

Declaration of Dependence

1

Introduction

We have celebrated the 4th of July. A day where we celebrate the birth of our nation.

It was on this date in 1776 that we declared ourselves independent from England.

Over the next few years, with the sacrifice of many brave men and women and the help of our allies, the war with England was won, and the colonies were free from the bondage of British tyranny.

2

Introduction

We need to remember that man was not created to be totally independent. Man will always be dependent upon something or someone.

When the colonies declared their independence, they were breaking their dependence on England for resources and protection.

In declaring independence, the colonies became dependent on each other and their allies.

3

Introduction

Today mankind and our society are wanting to be independent. The news is filled with stories of people wanting to be independent from authority and consequences. That is until someone treats them or those they care about the same way they have been treating others.

4

Introduction

Ultimately, the world wants to be independent from God. They have made their declaration of independence by their rebellion against His authority.

They justify their treason by denying God's existence or by rejecting what God says about Himself and creating a god in their own image that they are comfortable with.

5

Introduction

When man declares his independence from God, he must place his dependence in something else. That dependence is in themselves, but this proves futile. Man cannot meet his own needs. He cannot control the environment for food, guarantee his own strength and health so he can work...

Man then turns to government. Government promises to meet their needs and give them what they want, but there is a cost.

6

Introduction

Ultimately when a person declares their independence from God, they become dependent upon the fallen world system. We talked about this in the first chapter of James.

The world's system (it's philosophy, goals, and values) impacts how one sees themselves and others. It is Satan's system and he is a liar and a murder.

The final consequence of declaring independence from God is death. This includes physical death, but also eternal death where one is separated from God and all that is good for eternity.

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Dependence in the Garden

We see this in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were totally dependent upon God. He provided them everything they needed. Everything God provided was good. He declared that it was perfect and could not be improved upon.

The most important aspect was He provided a relationship with Himself as they walked in the Garden in the cool of the day.

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Dependence in the Garden

The basis of the temptation was for man to declare his independence from God.

Adam and Eve made the choice to break the relationship with their Creator and do what was right in their own eyes, to make their own choices in violation to God's will.

As a result of their sin, death, pain and suffering entered the world. Adam and his wife were filled with shame and guilt and tried to hide from God.

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Dependence in the Garden

When God confronted Adam and Eve they failed to take responsibility for their actions. Instead they chose to blame others.

Adam Blamed God (this woman YOU gave me) and he blamed Eve.

Eve blamed the serpent.

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Dependence on God for Salvation

Like Adam, people want to reject the responsibility for their sin. It is someone else's fault. People blame their parents, society, culture, police, government, circumstances, and the list could go on. In their mind, their list are things that they feel let them down.

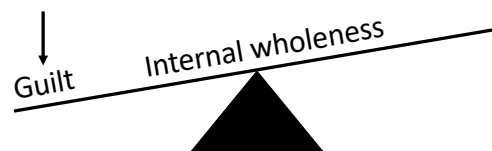
Blame serves two purposes:

1. It avoids taking personal responsibility and a need for personal change.
2. It displaces guilt.

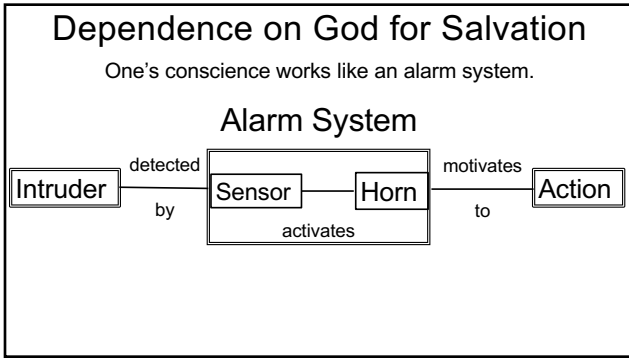
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Dependence on God for Salvation

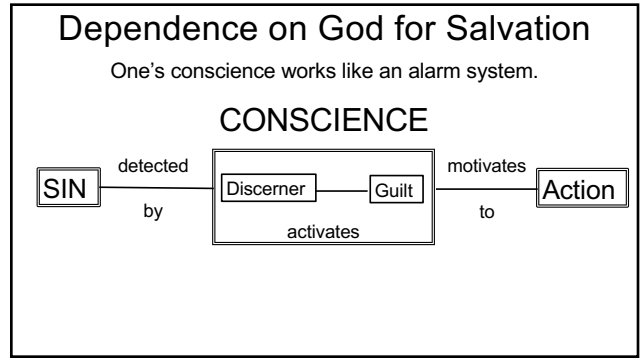
Guilt is an internal mechanism created by God to bring internal disequilibrium when we disobey His Commandments. It is designed to force us to look at our lives and bring us to repentance.



