Monkey Business

"Therefore, even as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed on all men inasmuch as all sinned" (Rom 5:12).

One morning, the entire island of Barbados was plunged into a state of confusion. Radio and television stations temporarily lost transmission, and people getting ready for work and school were slowed right down. There was a power outage, and as calls were made from one household to another with the question, "Can I come over to iron my clothes?" it was soon discovered that no one had electricity. It was an island-wide "black-out."

Now, island-wide power outages are rare, and when outages do occur, power is usually restored quite quickly. But on this particular occasion, hour after hour went by, and slowly the island came to a practical stand-still as businesses, offices, supermarkets and schools closed their doors.

Authorities at the Barbados Light and Power Company were being questioned, investigations were being carried out. What could have caused this problem, and why was it taking so long to solve it?

Eventually, the apparent cause of this nation-wide chaos was discovered - a monkey! Yes, a monkey, lying dead at the bottom of a utility pole. This creature seemed to have ventured where he should not have been, among the high tension wires.

This terrible mistake had caused his death and the misery of an entire nation.

Whether you realise it or not, there is a world-wide "black-out." The dark, debilitating grip of sin has left every man, woman, boy and girl powerless. No one has the ability to function in the way that is pleasing to God while under sin's deathly control.

"There is none righteous, no not one; there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God."

"They are all gone out of the way, they have together become unprofitable, there is none that does good, no, not one" (Rom 3:10-12).

So what has caused this terrible condition? We need to go back to the garden of Eden, and there we discover that it was the sin of one man, his disobedience to God, that caused his own death and plunged the entire world into a state of misery in sin.

Therefore, even as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed on all men inasmuch as all sinned" (Rom 5:12).

Now, with the expert skills of the Barbados Light and Power crews, electrical power was gradually restored to the island, and plans put in place to avoid such a catastrophe recurring.

But what about our sin problem? How can we gain the power to live lives pleasing to God? We simply need to put our trust and every dependence in the One who paid the price for our sins, the Lord Jesus Christ. Confess your sins to Him today, trust Him as your Saviour. He will give you the "power to become [a child] of God" (John 1:12).

He has said that he wants to "open [your] eyes so that [you] may turn from darkness to light, and from the authority of Satan to God, so that [you] may receive remission of sins" (Acts 26:18).

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