

SIN: ITS DIVERSIFICATION AND DESTRUCTIVENESS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Though the Bible does not make a distinction between big and little sins, it does describe sin in different aspects.

I. THE SIN OF IGNORANCE.

- A. Leviticus 5:14-19: “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ‘If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally (through ignorance) in regard to the holy things of the Lord, then he shall bring to the Lord as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering. And he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him. If the person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord, though he does not know it, (unwittingly or ignorantly) yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the Lord.”
- B. 1 Tim. 1:12-13: “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”
- C. Acts 26:9-11: “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.”

Note: Man is responsible to know the truth, to share the truth with others, and ignorance of God’s truth is not a valid reason for sin.

II. EVERYONE FACES THE PROBLEM OF SECRET SIN.

- A. Psalm 19:12-14: “Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.”
- B. Psalm 90:8: “You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.”
- C. Secret Sins are Sins Which We Hide From Others.
 - 1. Such sins will not likely remain secret:
 - (I) Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:1-11.
 - (II) Jonah. Jonah 1.
 - (III) David and Bathsheba. (2 Sam. 12:1-14.)
 - 2. Secret sins are crushing and insidious.
 - 3. Secret sins are brought to the Judgment. (Eccl. 12:14; 1 Tim. 5:24.)
- D. Secret Sins Home in the Heart and Involve:
 - 1. Impurity of Thought.
 - 2. Improper Motives.
 - 3. Wrong Attitudes.
 - 4. Violated Consciences.

III. EVERYONE HAS TO DEAL WITH ONE OR MORE BESETTING SIN.

- A. Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

1. Beset - that which encircles or entangles, like a loose flowing robe. Thus, we need to lay aside every hindrance in the Christian race.
2. What Are Our Besetting Sins?
 - (a) Is it some habit: gambling, drinking, cursing?
 - (b) Is it some attitude: judging, envy, jealousy, ingratitude, prejudice?
 - (c) Sin of the Tongue: Fault-find, gossip, lying, filthy speech?
 - (d) Misplaced Affection: Money, pre-eminence, pleasure?
 - (e) Sins of the Flesh: gluttony, petting, immorality.
3. Besetting Sins can be Aggravated by:
 - (a) Reverting to former associates.
 - (b) Exposure to former surroundings.
 - (1) God warns us to “flee.” (2 Tim. 2:22)
 - (2) We are to avoid temptation. (Matt. 6:13)
 - (3) Take the way of escape. (1 Cor. 10:13)

IV. WE SHOULD ALL BEWARE OF COMMITTING PRESUMPTUOUS SINS.

- A. Psalm 19:13: “keep me from presumptuous sins.”
- B. Daring to take a “high-handed view” of God’s commands and deciding to add to them or to take away from them as we like.
- C. Such sins were punishable by death:
 1. Numbers 15:3-36 - Gathering sticks on Sabbath.
 2. Deut. 17:11-13: - To carry out decisions of the priests, Levites, and the judge.
- D. Ignoring Doctrinal Commands is a Good Example:

God Says

Man Says

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Be immersed | Sprinkle |
| 2. For remission of sin | Not necessary |
| 3. Lord's Supper weekly | Any time will do |
| 4. Babies born safe | Born sinners |
| 5. Division is a sin | Church of your choice |

- (a) An arrogant attitude towards God's commands and a determination to do as one pleases and handles God's word loosely, instead of "aright" is surely guilty of sins that will face him in the judgment.

V. **THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY THAT ONE SIN IS BIGGER THAN OTHERS.**

- A. John 19:10-11: "Then Pilate said to Him, 'Are you not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?' Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.'"

B. The Old Testament Uses Three Hebrew Words for Sin:

1. Pesha - rebellion
2. Chata - missing the mark
3. Avon - perversity
4. The Bible does not teach that some sins are inconsequential;

- (a) No grain of sand is small in the mechanism of a watch. A little spark sets a forest on fire. A microscopic bacteria can endanger the whole body.

Note: A little hole can sink a vessel.

A little fruit in Eve's case.

A little look in the case of Lot's wife.

A little bundle of sticks of the Israelite.

A little silver in Achan's case.

A little touch in Uzzah's case.

C. Sins are Probably Greater:

1. Considering the condition of the heart of the sinner.
2. Considering the results and consequences of some sins.

SUMMARY:

- A. Psalm 24:3-5: “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”