

THOUGHTS ABOUT SIN

Genesis 3

Introduction: "Sin" entered the human race through Adam and the human race has been trying without success to get rid of it ever since. God warned Adam not to eat of this particular tree yet he did.

- We have resorted to every means to get rid of sin, education, philosophy, religion, governments, all to no avail.

- Our motives are good, some attempts are commendable BUT nevertheless, we have fallen far, far short of the goal every time.

- All our knowledge, inventions, developments, ambitious plans move us ahead just a little, before we fall right back to where we started. Why?

- We are still making the same mistake that Adam made. We are still trying to be king in our own right, with our own power, instead of obeying God's laws.

- We have proved to be true sons of Adam and we have followed faithfully in his steps. We may curse Adam, but we still imitate him.

- There isn't a single day that we do not face the same test that was set before Adam.

- There isn't a single day that we do not have a chance to choose between God and Satan.

- There isn't a single day that we don't have an opportunity to move closer to God and the garden that Adam had to leave.

- From the beginning of time till now, man's quest for power, his determination to use his gift of free choice for his own selfish ends has brought him to the brink of doom and the earth is scattered with ruins and rubble of his attempts.

- It is the presence of sin that prevents man from being happy. It is because of sin that man has never been able to attain the utopia, paradise. Every civilization has failed.

- A wise man once said that the world tragedies are but incidents in the upward march. It is a sad condition today. People keep telling us that things are going to get better with the next generation.

- All the sorrow, bitterness, violence, tragedy, heartache and shame of mankind are summed up in one little word - SIN. No one likes to be called a sinner, yet the Bible says, "***There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.***"

- SIN, plain, old fashioned sin caused Adam's fall and continues to cause our trouble today. Just what exactly is "sin?"

I. SIN IS LAWLESSNESS (*1 John 3:4*)

1. God established a boundary line between good and evil. When we overstep that boundary, when we become guilty of intrusion into that forbidden area of evil, we break God's law.
2. When we go contrary to the ideas expressed in the Sermon on the Mount, we have transgressed the law of God.
3. When we fail to live up to the Ten Commandments, we are guilty of SIN.

II. SIN IS INIQUITY (*Mark 7:21-23*)

1. Iniquity is the deviation from right, whether expressly forbidden or not.
2. Iniquity has to do with our inner thoughts and emotions. It is the things we try to hide from God and our friends. It is saying one thing but believing another - hypocritical things.

III. SIN IS MISSING THE MARK

1. It means falling short of God's pre-set goal for us.
2. It is God's desire that every Christian become like Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ showed us what heights we can attain. When we fail to follow His example we sin.

IV. SIN IS A FORM OF TRESPASS

1. When man places his own selfish will into the place of the will of God, this is sin.
2. When man prefers himself instead of God, this is sin.
3. When man centers his attention on himself instead of God, this is sin.
4. Egotism and selfishness are perhaps the most subtle and destructive form of sin. Each of us overlook this sin. Yet when we are guilty of this sin, we are as guilty in the eyes of God as any violent, disgusting, immoral, anti-Christian, anti-God person. (*Mark 8:36-38*)

V. SIN IS UNBELIEF

1. Unbelief is an insult to God.
2. It is Unbelief that shuts the door to heaven .
 - It is unbelief that opens the door to hell.
 - It is unbelief that rejects the word of God.
 - It is unbelief that rejects Jesus Christ as Savior.
 - It is unbelief that causes people to turn a deaf ear to the Gospel.
 - It is unbelief that will send countless numbers to spend an eternity in Hell.
 - It is unbelief that causes Christians to be fruitless.
 - It is unbelief that causes sin to seem to be unimportant.

CONCLUSION:

1. Sin brings the penalty of death and no person has the ability to save him/herself from this penalty. No person can cleanse his/her heart of corruption.
2. Only Jesus Christ is the remedy for sin. Only Jesus Christ can save the lost sinner from the fate that awaits him/her.
3. ***"...For the wages of sin is death." "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "None of them by any means redeems his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." "Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath."***
4. Man's only salvation from sin stands on a lonely barren, skull-shaped hill. A thief on one cross, a murderer on another and in the middle, a man with a crown of thorns and blood flowing from his brow, his hands, feet and side.
 - Who is this tortured figure? He is the Son of God, the Prince of Peace.
 - What brought Him to this place of horror? Who inflicted this torture upon his body?
YOU DID and I DID. It was our sins that nailed Him to the cross.
 - The blows that nailed Jesus Christ to the cross also broke open the gates for man to become free from sin and the penalty of death.
 - Jesus Christ died, but He arose. You can break the bonds of sin and death by believing in Him.