

Just in Case Romans 1:18-3:20 Did Not Stop Your Mouth

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I. The basic error that leads to misunderstanding God's plan of eternal salvation

- A. Most people fail to recognize the extent of the depravity of fallen man
- B. Most give fallen man more credit than the Bible gives him
- C. Most believe that the unborn-again sinner can initiate his own eternal salvation
- D. Most mouths have not been stopped (Romans 3:19)
- E. The Bible declares that sinful man is impotent by his own free will and ability
—to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature.

II. The unborn-again, natural, sinful man will not come to Jesus for eternal life

[Joh 5:40](#) And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

—The reprobate natural man is a hater of God

[Rom 1:30](#) Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

—The carnal mind is at enmity toward God

[Rom 8:7](#) ...the carnal mind *is* enmity against God...

—A man under sin has no fear of God

[Rom 3:18](#) There is no fear of God before their eyes.

—God is not in the thoughts of a wicked man

[Psa 10:4](#) The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.

—Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man

[1Co 2:14](#) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

—What would motivate a man that thinks like this to come to God?

By nature sinful unborn-again men simply do not want to come to God or be with God

Depraved men are free to choose—They have free wills

But their wills and choices always follow their natures

A wolf has a wolf's nature—He follows his nature—He kills

Sometimes he kills because he is hungry—Sometimes just because he is a wolf

The nature of man is such that he hates God—He considers God as his enemy

He does not fear God—Nor seek God—Nor think about God

Spiritual things are foolishness to him

This man is not wishing he could be with God—But God won't let him

This unborn-again man has no desire to be with God

He has a free will—He just does not have a willing will

Jesus said: *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life* ([Joh 5:40](#))

These doomed men would not come to Him—Even if it meant they would live forever

These men hated Jesus so much that they did not want to live with Him forever

It may seem unbelievable—But the Bible says this is the way all natural men think

This is the natural state of humanity—This is who we are—This is how we think

If God does not change this vile man—He will forever be a hater of God

God is the only one in the universe who can change this vile nature in man
No depraved man ever chooses to come to Christ—He innately hates and rejects Him
Since man will not choose to come to God—God must do the choosing
God does not just vainly offer salvation to men who will never come
God chooses particular men that He will come to with salvation
This is God's plan—The Bible's plan—This is the only plan that will work

III. The unborn-again, natural, sinful man cannot come to Jesus for eternal life

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

The problem with the unborn-again man goes beyond a lack of willingness to come
Even if a fallen nature were to release a fallen will—The problem still remains
Even if a man (against his nature) found a 'want to'—He still has no 'can do'
The Bible repeatedly declares that the unborn-again man **cannot** come to God

1. An unborn-again natural man cannot know spiritual things

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Natural man—Man in his fallen state—Man without God in him—The unborn-again
It is not just that a natural man stubbornly will not come to what he thinks is foolish
He thinks spiritual things are foolishness because he cannot know such things
A man must be made to be a spiritual creature before he can know spiritual things
Without the Spirit of God in a man he cannot know the God who is a Spirit
So beyond an unwillingness to receive—There is an inability to know
A unborn-again natural man is not able to come to the God that he cannot know

2. An unborn-again natural man cannot understand

Rom 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God

Why does an unborn-again carnal man not seek after God?
Carnal fallen man has no understanding of a spiritual God
A natural man (without the new birth) never comes seeking after God
In his fallen condition he cannot understand about God—He cannot know God
No one ever seeks or comes to the God that he cannot know or understand

3. An unborn-again natural man cannot see

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus plainly taught that a natural man (prior to his new birth) cannot see God's kingdom
The unborn-again man has no visual image of God's kingdom in his mind
He has no awareness of such a thing—He cannot see it to even know that it exists
It is only reasonable that a man cannot come to that which he has no awareness of

4. An unborn-again natural man cannot enter

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Here Jesus restated what should be clear to all (but what few seem to see)
A man cannot enter into this kingdom of God that he is unable to see
(A man cannot consciously choose to enter that which he has no consciousness of)
A man with no awareness of a kingdom—Likewise has no awareness of its King
The unborn-again cannot enter the kingdom—Nor come to the King who is there

5. An unborn-again natural man cannot hear

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

These men were not deaf—With natural ears they heard every word Jesus spoke
It was not that these men put their hands over their ears in a rebellious refusal to hear
Jesus did not say that they were unwilling to listen to Him
Jesus said to them, "*you cannot hear my word.*"
How could they hear His every word—Yet could not hear His word?
They had ears to hear natural words—But no spiritual ears to hear spiritual words
They had no spiritual life—They had not been born again

6. An unborn-again natural man cannot believe

Joh 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Joh 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

The unbelieving Jews asked a bizarre question: *How long dost thou make us to doubt?*

They acknowledged their unbelief—But blamed Jesus for it—It was God’s fault

Jesus answered them, I told you and ye believed not

The works that I do...bear witness of me. But ye believe not...

They had much evidence to believe—No excuse not to—Yet they believed not

They believed not—Because of what they were not—They were not His sheep

They were not His ‘shall-be-saved’ people—They had never been born again

As the unborn-again cannot know, see or hear—Neither can they believe

So then, who can believe?

