

NATURAL TENDENCY – Categorize People / Labels, Assumptions, Prejudices
SOME PEOPLE SCORE HIGHER THAN OTHERS – better than others

Scale 1 to 100 / 100 = Jesus / 90 = Billy Graham, Pope, NOAH / 75+ members of ICF
ASSUME – People have same inherent Goodness as Jesus / Just not as Much
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BE A LITTLE BIT BETTER – work our way up Scale

1. Man's Rebellion 2. God's Wrath 3. Noah's Righteousness

1. Man's Rebellion

Chapter 5 – Great Heroes of Faith and Obedience / Noah born – 6 of them still living
incl. Methuselah – Guinness Record as Longest Liver / Not ref to Internal Organ

6.2 Righteous Line CORRUPTED by intermarriage with the Sinful Children of Cain
Tragic Result – SPIRITUAL POLLUTION

Text – 6.5 STRONGEST STATEMENT OF HUMAN SINFULNESS in Scripture

OUR SCALE OF GOODNESS – deals with mostly EXTERNAL ISSUES

Dress too Short, Hair too Long, Eats too Much, Owns too Much, Plays too Much, etc.

Expect verse on Sin / List BIG GULPS Adultery, Murder, Stealing, of course Dancing

a. INTERNAL Nature of Sin – WORST SINS ARE NOT WHAT WE SEE

6.5 “the thoughts of his heart” / SIN like ICEBERG – BIGGEST PART UNSEEN

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” 1 Sam 16.7

PHARISEES WORRIED about Outward Contamination / Jesus – focus Inward Purity
Jesus said “Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality,
theft, false testimony, slander”

OUR OBSERVATION of Outward Acts / OUR CONCLUSION of Inward Nature

Did you see the flowers he gave me? Isn't he sweet?

That man has COMMITTED MURDER – He is a terrible monster!

WE SAY – He is a murderer because he murdered someone

GOD SAYS – He murdered because he already was a murderer – OUR NATURE

GOD IS ABSOLUTELY JUST – SEES EACH ONE RIGHTLY – INTO HEARTS

b. **PERVASIVE** Nature of Sin 6.5 “*every* inclination of the thoughts of his heart”

Sin OUT FROM the CORE of OUR BEING – Heart – Touches All Do, Say, & Think

Hike far back into MOUNTAIN VALLEY – think found PRISTINE STREAM
TAKE LONG COOL DRINK OF MOUNTAIN WATER
Only to walk around next bend – FIND ROTTING ANIMAL CARCAS IN STREAM
STREAM LOOKS PRISTINE – SOURCE POLLUTED

TOTAL DEPRAVITY – Every part of our being is touched by sin /
EVEN OUR BEST IS NOT PERFECT IN THE SIGHT OF A HOLY GOD

PIRATE SHIP – running from the law / FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE
ON THE SHIP THINGS MAY LOOK GOOD / Sharing their Rum and Wenches
Saying Grace before downing their Glog / Take turns swabbing the Deck
Cultural Refinement – String Quartet plays Sunday Afternoon Concert on Deck
BUT IT IS STILL A PIRATE SHIP – RUNNING FROM THE LAW

Graphic Portrait of Humanity – Romans 3.10-18

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

NOT AS BAD AS WE COULD BE, NOT AS GOOD AS WE SHOULD BE
EVEN OUR BEST EFFORTS ARE STAMPED WITH THE TRUTH

“fallen short of the glory of God” Romans 3.23

CAN THIS DESCRIPTION BE ANY WORSE? ANY MORE HUMILIATING?

c. **CONTINUOUS** Nature of Sin 6.5 “*only* evil *all* the time”

We like to think we ONLY MAKE AND OCCASIONAL MISTAKE

BUT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IT IS A CONTINUOUS MISTAKE

“All man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord” Pr 16.2
BOICE “From our perspective a statement like this is almost beyond belief. We would not make it of other people, even the worst people. We certainly would not make it of ourselves. But this is God speaking – God who sees all things and sees the heart – and God is truthful.”

WE LEARN ABOUT A TERRIBLE GLOBAL FLOOD /

Changed the Landscape of Every Inch of Planet Earth
Flood did not change – 8.21 “every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood”

MARTIN LUTHER “Without the Holy Spirit and without grace man can do nothing but sin and so goes on endlessly from sin to sin...this knowledge of our sin is the beginning of our salvation”

2. God’s Wrath

Sin is a TERRIBLE THING – ITS EFFECTS ARE TERRIBLE

Breaks Hearts, Destroys Homes, Corrupts Societies, Cripples Nations

WORST EFFECT OF SIN – What it does to God / Arouses Holy & Just Wrath

a. God’s Appraisal / “He will judge the world in righteousness” Psalm 9.8

6.5 “The Lord saw...” / DELIBERATE CONTRAST WITH GENESIS 1

EACH CREATIVE DAY “And God saw that it was good”

SIXTH & LAST DAY “God saw all that he had made, and it was VERY GOOD”

NOW THE BITTER CONTRAST 6.12 “God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.”

Now Mankind is FAR FROM THAT PERFECTION AND GOODNESS

What has changed God’s Outlook? – Sin!

