

God's Plan For Man

(Acts 8:12-25)

- Introduction:
1. The one thing that man needs more than anything else is pardon.
 2. Ills, of a man on deaths row.
 3. We all face a death sentence because we have all sinned (Romans 6:23). You have to pay to play.
 4. Unlike many judges, the Judge of this universe has been merciful to us.
 5. He has provided us with a way to receive pardon.
 6. In fact, two ways to receive pardon.
 - a. Law of pardon for the sinner outside of Christ.
 - b. Law of pardon for the sinner who is a Christian.
 7. In this lesson, we want to make clear the distinction as well as identify these two avenues of pardon.

I. The Law Of Pardon For The Non-Christian

- A. (Acts 2).
1. These men and women who were assembled were not Christians.
 2. But they were told how to be saved from their sins. (Acts 2:38).
- B. (Acts 16-25-34).
1. This jailor was not a Christian.
 2. Told to believe in Jesus.
 - a. Not only believe in His person, but also what He said to do (James 1:19).
 - b. They spoke the word of the Lord, and he was baptized.
- C. (Acts 22:1-16).
1. Saul was not a Christian.
 2. Asked what he should do (v.10).
 3. He was told to be baptized (v.16).

II. The Law Of Pardon For The Christian

- A. (Acts 8:5-24).
1. Simon was a sorcerer.
 2. He heard the gospel, believed it, and was baptized.
 3. Later, he sinned by trying to buy the gift of God.
 4. What was he told to do?
 - a. Repent and be baptized? No.
 - b. Repent and pray (8:22).
- B. Prayer is a spiritual blessing, a privilege that belongs to God's children (Eph. 3:1; Matt. 6:9).
- C. (I John 1:8-21).
1. This is written to Christians who had sinned.
 2. Told to confess their sins to be forgiven.

- Conclusion:
1. In an assembly this size, there surely is someone who needs the pardon of God.
 2. If you are not a Christian-Repent and be Baptized.
 3. If you are a Christian-Repent and Pray.
 4. These two laws of pardon are not ours to tamper with, change, challenge, but simply to accept and obey.