
SOLVING WORLD PROBLEMS PT 1

The Goal: Shelter & Decouple

The Obstacle: Understand The Problem

The Task: The Solution

News & Updates

Does anyone have any news or things they would like to say?

Telegram for news (make sure everyone is connected)

INTRODUCTION

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN (2021-2022)

1. We've picked up tips on how to decouple and shelter in place.
 - a. Not so much are we trying to fix the problem as...
 - b. Try to build something in its place
2. We've sought to understand problem better by looking at one perspective given by a video series: [Communism By The Back Door](#)
 - a. We learned about the existence of secret societies and their plans.
 - b. We learned that maybe we don't know everything we need to know about our history.

WHERE WE ARE GOING (2023+)

We are moving on to solutions, and implementing the solutions, and launching solutions. Our focus will be shifting toward solutions and what we can do.

To remain stationary or static or immovable will be suicide.

WHAT WE MUST AVOID: IDLENESS (WE MUST GO; WE CANNOT STAY)

"Idleness and pride tax with a heavier hand than kings and governments." ~ Ben Franklin

"Purity of mind and idleness are incompatible." ~ Gandhi

☞ What do you think of Franklin's statement?

☞ What do you think of Gandhi's?

Proverbs 10:26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him. For his hands refuse to work;

Proverbs 12:27 A lazy man does not roast his prey, But the precious possession of a man is diligence.

Proverbs 22:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside; I will be killed in the streets!"

Proverbs 18:9 He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

☞ Have you found the above Proverbs to be true in your everyday experience?

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

☞ What is an undisciplined life? What is a disciplined life?

Are you able to recognize a disciplined or undisciplined person?

We must avoid being idle and undisciplined. Now is not the time for that. In light of the trouble that has befallen our world it is easy to feel paralyzed. It is hard to think what the solution might be because of the enormity of the problems we face. But, we must move forward or we die for sure.

☞ I want us to look at the Bible's description of *ancient* problems and yet notice how similar they are to what we face *today*. Then I want us to consider this: If it is so accurate at describing the problems, then could it be equally accurate in describing the solutions? Can we trust the solutions it offers? Do we know the solutions? Can we apply them today?

THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THE PROBLEMS

The ancient text of Scripture describes many of the problems we face.

SINFUL NATION

~600 B.C.

Isaiah 1:1-7

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth;

For the Lord speaks,

"Sons I have reared and brought up,

But they have revolted against Me.

3 "An ox knows its owner,

And a donkey its master's manger,

But Israel does not know,

My people do not understand."

4 Alas, sinful nation,

People weighed down with iniquity,

Offspring of evildoers,

Sons who act corruptly!

They have abandoned the Lord,

They have despised the Holy One of Israel,

They have turned away from Him.

5 Where will you be stricken again,

As you continue in your rebellion?

The whole head is sick

And the whole heart is faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even to the head

There is nothing sound in it,

Only bruises, welts and raw wounds,

Not pressed out or bandaged,

Nor softened with oil.

7 Your land is desolate,

Your cities are burned with fire,

Your fields — strangers are devouring them in your presence;

It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers.

NO JUSTICE

Isaiah 1:21-23

21 How the faithful city has become a harlot,

She who was full of justice!

Righteousness once lodged in her,

*But now murderers.
22 Your silver has become dross,
Your drink diluted with water.
23 Your rulers are rebels
And companions of thieves;
Everyone loves a bribe
And chases after rewards.
They do not defend the orphan,
Nor does the widow's plea come before them.*

NO LEADERS

*Isaiah 3:1-12
3 For behold, the Lord God of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah
Both supply and support, the whole supply of bread
And the whole supply of water;
2 The mighty man and the warrior,
The judge and the prophet,
The diviner and the elder,
3 The captain of fifty and the honorable man,
The counselor and the expert artisan,
And the skillful enchanter.
4 And I will make mere lads their princes,
And capricious children will rule over them,
5 And the people will be oppressed,
Each one by another, and each one by his neighbor;
The youth will storm against the elder
And the inferior against the honorable.
6 When a man lays hold of his brother in his father's house, saying,
"You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler,
And these ruins will be under your charge,"
7 He will protest on that day, saying,
"I will not be your healer,
For in my house there is neither bread nor cloak;
You should not appoint me ruler of the people."
8 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen,
Because their speech and their actions are against the Lord,
To rebel against His glorious presence.
9 The expression of their faces bears witness against them,*

