

Know Your Bible

BY GENE TOPE

LESSON

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

SIN AND THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Thus the Bible states man’s failure and unfitness before God. Every accountable person finds himself under sin’s condemnation. It behooves every thinking person to pause and ask, “What is sin?” and “How can I be made free from sin’s terrible punishment?”

I. SIN

To many people, sin is nothing more than a violation of current social standards. They think of it as something “naughty” and involving a moral lapse of some kind or another. They may even call sin a “disease,” implying that the individual is not responsible for what he does. Such an interpretation of sin is altogether too shallow. 1 John 3:4 says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” The revision says, “sin is lawlessness.” Sin, then, is rebellion against God. Man says in effect, “God, you don’t know what you are talking about.” This is what makes sin so serious: we are not flaunting our parents, or society, but our Creator and God.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

Sin may be committed in many ways, by our failures as well as our deeds. The Bible teaches that it is just as sinful to refuse to obey the commands of Christ as to commit a grave act such as murder or drunkenness. Either will cause man to go to hell. Consider 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 and 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10. We often times think that morality is more important than obedience to God’s religious commands. We think it is worse to do something wrong than to fail to do something right. All such thinking is man’s frail viewpoint. Since the Bible teaches that omission is as sinful as commission and that irreligiousness will cause one to be lost as well as immorality, we must recognize this as being the true nature of sin.

Consider the first sin: Our parents, Adam and Eve, were placed in a beautiful garden surrounded by every good thing. God said, “Every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17,

18). Then, Satan deceived the woman and said, “Ye shall not surely die.” She believed the devil rather than God, ate the fruit, then gave to Adam and he ate also. Thus sin entered into the world. Though no *moral* transgression had taken place, man had nevertheless disobeyed his Maker. He had arrayed his human wisdom and will against God’s. All that God commanded had been right and good, but man thought otherwise. This was sin! This was lawlessness!

**THE RESULTS OF ADAM’S SIN SHOULD
BE NOTED AT THIS TIME.
THEY ARE LISTED IN GENESIS 3.**

- Woman would have pain in childbearing and be in subjection to her husband (v. 16).
- The earth was cursed with thorns and thistles (vv. 17, 18).
- Man would die (v. 19).
- Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden (vv. 22-24).



Q U E S T I O N S

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. _____ 3:4 gives us a good definition of sin.
2. Sin is the _____ of the law.
3. When we sin, we sin against _____.
4. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 speaks of those who obey not the _____.
5. Those who know not _____ will be punished with everlasting _____.
6. _____ will cause one to be lost as well as immorality.
7. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the tree of the _____ of good and _____.
8. _____ said, “Ye shall not surely _____.”

TRUE OR FALSE **CIRCLE CORRECT ANSWER**

- T F 1. All have sinned.
- T F 2. A person is not responsible when he sins.
- T F 3. Being morally good is more important than being religiously good.
- T F 4. Sins of omission are as sinful as sins of commission.
- T F 5. Adam and Eve committed a moral sin.
- T F 6. The devil lied to the woman.
- T F 7. Adam and Eve did not understand God’s command.

List here the results of Adam and Eve's transgression (as found in Genesis 3).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

II. SIN BRINGS PUNISHMENT

One way to understand the exceeding sinfulness of sin is to recognize God's punishment of it.

Separation From God. Sin separates man from sinless God. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isa. 59:1, 2). This is perfectly illustrated in the case of Adam and Eve. While in the garden God walked and talked with them, but after their transgression they were driven out and away from this intimate relationship with the Father. So it is with man today; sin deprives him of all the blessings of fellowship with God. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12).

Eternal Separation From God. Since it is true that sin separates man from God in this life, it must follow that, if man will not turn from sin, he shall be eternally separated from God in the life to come. This is precisely what the Bible teaches in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. Those who know not God and obey not the gospel "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." The Bible teaches that every person will go either to heaven (1 Pet. 1:4) or to hell (Matt. 10:28). If we are not with God in heaven, we will surely be with Satan in hell. To the wicked, Christ shall say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (v. 46). Here then is much of the terror of hell: the sinner shall be completely removed from the presence of God and his blessed influence. This world is bad enough, but suppose that all of God's blessings and goodness were suddenly taken away—no righteousness, integrity or morality—only evil continually—no hope, help, or grace. And yet, hell will be filled with people who have freely chosen to disobey the commands and directions of a gracious Father. Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat" (Matt. 7:13).

THE ANGUISH OF SIN

Not only must man pay a penalty for sin in the next life, but sin also causes him to suffer in this one. The devil, of course, tries to hide this fact and presents sin as only harmless pleasure. Beer and liquor are advertised most attractively, magazine pictures appeal to women to wear scanty clothing “to catch that man,” illicit sex in books and on the screen is portrayed as being “great fun,” gambling in every form is “exciting,” drugs will take you “out of this world,” and behind it all is the subtle contention that “everyone is doing it” and “a little bit won’t hurt you.” Satan is very clever indeed!



“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9, 10).

No, sin is not pretty. Let the sinner reflect soberly upon his life and the judgment to come and he will be filled with anguish, terror, and foreboding. These are the facts of sin.