The ability to believe is God’s gift to His people at the new birth

Faith is a gift of God. (Eph 2:8)—A fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)

And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

The elect sheep believe—Because it is given to them to believe

These Jews could not believe—They were not His elect sheep

7. An unborn-again natural man cannot be converted

Joh 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

Joh 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Joh 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

Joh 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Though Jesus had done such phenomenal miracles—They still did not believe

Isaiah asked the question: *Lord, who hath believed our report?*

Who has believed the good news of the gospel? —The story of Jesus Christ?

Isaiah asked the second question: *And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*

The answer to the first question lies in the second question

The ones to whom God reveals Himself are the ones who believe

The ones who are born of God and taught of God are the ones who believe

The ones with the gift of faith (that fruit of the Spirit) are the ones who believe

After Jesus spoke of some who did not believe—He spoke of some who could not believe

God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts that they could not believe

Jesus’ miracles did not open the eyes or soften the hearts of these unborn-again men

Jesus’ works drove these men to increasingly despise the God they already hated

As Pharaoh’s heart was hardened by the miracles of God, so it is with these men

The same wonders of Christ can prick some hearts—While hardening others

Yet in addition to being unable to believe—These could not be converted

Without the new birth—They were unbelievers and unchangeable unbelievers

Natural men cannot know—cannot see—cannot enter—cannot understand—

Cannot hear—cannot believe—and cannot be converted

Do you suppose there is any way such a character as this can come to God?

8. An unborn-again natural man cannot please God

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*.

Without faith (belief) man cannot please God

At first this may not seem like such a problem

If it takes belief in God to please God—Then a man needs to simply believe in God

Many have even turned this proposal into God’s plan for eternal salvation

They base eternal salvation upon natural man pleasing God by believing in Jesus

Now faith does please God—Yet we have seen that natural man cannot believe

The proposed plan says man has to believe in God in order to please God

Yet the Bible says natural man cannot believe in God in order to please God

In spite of this, many still claim that faith is the way man can come to God

The Bible says man cannot know—cannot see—cannot enter—

Cannot understand—cannot hear—cannot believe—cannot be converted

With all these ‘cannots’—How can faith be the first-move factor?

9. An unborn-again natural man cannot cease from sin

2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin...

Many scriptures speak of the sinfulness of fallen man

There is none righteous, no, not one

There is none that doeth good, no not one

Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all

If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

The depth of man's depravity is that man *cannot cease from sin*

10. An unborn-again natural man cannot be subject to God

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The carnal mind cannot be subject to God's laws (or cease from sin)

The unborn-again man cannot know—see—hear—believe—be converted—or come

But that is okay with him—He does not want to come anyway—He hates God

The only hope for the man who will not come is if God comes to him

God is the one who must make the choice to come to the man and born him again

At the new birth the Holy Spirit moves—Not by invitation—But as He pleases

It is God who chooses to move into a man at the new birth

It is God that chooses which man He will move into at the new birth

No man will or can choose God—So God must do the choosing

God must not only choose to save—God must also choose whom to save

Election is as crucial to salvation as redemption and regeneration

Election is the necessary foundation for God's plan of salvation.

11. An unborn-again natural "cannot" cannot become a spiritual "can"

Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

By nature you are what you are—I am what I am—Man is what man is

Just as the Ethiopian is what he is—So natural man is what he is

Just as the leopard is what it is—So natural man is what he is

Natural man that is so accustomed to do evil cannot do good

It is not in the nature of a 'cannot-do-good' man to become a 'can-do-good' man

There is none that doeth good, no, not one

Carnal man cannot change the 'cannot-do-good' that is within him

A natural man can do nothing to change all his 'cannots'

12. How can one with all these "cannots" come to God?

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..

The idea that an unborn-again man will not and cannot come to God is hard to accept

Yet Jesus said, *Ye will not come to me* —And Jesus said, *No man can come to me*

Unborn-again man cannot know—cannot see—cannot enter—cannot understand—

Cannot hear—cannot believe—cannot be converted—cannot please God—

Cannot cease from sin—cannot be subject to the law of God—

Cannot become a 'can'—cannot come to Christ

IV. Three Biblical analogies of God's work of regeneration on passive recipients

1. Regeneration is likened unto being born—Can a man cause his own birth?

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

—What did you do before you were you?

What did you do before you were born? —Did you cooperate in anybody's plans?

Did you give your okay to your own birth? —Did you have a vote in the matter?

Could you have refused to be born at the time you were born?

"What did you do, before you were you?"

2. Regeneration is likened to a new creature—Can the uncreated create itself?

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

—Could the created creature have actively cooperated in his own creation?

How much do you suppose Adam could do before he was created?

How much 'want to' did he have before he was? —Did he come asking to be?

How much spiritual 'want to' does the new creature have before he exists?

In his non-existence—He does not—He will not—He cannot—He is not
“Can the yet-to-be-created create itself?”

3. Regeneration is likened to raising the dead—Can a dead man raise himself?

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

—How dead is dead?

Man is not naturally dead—He sees, hears, acts and reacts to natural things

Yet he cannot see, hear, act or react in the spiritual realm—He is dead to that realm

Dead men do not do—Dead men do not will to do—Dead men cannot do

Dead men cannot have a life-giving thought—They cannot decide to be ‘undead’

“How dead is dead?”

V. Man is impotent by his free will and ability to recover himself from his fallen state

—The ‘unborns’ cannot do the birthing

—The ‘deads’ cannot do the raising

—The ‘yet-to-be-creatures’ cannot do the creating

—Holy Spirit unassisted regeneration is the only option for eternal salvation