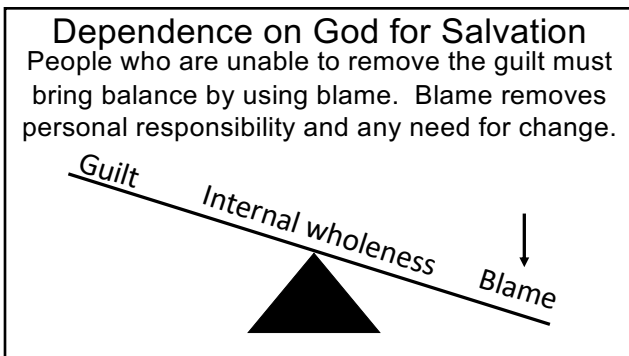
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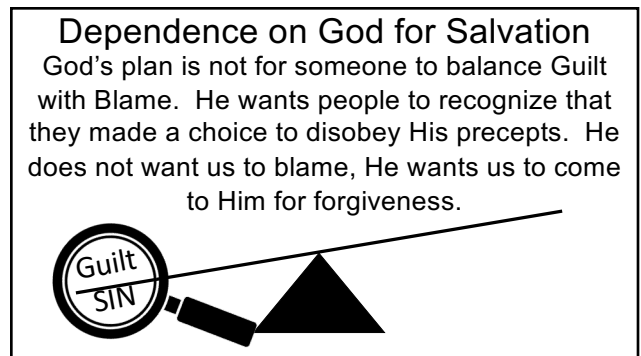
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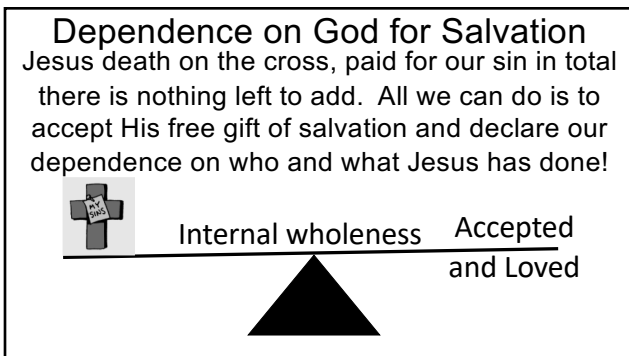
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Dependence on God for Salvation
 Some people find it difficult to confess that they are unable to save themselves. They want to prove their goodness by works. However one must realize that our best work is contaminated by our sin nature and is unable to declare us holy.

Ephesians 2:8-9
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

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Dependence on God for Salvation

We need to declare our independence from the bondage of sin and its consequences. One does not find their salvation in themselves, a church, or institution. Religion cannot save!

You must actively declare your "dependence" upon Jesus. He never sinned, and is God come down taking on human flesh so He could die for our sins.

All your sins were nailed to the cross and paid for in whole!

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Dependence on God for Living

We have all heard of the "self-made man." This is really pride.

Who gave them their talents and abilities?

Who gave them air to breath and allowed them to have food?

Who gave them health and strength?

People declaring their independence from God ignore all the things a loving God provides!

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Dependence on God for Living

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

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Dependence on God for Living

Look at how Jesus taught to depend upon Him for our daily needs.

Matthew 6:9-13

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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Dependence for Maturity

We cannot overcome the "flesh" with the flesh.

We must resist the devil, flesh and world, and submit to God (James 4:7ff).

So many people try to fix themselves, but it becomes self deception. I am not saying we should not commit ourselves to obedience. I am saying that you cannot change your heart.

As you commit yourself to obedience to God, He will transform you. He will take away the fruit of your flesh and replace it with the fruit of His Spirit (Gal. 5).

23

Dependence for Eternity

We cannot obtain heaven on our own. We need to be dependent upon God to keep His promises.

We know that our sins are forgiven, and that Jesus has promised to come back and take us to the place that He has prepared for us.

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there you may be also.*

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So What

The world and declared and celebrated their independence from God. Our society is filled with lawlessness, disrespect, and moral decay of every form. The results are emptiness, despair, substance abuse, and suicide.

As believers, we need to stand different. Let us declare our independence from sin and the world's philosophy. Let us declare our dependence upon God.

Look at your life. What are you depending on?