*And they display their sin like Sodom;
They do not even conceal it.
Woe to them!
For they have brought evil on themselves.
10 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them,
For they will eat the fruit of their actions.
11 Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him,
For what he deserves will be done to him.
12 O My people! Their oppressors are children,
And women rule over them.
O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray
And confuse the direction of your paths.*

☞ *Do you think the Bible paints a pretty accurate picture of the problems we face today? What specifically did you notice?*

The description of the problems they had 2600 years ago could be used to describe the problems we have today. How some things never change.

Do you remember that at the time of Christ the government was seeking to kill children? Why do so many governments always go after the children?

KILLING CHILDREN

Matthew 2:1-16

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

*6 'and you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;
for out of you shall come forth a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"*

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." 9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child

was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. 15 He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "out of Egypt I called my son."

16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

So, even Jesus came into a troubled world not much different than the world of Isaiah 600 years earlier and not much different than our world today.

☞ [The Bible is good at describing the problems but what about describing the solutions? What does the Bible say is the solution to these problems it describes?](#)

I believe the Bible is equally good at describing the solutions; it is just that the solutions are not well known. The Bible gives us a path forward in troubled times. Let's look at an example.

THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THE SOLUTIONS

MAN IS THE SOLUTION

Much of the problem that plagues mankind through all generations existed before man was even created. You remember our key verse that we read over and over last year.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Where is our struggle? In the heavenly places.

Last year we focused on "the world forces of this darkness" and tied them to earth, this world, to people like Nimrod in the Bible who wanted to rule the world.

These would be rulers use government and religion to exert power over people. But, we see they are driven by something that predates them.

A power "of this darkness...in the heavenly places," is reference to angels and demons and Satan. This predates man. The problems we face with evil began with before man. The fall of the angels happened before the fall of man. There was disorder in heaven by the time man came to earth.

☞ In fact, man was created to bring order back to all of God's creation.

Unlike the angels, man was made in the image of God. And man was to bring order back to the Kingdom of God. God chose to exert His dominion and rule through man.

Ephesians 1:9-10 He [God] made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him [Christ] with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

☞ **Man** therefore is the solution God made to fix the problems we face.

Although man is the problem man is the solution I know how that sounds. The problem is the solution. Well, that is almost it. Go back and read carefully Eph 1:9-10

Ephesians 1:9-10 He [God] made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him [Christ] with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

The summing up of all things is the ordering of all things away from all evil. It means the elimination of chaos, destruction, and every evil and sin. It means the establishment of righteousness, truth, and justice.

In the Garden when God was pronouncing curses He said this to the serpent.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

From the very beginning the purpose of man was stated clearly. The seed of the woman would be a man (a him). That man would inflict a major wound upon

the head of the serpent. The serpent would inflict a minor wound to the heel of the man. Women do not have seed; only men do. This can only be a reference to Christ and His virgin birth. This is about the man Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

As we saw in Ephesians 1 it was *in Christ* that the summing up of all things would be done. Christ would lift up man and restore him.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory...

Christ would restore what had fallen and beyond that "destroy the works of the devil. In this way man, not all men but *many*, would become involved in the solution. As much as they are *in Christ* they are the solution God has for the world. And this is what Jesus taught His disciples. To those that followed Him He said,

*Matthew 5:13-16 "**You** are the salt of **the earth**; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.*

*14 "**You** are the light of **the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

So, man (more specifically redeemed man) is the solution God has for the problems of the world.

JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE

Jesus was the perfect example of being salt and light in the world. Jesus didn't just teach this lesson but He lived it.

He was such the rebel.

Mark 11:15-18 Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; 16 and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. 17 And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN." 18 The chief priests and the

scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

This cleansing of the Temple happened just a few days before His execution. The day before He was doing reconnaissance.

Mark 11:11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

Then on the next day **heaven made a visit earth!** Most likely this was the third time Jesus had removed these ticks from this place.

He "would not permit anyone to carry goods;" I wonder what that looked like.

You see, Jesus practiced what He preached. He was salt; He was light.

Of note - the chief priests and scribes (lawyers) were afraid of Him. They were afraid of Him it says because the whole crowd was with Him. The crowd was with Him because the crowd was **astonished** at His teaching. This means they **understood** what He taught. You can't be astonished over something you can't understand. This was a group of people who got it; they understood what Christ was all about. They understood what the problem was and what the solution was.

The rulers became afraid of Jesus and now they wanted to do something about it, but it was too late. They didn't know it yet, but it was too late for them to do anything about Him. Jesus, as the solution, had already completed the work that God sent Him to do. The crowd was astonished at His teaching. They understood what life was all about.

A couple of nights later before His crucifixion Jesus would say this about what He had done in His prayer to His Father.

John 17:4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Note the word "accomplished" is in the past tense. Note the work He came to do was complete. Note that work that was now complete glorified God. And note all this was before He died on the cross and rose again.

So what specifically was that work?

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

As salt and light in the world He pushed back the darkness and brought these men to God. He **revealed** His name. He **taught** them. He **trained** them to keep God's word. He **discipled** them and helped them to grow into the men God intended them to be.

The disciples knew the truth now. They knew all about the **problems** like Isaiah explained. They could see all the **problems** around them. Their nation was on the decline like ours and would fold in less than 40 years. But now, after what Jesus had done, they knew about the **solution**. Jesus had discipled them and trained them and taught them and sent them.

John 17:18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

They were astonished at the things they heard. It changed their lives. Those rulers would work on putting Jesus to death but they didn't realize it was too late. There was no way on earth they would be able to stop what Jesus had done by revealing God to a few, training them, teaching them, discipling them, growing them, and sending them.

☞ Jesus taught and **applied** the Scriptures. He did reconnaissance. He turned over the money changers tables. He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. He spent the last three years training men. He had sent them out. Jesus, at any angle you want to look, was the solution.

The disciples as trained men now would go on to imitate Him. In the Book of Acts the enemy would say they turned more than tables upside down.

Acts 17:5-6 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. 6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also;

Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D. Rome too had been in decline. The decline did not stop the gospel from spreading or the Church from growing. Lives continued to be put back together. 300 years later the Roman Empire would reform and revive. All of this because one solitary man being the solution God made lived according to who He was and acted like salt and light in the world that God placed Him in.

THE SOLUTION

So, we see the solution in action. We see what the solution is: The solution is a man (Christ) doing what a man was made to do. It is men doing what men were made to do. We need to understand this if we are going to move from problem to solution. This will secure the best possible future for ourselves, our families, our nation, and our world.

- ☞ God is going to accomplish it with or without you; the only question is will you work with Him or against Him. Will you be part of the problem or part of the solution?

Psalms 45:3-4 Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One, In Your splendor and Your majesty! 4 And in Your majesty ride on victoriously, For the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; Let Your right hand teach You awesome things.

So, we are the solution. Look at the person sitting across from you; they are the solution. Realize, they are looking at you saying the same thing.

So with that and this being the beginning of the year I would like to encourage us to get our lives in order. The first step in that is to take a look at where we are. Where are you?

You know that is a very important question. After Adam sinned

Genesis 3:8-9 [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

It wasn't that God didn't know; it was that God needed man to know where he was. Part of the solution, right from the get go is understanding where you are.

- ☞ To help you do that I have this exercise to work on that will just take a moment to compete.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

Complete the *Wheel of Life* handout to see how well rounded your life is.

PERSONAL GOALS

Think through your goals. Over the next 30 days fill this worksheet out; it will help you become the person God wants you to become. It will help you see some things in your life you want to do and some things in your life you want to stop doing. Try to spend 5 minutes a day for the next 30 days working through this

workbook. I don't care if you complete it; I care if it helps you or not to move and not stay stationary.

↩ By working on self we work on the solution. Do you agree?