

# 12. WHY SHOULD WE BE SO CONCERNED ABOUT SIN, GETTING RID OF IT AND OVERCOMING IT?

## LET THE SCRIPTURES ANSWER

*Note: all Scripture references are from the New King James Translation*

### 1. WHAT IS SIN?

1 John 3

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

5 And you know that He (*Jesus Christ*) was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 5

17 All unrighteousness is sin...

Romans 14

23 ...whatever is not from faith is sin. cf. Rom. 10:17

James 4

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Sin is deceitful (Romans 7:11; Hebrews 3:12-13). It hardens the heart (Hebrews 3:8) and it enslaves (John 8:34; Romans 6:16). Satan entices one to sin through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17; cf. Gen. 3:1-6; Matt. 4:3-9).

### 2. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

Isaiah 59

1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Proverbs 14

34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Ezekiel 18

4 ...The soul who sins shall die.

Romans 5

12 ...through one man (*Adam*) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned... cf. Gen. 3

Romans 6

23 ...the wages of sin is death...

James 1

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

### 3. WHO HAS SINNED?

Ecclesiastes 7

20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.

Isaiah 53

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him (*Christ*) the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3

10 ...There is none righteous, no, not one...

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

1 John 1

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

### 4. IS SIN INHERITED?

Ezekiel 18

20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon

himself.

#### Romans 14

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. cf. 2 Cor. 5:10

### 5. ARE INFANTS BORN IN SIN AND TOTALLY DEPRAVED?

#### Matthew 18

3 "...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." --*Jesus Christ*

#### Matthew 19

14 ...Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." cf. Mark 10:14

### 6. WHAT CAN FREE MAN FROM THE GUILT OF HIS PAST SINS?

#### John 8

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." --*Jesus Christ*

#### Hebrews 9

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands... but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 not that he should offer Himself often, as the High Priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. cf. Rom. 5:6-10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 5:8-9

#### Revelation 1

5 ...Jesus Christ... loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...

### 7. WHAT MUST WE DO TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM OUR PAST SINS?

#### John 8

24 "...if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." --*Jesus Christ*

#### Luke 13

3 "...unless you repent you will all likewise perish." -- *Jesus Christ* cf. Luke 13:5; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:9)

#### Acts 2

38 Then Peter said to them (*those who crucified Christ*), "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." cf. Rom. 6:3-6, 16-18

#### Acts 22

16 "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." --*Ananias to Saul of Tarsus*

### 8. WHAT MUST THE CHRISTIAN DO TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM SIN?

#### Acts 8

22 [*When Simon sinned after he believed and was baptized, Peter told him:*] "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."

#### 1 John 1

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

### 9. HOW ARE CHRISTIANS TO RESIST AND OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS TO SIN?

#### Matthew 26

41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." --*Jesus Christ*

#### Ephesians 6

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. cf. Eph. 6:12-18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:13; Rom. 6:8-14 & consider Christ's example: Mt. 4:1-11

--*David W. Echols Sr.*