

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- Again, we need to ask what gives rise to our desire for perfect harmony and our yearning to feel comfortable at home in our world?
- Once more, the origin of this awareness seems to be traceable to the perfect Home itself – God’s residence in heaven.
- ❖ **Isa 26:2-4** Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. ³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. ⁴Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:
- For this reason, philosophers and theologians have associated our desire for a perfect home with the presence of God to human consciousness.

Our yearning for “more” leave us with an emptiness that only God can fill, for as C.S. Lewis stated in *Mere Christianity*, “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food... If I find in myself a desire which no experience

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If this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.'

God is perfect and wants us to be one with Him. Thus, our inner craving for choices which lead to righteous decisions must come from and is directed by Him and towards Him.

The desire to choose God's will was written in Jesus heart, for He became a man by the heart of God for the purpose of God to save the people of God.

Jesus was drawn to the will of His Father ; knowing that only in God would He find the truth and happiness humans never stop searching for.

1. Steven Hemler Filed under Man, The Existence of God --
<https://strangenotions.com/5-human-desires-that-point-to-god/>

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For

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PROVERBS 27:17

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“Open Church – Open Bible”

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