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account” Hebrews 4.13

SCALE mentioned earlier / Opposite of Reality – not in Positive Numbers

MAN IS NOT CLIMBING HIGHER IN RIGHTEOUSNESS / SINKING IN SIN

TRUE SCALE WOULD SHOW Varying degrees of DOWNWARD DESCENT

- measurement of man’s rebellion against God, His Law, and His Holiness

b. God’s Passion ANTHROPOMORPHISM – Human description of the Divine

GOD IS NOT A MAN – BUT HE IS A PERSON – PERSON WITH FEELINGS

6.6 “the Lord was grieved...His heart was filled with pain”

6.7 “for I am grieved that I have made them”

NOT an ABSTRACT PRINCIPLE or IMPERSONAL FORCE / LIVING, FEELING

Prophet ZEPHANIAH “The Lord your God...take(s) great delight in you...
he will rejoice over you with singing” 3.17

Great and Final Prophet – LORD JESUS – WEPT OVER US WITH TEARS
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing” Luke 13.34

WHAT WE DO MATTERS TO GOD /
HE HAS BROKEN HEART OF ABANDONED LOVER

“Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord.
Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live? For I take no
pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”
Ezekiel 18.23,32

“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to
repentance”
2 Peter 3.9

SOME CHRISTIANS TALK CASUALLY, EVEN JOKINGLY, ABOUT HELL
GOD TALKS ABOUT HELL WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES
IF WE REALLY UNDERSTOOD, WE WOULD HAVE GOD’S PASSION

BOB PIERCE – Founder of World Vision – Prayed
“Let my heart be broken by that which breaks the heart of God”

c. God’s Punishment “He does not leave the guilty unpunished” Exodus 34.7

GOD IS JUST AND HOLY / SIN CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED OR IGNORED

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and
wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness” Romans 1.18

6.7 “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth”

6.11 “Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence”

VIOLENCE def. “Man’s refusal to live in his God-given boundaries”

6.13 “I am going to put an end to all people”

6.17 “I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the
heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it”

3. Noah's Righteousness

IN MIDST OF THIS DARK ANALYSIS – LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL SHINES

“weeping may last for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning”

GOD Responds to EVIL in SIMULTANEOUS EXTREMES – Judgment & Salvation

a. Reason for Noah's Righteousness How was this man spared terrible judgment?

WIDESPREAD MISUNDERSTANDING OF THIS STORY

Out of all the bad apples in the barrel / God managed to find one good apple = NOAH

6.8 “But Noah found favor in the eyes of God” / OLD versions “Noah found grace”

“Do you mean Noah was just as bad as those who died outside his boat!?” YES!

“Does that mean that we here are just as bad as those outside the church? EXACTLY!

“But where sin increased, grace increased all the more” Romans 5.20

Jesus to Rich Young Ruler “No one is good – except God alone.” Mark 10.18
ONLY CLAIM TO GOODNESS IS DERIVED FROM HIM

“Abraham (Noah) believed the Lord, and he credited to him as righteousness” G 15.6

FAITH IS A GIFT – REPENTANCE IS A GIFT – SALVATION IS A GIFT

6.18 “But I will establish my covenant with you”

WHY DID GOD MAKE HIS COVENANT WITH ISRAEL / OR NOAH?

“The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you.”

REASON? BECAUSE the LORD LOVED YOU / Sovereign Mystery of God's Grace

“God saved us, not because of righteous things we had done but because of his mercy

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5.8

b. Result of Noah's Righteousness Faith Results in Works / Tree Produces Fruit

“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance of us to do”
Ephesians 2.8-10

FIRST 6.8 “Noah found favor” THEN WE READ 6.9 “Noah was a righteous man”

THREE RESULTS OF GOD’S FAVOR IN NOAH’S LIFE

1) RIGHT WITH GOD - “Noah was a righteous man”

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command” John 14.15

FEW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SO OBEDIENT AMIDST SUCH OPPOSITION

100 YEARS of ABUSE / HARD WORK / INCREDIBLE – boat in the plain, no rain?

NOT ONLY DID NOAH LIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS, HE PREACHED IT

2 Peter 2.5 “Noah, a preacher of righteousness”

1855 young preacher named Charles Spurgeon came to London / Many were Curious
WHAT THEY HEARD WAS AN OLD FASHIONED, OUT DATED MESSAGE
THE OLD GOSPEL THE PURITANS PREACHED A CENTURY BEFORE
He was ridiculed as old-fashioned, out-moded, surely he would be short-lived
ONE CRITIC “Up like a rocket, down like a stick”
GOD USED THAT FOOLISH SPURGEON – Impacted English-speaking world

Athanasius stood alone / Luther stood alone / Knox stood alone / SO DID NOAH

2) RIGHT WITH MAN – “blameless among the people of his day”

Even though Noah’s critics were many / they could not find fault with him

BLAMELESS – not Sinless – Dealt with Sin properly / Make SHORT ACCOUNTS
Forgiven by God, Faultless before men

NOAH DID NOT COMPROMISE HIS MESSAGE BY HIS MANNERS

3) RIGHT ON TIME – “he walked with God”

Walked with God like Enoch / LONG WALK / DIFFICULT WALK

THE MORE HE ENDURED THE UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE EVIL WORLD
THE CLOSER NOAH WALKED WITH GOD

“By faith Noah, when warned about the things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” Hebrews 11.7

GOD WAS ALSO RIGHT ON TIME – rain fell, waters rose, earth was destroyed

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY – SAVED BY GRACE – INSIDE ARK OF MERCY

ANCIENT STORY POINTS FORWARD TO A FUTURE JUDGMENT
ONE MANY PEOPLE NEVER IMAGINE WILL COME

“In the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this coming he promised?...But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word...the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men...Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives, as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming...in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness”

WILL THAT BE YOUR HOME? IT IS ONLY FOR THE RIGHTEOUSNESS

JESUS IS OUR ONLY ARK, OUR ONLY SAVIOR, ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS

THERE IS SALVATION IN NO OTHER NAME, ONLY JESUS CAN SAVE US
He alone can carry us through this world / and carry us into the Next