

HOLES IN OUR LIVES

Ron Coale
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Text:

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Specific Objective:

EVANGELISTIC

Introduction:

Today our message from the Great God of the Universe is regarding the holes that are in each and every life represented here today. Some holes are big, some holes are small; some holes are filled, some holes are not; while yet others become clogged, and still others remain empty. But the biggest hole ever is the one found right in the middle of each and every human heart! This hole is the hole of gaping wantness driving man to the unquenchable search for fullness. It is the hole of loneliness, sorrow and despair. It represents the hole of blackness that yet is never filled and like a perfect vacuum seems to draw everything into it that man has to offer. It is the hole that gives a false sense of fulfillment, yet leaves a gaping void of desire that never seems to be filled. It is a hole that, like the perfect puzzle piece, is designed to be filled with and coupled with its perfect match, yet never seems to find that perfect "fit", that perfect "piece", that missing part that fills its every inch.

Point One—The Empty Hole

Everyone is born with an insatiable longing for something that we don't have. It leaves a huge void in our lives, one that we try thousands of ways to fill. Some try addictive substances such as drugs, tobacco, or alcohol. Others try human relationships. The lack of commitment we see in the world speaks loudly of this. People jumping from one relationship to another, running around on their spouse, always searching for that one thing that will fill the hole in their heart. Even though there are many other ways that man tries to fill the void in his life, sadly, he never does.

ILLUSTRATION:

John was no different. There was a particular workshop that he had to attend. He had just been hired by the School Board, and one of activities that he was required to do was to share one of his teenage idols with the others. He named just one: Star Trek, as he was a Trekkie at heart, but in all reality, there were plenty of others! He loved popular music, which, unlike Star Trek provided an unlimited supply of idols. In fact, as a child, he used to write up his own weekly Top 40! Cartoon magazines also were a source of idols. He would faithfully devour them as soon as they hit the newsstands. His list could go on and on, but his biggest idol was himself Like John, we hunger to gratify our every want and need.

We long to fill the hole in our heart. Sadly, we never find any real satisfaction in our idols. We are worshipping self and trying to exalt self to a position of Lord over our lives. We love to be in control. We desire to be worshipped and exalted and we try every way that our incredible minds can think of to become that which can perfectly fill the hole of emptiness in our hearts, and time and time again we are confronted by failure—a failure that leads some of us to despair and to depression. AND, when we come back, we resume our folly, we search high and low for that which will provide that missing part that we sometimes feel and other times deny that we have. My friends, be of good cheer, there is fulfillment—a part that will perfectly fit the void of our lives. It is found in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ who desires, yea even humbly and patiently waits for permission to sweep into the emptiness of our lives and completely fill the hole that man could rightly do without. It is the missing part that man originally had and lost.

Point Two—The Filled Hole

Set apart from all of God's creation is Man. At first being created in the image of God, man had a body, soul and a spirit; the Spirit of God. When man sinned in the garden of Eden, God's Spirit was taken from man, and man effectually became dead to God. It is the sin that man desired which drove the Spirit of God away, thus creating the void that unsaved man has today. From that time until now, all men have been born with sin (*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12*). Because God can have no fellowship with sin, it is mans sin that causes this great hole in his heart. It is a hole of loneliness—the great loneliness of not fulfilling the purpose that he was created for—to have an intimate relationship with his Maker. This hole can be filled when man realizes and accepts the truth that: *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17).*

- Man must accept that he is a created being for God's pleasure (*Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*)
- Man must accept that Gods opinion is that everyone is dead to Him because of their sin (*Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*)
- Man must accept that God says sin leads to death (*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...*)
- Man must accept that God says there is a second death for a man who dies with sin and that death is eternal seperation from God's mercy and grace (*Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*)
- Man must accept that he will suffer eternal punishment from the hand of God for not humbling himself and agreeing with God who says (*Deuteronomy 32:22-25 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. 23 I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them. 24 They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and*

with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. 25 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs).

- PRAISE THE LORD—man can accept that God has made a way to escape His wrath by accepting the gift (that missing piece) that is offered through His son the Lord Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:23b but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*).
- PRAISE THE LORD—man can agree with God and do what He says and call upon God asking for forgiveness of Sin (*Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*)
- PRAISE THE LORD—man can simply ask God for forgiveness of sin. Man does not need to do anything more difficult than to ask. (*Romans 10:99 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*)

ILLUSTRATION:

Gideon being too proud to simply ask for something. Asking requires humbling ones self. It requires agreeing with someone that you need their help. That is what God wants from us—our agreement.

When man finds his true purpose in life, his life changes beyond comprehension.

Sadly, many turn their back on God. These people continue to aimlessly wander through their lives, empty and unfulfilled, desperately trying to fill the emptiness on their own and not realizing that they are really filling their lives with nothingness: *"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."*(*Romans 1:25*)

Point Three—The Clogged Hole

When we fall head-over-heels in love with our Lord and Creator, we finally have total peace of mind: *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (*Philippians 4:7*) We discover that the real satisfaction in life comes by spending time with Him.

It is equally sad when those who confess Jesus as Lord of their lives don't take the time to enter into a relationship with Him. Their holes become clogged as they continue to secretly try and feed their emptiness with trivialities. Victory is only ours when we begin to hunger for intimacy with our Maker—when we rest totally on Him being that only thing that can fill the void in our lives. Hungering for anything else will only suffocate that relationship which we have with him. Shallow spirituality may seem safe, but it's far from satisfying. In fact, it's utterly deceiving!

Friends, stop cluttering your lives with the world and its appeals. Stop trying to overshadow Jesus in your life by the things of the world. Stop trying to appease self and accept your

purpose. Try to experience and accept the total fulfillment that can come from a perfect relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

My friends, if you are tired of feeling empty inside, if you are weary of chasing ghosts, turn to Jesus and invite Him into your lives. Let Him become your friend. He wants to fill your emptiness. He wants you to discover how awesome He really is and how much He loves you. And He is knocking on the door of your heart (*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20*). He is the only One who can do so. Discover Him and you will start to live full and free with a friend that will love you forever.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10).

How are you trying to fill your emptiness?

ILLUSTRATION:

INVITATION:

Stand to our feet with heads bowed and eyes closed. Nobody looking around. This invitation is just between you and me and the Lord. With a show of hands raised, how many have their lives fulfilled by an acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour? VERY GOOD. Now, with a show of hands, is there anyone here today that has been saved, but they are too busy trying to continue to get fulfillment out of life from other things? VERY GOOD, when we give the invitation, would you please step out of your pew and come up to the front and as an altar, pray and get that right with God? Now, is there someone here today that the Holy Spirit of God has spoken to who has never accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour—someone who has never had that void filled in their lives? If you would, could you please raise your hand? No one else is looking around. It is just between you and me and the Lord. Then, I can help you to show you how you can simply ask God for His forgiveness. I won't embarrass you in any way—this is too important. VERY GOOD. When we have the invitation, will you please come here to the front and shake my hand signifying that you would like me have someone show you how you can accept the Lord? A qualified helper will take you into the office here and privately show you how to accept God's greatest gift.

Altar fall music