

## THE FACTS OF LIFE

Sometimes in life it's necessary to put things in a very basic, easy to understand, plain way.

- There are those who won't understand the importance of spiritual, eternal matters without some plain talking.
- And it's with that plain talk that I come before you this morning and tell you there are some of you in this audience that need to perk up and listen not only with your ears, but with your heart.

After performing very poorly in the first half of a football game against Moore County. Our football coach huddled everyone together on one knee in the locker room during our half time. He began to announce our stats.

- In the 1<sup>st</sup> half of play, we had gained a total 25 total rushing yards, about 45 yards passing and only two first downs. We had amassed 25 yards in penalties, allowed 3 touchdowns, and they had blocked one of our punts.

The Coach explained all this to us in a very calm tone. It seemed a little too calm, cool, and collected. It was the kind of clam before the storm. You know all quiet and still, and eerie feeling.

**THEN BOOM!!**

Coach grabbed my helmet and said loudly, "THIS IS A HELMET BOYS! WE USE IT SO WE DON'T GET OUR LITTLE HEADS HURT. THIS IS A SET OF SHOULDER PADS. WE WEAR THEM TOPROTECT US WHEN WE TACKLE SOMEONE!!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT FOOTBALL IS A CONTACT SPORT??!!

He then grabbed a football, and at this point his anger was reaching heart attack status. His face was red. His hands were red, all except his knuckles which were white from gripping the football. His teeth clenched together, he began to explain;

THIS IS A FOOTBALL. THIS IS THE GAME WE'RE ATTEMPTING TO PLAY. IT'S BASICALLY EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

THE OTHER TEAM HAS THE BALL AND WE KEEP THEM FROM SCORING. WE HAVE THE BALL WE ATTEMPT TO SCORE. WHEN YOU SCORE IT'S CALLED A TOUCHDOWN. THOSE ARE THE FACTS GUYS. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S EASY. IT'S FOOTBALL.

We went back out there with the simple plan of doing what we had been taught all those hot two-a-day practices and simply apply the basics of what we had learned.

We didn't win the game. We lost that game 23 to 21. We didn't let them score another touchdown, but lost on a 25 yard field goal. That's about the best I can remember feeling about a loss.

As we begin our lesson this morning, I want us to look at some basic facts the bible explains to us about our spiritual life. These are just the facts.

Before we get started well on number one, I'd like to start with number '0'.

- Guy's this is a BIBLE.
- We use it to study. We use it to gain knowledge about how we should live our life.
- Our scripture reading today from **Ephesians** tells us that Bible is the sword of the Spirit.
- **II Tim. 2:15** tells us that we should be unashamed of the gospel and we should handle it accurately.

Now that was easy wasn't it? It only gets easier from here. This morning while I have your attention, I want to cover four basic facts with you and speak about each one.

- 1. You were born to die**
- 2. Sin is Black**
- 3. Hell is Hot**
- 4. Jesus Saves**

I. YOU WERE BORN TO DIE.

1. This life is no paradise.
  - a. Paradise is what Adam and Eve had in the Book of **Genesis**
  - b. Paradise is what Lazarus experienced in **Luke 16**, when he was carried away by angels after his passing.
2. This paradise?
  - a. No! This is the world in which we now reside. This great ball of dirt and water.
  - b. A world that is full of distrust, deceit, and wanton evil
  - c. A world that is marked by pains and sufferings, trials and tribulations
3. Paradise is place where none of that exists.
  - a. No death, no sorrow
  - b. Just plain endless bliss and peace
  - But we are born into this world to die. To die a physical death.
  - AND THIS LIFE WE LEAD IS FLEEING QUICKLY AWAY.
  - **I Peter 1:24**, "For, all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off,"

- **James 4:14**, “Where as you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
4. The life we live is full of trouble.
    - a. I was once told this very true statement:
    - b. You are either experiencing a crisis, just gone through one, about to enter into one, or know someone who is going through one.
    - c. **Job 14:1**, “Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

You know we add to our own trouble. It’s as though this world doesn’t throw enough hardship our way, it’s as if Satan hasn’t done enough to us and we still knowingly walk. And sometimes run right into the midst of sin and disparity and then wonder how we got there.

- **Proverbs 13:15**, “Good understanding gives favor; but the way of the transgressor is hard.”
- People tells lies and get caught----doesn’t seem to bother them
- We’re lazy and unprepared-----doesn’t bother ;the Lord will return just the same
- We use vile language--- not a problem, so does everybody else.

5. THEN AFTER THIS LIFE -----WE DIE-----THEN JUDGEMENT

## II. SIN IS BLACK

### 1. Read Proverbs 6: 16-19

2. **Romans 3:23** states that we are all unworthy sinners.
3. Sin separates us from God.(**READ Isaiah 59:1-2**)
4. And through the choices you make, the unforgiving sin in your life brings about a spiritual death. **Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”
5. The blackness of sin denotes its inability to hold light. Sin and temptation are the power of satan and eternal life in hell is a place of outer darkness.

## III. HELL IS HOT

1. After judgment, mankind has nothing, No Hope if your life is not given to God through His Son in repentance, confession, and baptism.
2. All you have to look forward to is an eternity in hell.
3. **Matt. 10:28**, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

4. Hell is a place of outer darkness, pain, and regret.
  - a. **Matt. 25:30**, “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
  - b. **Revelation 20:15**, “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

At this point in the lesson we should have a basic understanding of the finality of mankind if death occurs and they've not given up their life to be a servant of God.

But I want to cover this last point with you this morning.

#### IV. JESUS SAVES

1. Only through Christ can we be truly saved. (**READ Acts 4:11-12**)
2. **Romans 5: 8-9(READ)** Only through the precious blood of our Savior are we cleansed.
3. **Hebrews 5: 8-9 (READ)** by following the teachings of Christ.
  - a. Following His plan of salvation
    - i. **Hear**
    - ii. **Believe**
    - iii. **Repent**
    - iv. **Confess**
    - v. **Baptism**
4. And walking in the Light (**I John 1:7-9 READ**)

In Closing:

Here we have the facts; the basics

THIS IS A BIBLE

YOU WERE BORN TO DIE

SIN IS BLACK

HELL IS HOT

JESUS SAVES

IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY EASIER, OR MORE BASIC THAN THAT.

YOU ALL HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE.