

"BROKEN CISTERNS"**Introduction**

1. Something has gone wrong in our society
2. The clever + wise men cannot solve it
3. But God's word alone has the answer

1. WHEN WE SIN WE NEVER STICK AT ONE SIN

- 1) "Two evils": one is plenty; but sin is greedy:
 - (i) Eve: not only sinned but encouraged Adam
OBSERVE: One sin quickly leads to others
 - (ii) Flood: the world was "only evil continually"
 - (iii) Judas: "thief" → then sells Christ Himself!
- 2) Notice this in people
 - (i) The sinner wants more and more of it
 - (ii) Lust does not stop after one: "all manner of it"
 - (iii) Sin is addictive:
ILLUSTRATION: drink or drugs or unclean living
- 3) Why should it be? Partly it is God's judgement; also:
 - (i) because sin is deceitful
 - (ii) because God's law is broken everywhere if it is broken anywhere: James 2:10-11
ILLUSTRATION: "Mother, I only broke the handle!"
 - (iii) one sin makes room for another
ILLUSTRATION: Peter's three denials
APPLICATION: Once give in to one sin – and others follow
ILLUSTRATION: The wooden horse of Troy.
So God rebukes this: "two evils"

2. WE ARE SUCH POOR EMPTY CREATURES THAT IF WE DO NOT HAVE GOD WE MUST HAVE FALSE GODS

- 1) Look at the exchange here:

- (i) forsaken God
- (ii) found out some substitute god of their own

- 2) What shall we say about this sin?
 - (i) It is absolute madness: "fountain – cistern"
 - (ii) It is a self-destroying sin: "No water"
- 3) It is so true today – look around you:
 - (i) our fathers had God: churches / Bibles / Sabbaths...
 - (ii) we have: cars / phones / pop music / TV...**APPLICATION**: Can we face these two questions:
 - (i) Are we today satisfied? (Ready to face God?)
 - (ii) Do our worldly goods feed the soul?**QUESTION**: What is the real problem today?
 - (i) Education, NHS, better wages, more houses...?
 - (ii) No! Get back to the "Fountain of life"**APPLICATION**: It comes home to every one of us – TEXT

3. THE ONLY WAY TO GET REAL SATISFACTION IS IN GOD

- 1) God is the Fountain:
 - (i) Isaiah 55:1 : "Ho, everyone that thirsteth"
 - (ii) John 7:37: "If any man thirst...come to me..."
 - (iii) "Pure river of water of life".
ILLUSTRATION: the 2 boys who found an apple-tree
- 2) This lesson was learnt by the woman of Samaria
 - (i) came to draw water
 - (ii) found Christ – left her water – pots!
OBSERVE: "Left the pots and took the well! Yes!"
- 3) Look what you get when you get God:
 - (i) the blessings of Christ's gospel – all of them.
 - (ii) A never-failing peace: "like a river..."
ILLUSTRATION: The River Ness
 - (iii) So much that the world is forgotten!
OBSERVE: See Paul: "For me to live is Christ".

CONCLUSION

O seek God as your chief and only good.
Well is it said: "Man's chief end is..."

PSALM

42: 1 – 4 (5)

36: 5 – 10

84: 4 – 9