QUESTIONS

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. God (1) will not (2) will punish sinners.
2. The eyes of the Lord are over (1) the righteous (2) the evil.
3. At the judgment, sinners will be (1) temporarily (2) eternally separated from the presence of God.
4. Jesus speaks of a broad way where (1) few (2) many will be led to destruction.
5. As the sinner thinks about judgment he should be filled with (1) terror (2) delight (3) indifference.

FILL IN THE RIGHT WORDS

1. "Your iniquities have _____ between you and your God, and your _____ have hid his face from you, that he will not _____."
2. The Bible teaches that every person will go either to _____ or _____.
3. Hell has been prepared for the _____ and his _____.
4. The Devil presents sin as harmless _____.
5. "Know ye not that the _____ shall not _____ the kingdom of God."

TRUE OR FALSE CIRCLE CORRECT ANSWER

- T F 1. God answers the prayers of the unrighteous (1 Pet. 3:12).
T F 2. Hell is an everlasting punishment.
T F 3. Narrow is the way that leads to destruction.
T F 4. It is all right for me to do something if everyone else is doing it too.
T F 5. God is too loving to punish sin.

III. SIN CANNOT BE INHERITED

It should be abundantly clear by now that sin is personal in its nature. It is something I do, or fail to do. No one can commit sin for me. It seems strange that some should teach differently, but they do.

Many denominations teach that sin is inherited, i.e. that an infant is born with the guilt of Adam's sin upon him. In the box below is an example of what they say.

HUMAN CREEDS

"We believe that through the disobedience of Adam and Eve the original sin passed to the entire human race. It is the depravity of the whole nature and the inherited sin with which the children are defiled even in the mother's womb . . ."

Dutch Reformed Church

There are a number of Bible reasons why this doctrine of inherited sin is false. Let us note them.

1. The definition of sin. Sin is “the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). What transgression have little babies committed? To affirm such would be foolish indeed. James teaches that there can be no sin unless it is first preceded by temptation and lust (Jas. 1:14, 15). Is a little baby capable of either?
2. Jesus tells us that we must become like *little children* in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:1-4). “For of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:14). Would Jesus say this if little children are sinners?
3. The Bible plainly tells us that one cannot inherit sin. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezel. 18:20).



TRUE OR FALSE **CIRCLE CORRECT ANSWER**

- T F 1. Sin is inherited.
- T F 2. The Bible teaches us that an infant is born in sin.
- T F 3. When lust is conceived, it brings forth sin.
- T F 4. Little children are not sinners because Jesus said, “For of such is the kingdom of heaven.”
- T F 5. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father.

IV. SIN AND THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Who can deliver man from his terrible slavery to sin? One thing is abundantly clear: Man cannot deliver himself. “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). Isaiah uses the figure of helpless sheep to picture sinful mankind as he remarks, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isa. 53:6). As sheep we cannot find the way back to the fold of safety, but are subject to all the perils of the wilds. We are in danger of being devoured by our ravenous enemy. We need a Shepherd to lead us aright. Christ is that good Shepherd who was willing to give his life for his sheep (John 10:11).

Other figures are used in the New Testament to tell us of Christ’s mission. John said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). He is pictured as a physician who has come to heal man of all his soul’s diseases (Matt. 9:12). He said, “For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Even his name signified his mission: “Thou shalt call his name Jesus (Savior), for he shall save his people from their sin” (Matt. 1:21).

WHAT JESUS DID FOR US

When John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world,” he was revealing the very heart of God’s plan for saving man. Almost from the very beginning God has commanded sacrifice. Abel’s acceptable offering consisted of “the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof” (Gen. 4). The Passover sacrifice was an unblemished lamb, a first-year male. Sacrifices, in the Old Testament era, were made daily (Heb. 7:27). The inspired writer says, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22).

Christ was God’s *final* sacrifice for sin. The sinless Son of God was to offer himself *once*, and the effectiveness of this action would be sufficient to take away the sins of the whole world, for all time to come (Heb. 10:12-14). For this cause it was necessary that Christ suffer on the cross. Without his sacrificial death there could be no forgiveness. What a price to pay!

Nor must we overlook the fact that Christ suffered in our stead. He died for us; he the sinless—we the sinners. Every abuse—the mockery, spitting, slapping, whipping, the burden of the cross, the cruel biting nails into quivering flesh, the thirst, the anguish, the pain—all of this was borne on our behalf. Here is the true picture of sin! Sin was destroying mankind. God, hating sin so much and loving man so dearly, offered up his own willing Son. How we should love Christ and hate sin! We should gladly obey all that our Savior commands us to do, lest it be said that for us he died in vain.



In closing, let us note Hebrews 5:8, 9: “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him.” In our next lesson we will consider the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in _____.
2. All we like _____ have gone _____.
3. Christ is the _____ Shepherd who gives his _____ for his sheep.
4. Without shedding of _____ is no remission.
5. Christ is the author of salvation to all who _____ him.

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE CORRECT ANSWER

- T F 1. Man cannot save himself.
- T F 2. The name "Jesus" means Savior.
- T F 3. Christ needed to offer himself only once for man's salvation.
- T F 4. Christ's cruel death shows the terribleness of sin.
- T F 5. Man need not obey Christ to be saved.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS LESSON

- The Bible is God's inspired message to mankind
- We can understand and obey the Bible
- The law of Moses was only for the Jewish nation
- Christ's New Testament is for all men everywhere
- The law of Moses ceased at the death of Christ
- Today, we live under the New Testament

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