

I. The Practice of Man – vs 6a

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- We see here the wretchedness of our natural condition

A. The Practice of Man is a Selfish Practice

1. Sin is inherently selfish
 - a) *Satan – Isa 14:12-15* ←
 - b) *Samson – Jud 14:1-4* ←
 - c) *David – 2Sam 11:1-4* ←
2. Every sinner is alike - he wants his own way instead of God's way
3. Regardless of what God says, man wants to do what he wants
4. Man wants his own way even though it leads to disease, disaster and death

B. This Practice of Man is a Popular Practice

1. "all" are doing it
2. *Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
3. The whole human race went astray in Adam potentially and in life actually
4. All have sinned
5. All have forsaken and disregarded and grieved God

C. This Practice of Man is an Unholy Practice

1. It leads to iniquity and being popular does not make it right
2. Prodigal son went his own way
3. *Pr 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.*

II. Peril of Man

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- This practice of man has put him in great peril

A. His Way is the Wrong Way - "astray"

Ps 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

1. "astray" is not the right way
2. Many animals will return if they go astray
 - a) *Dogs and cats - we have all heard the stories*
 - b) *Horses will return by themselves*
3. If a sheep wanders away, it pursues its wandering never returning of its own accord
4. If a wandering sheep is ever to return, it is because the shepherd brings it back
5. Man who has gone away from God needs a Savior - education, legislation, reformation will never bring him back
6. Astray is not the way to heaven
7. Cain went his own way

B. His Way is a Deadly Way

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. The way of "iniquity" predicts death for the wages of sin is death
 - a) *Ps 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight; thou hatest all workers of iniquity.*
 - b) *Ps 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
2. God's moral law is inflexible and His own righteousness and justice is absolute
3. God is thus bound, as the Ruler of the universe, to render to every one his due
4. If the penalty could be set aside for one sinner, then it would have to be set aside for all sinners and God's govt would end

C. His Way is a Condemned Way

1. This verse is not commending man, but condemning him
2. Many call sin by nice names, but that does not change the peril of sin
3. Changing the name on the bottle, does not change the contents of the bottle
4. If the bottle contains poison, it is more dangerous with a nice name

III. Pardon of Man

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

A. This Pardon is a Divine Pardon

1. God provided the way of salvation
2. It was not man's idea
3. Religion is man reaching up to God
4. Only Christianity has God dying for man

B. This Pardon is a Merciful Pardon ←

1. Man does not deserve the pardon
2. Man has gone his own way and rejected God's way
3. Yet, God, in his grace, provided for the rescue

C. This Pardon is An Abundant Pardon

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

1. God's pardoning is not in short supply
2. Many Have Been Pardoned
 - a) *In all ages In all classes In all stages of life*
 - b) *Abundant Sin Meant that Abundant Pardon Was Needed*
3. Abundant Means of Pardon
 - a) *Jesus' death*
 - b) *1Jn 2:1 - we have an advocate*
4. Abundant Easy Terms of Pardon
 - a) *Not purgatory Not works Jesus paid the price*
5. Abundant Blessings of Pardon
 - a) *Freedom from sin and guilt*
 - b) *Adoption into God's family*
 - c) *Heaven*

D. This Pardon is a Vicarious Pardon

1. It comes through "him"
2. Salvation is in Jesus Christ who died on Calvary
3. *2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
4. The Innocent was punished as though guilty that the guilty might be rewarded as if innocent.
5. He died as our substitute ←

E. This Pardon is a Sufficient Pardon

1. "all" at the end of the verse
2. Salvation is possible for all who come to the Lord

HBC #60 Sept 2009

Preached at Fifth Sunday Service at Rupert – March 17, 2008