

"BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT"

(Numbers 32:20-23)

"And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the Lord, until He hath driven His enemies from before Him, And the land be subdued before the Lord, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord. But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out."

I. WHAT IS SIN?

1. It Is Iniquity - A Deviation from a Straight Path.
 - A. Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
2. It is a Transgression of God's Law.
 - A. II John 9: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."
 - B. I John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law."
3. The Greek word for Sin ἁμαρτία means "To Miss The Mark."
 - A. "Sin is any thought, word, action, omission, or desire contrary to the law of God." (Crudens)

II. HOW CAN SIN BE CLASSIFIED?

1. Open I Tim. 5:24: "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after."
2. Secret Ecc1. 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
3. Personal Acts 5:3-5: "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whilest it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."
4. Congregational I Cor. 5:1-: "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and for such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife."
5. Omission Heb. 2:2-3: "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed by them that heard Him."

6. Commission II John 9: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God ... "
7. Ignorance I Tim. 1:12-13: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."
8. Willfulness Heb. 10:26: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

III. SIN IS UNIVERSAL - ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

1. Eccl. 7:20: "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."
2. I John 1:8: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."
3. Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
4. Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."
5. John 8:7: "So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

IV. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

1. It Separates One From His God.
 - A. Isa. 59:1-2: "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."
2. You Sow the Wind and Reap the Whirlwind.
 - A. Gal. 6:7-8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
3. It Brings Eternal Death.
 - A. James 1:14-15: "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."
4. It Leaves Scars and Stains on Both Body and Soul.

A. The Effect of Secret Sin.

(1) The majestic eagle bitten by serpent unseen and unfelt brought it reeling to the earth. Some secret sin has long been eating its way into the heart, and at last the proud life lies soiled and dishonored in the dust.

B. Illustration: Man with the Tack Board - put in a tack for every evil deed.

(1) He could remove the tacks, but the scars remained.

a. The way of the transgressor is hard.

V. MAN MUST BE WILLING TO CONFESS HIS SIN.

1. He Must Cease to Deny Its Existence in His Life.

A. Joshua 7:1-2: "And Achen answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel."

B. I Sam. 15:30: Saul said, "I have sinned yet honor me now I pray thee, before the elders of my people ..."

C. II Sam. 12:13: "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord."

D. Prodigal Son: "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee ..."

E. Judas Iscariot: "Then Judas which had betrayed Him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priest and elders saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood."

2. We Must Be Careful Not to Become Callous to Sin.

A. I Tim. 4:2: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

B. Eph. 4:17-19: "... who being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

VI. BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT. (Num. 32:20-23)

1. In Time.

A. The Sin of Drunkenness will pay you off in time with diseased body - mind.

B. The Drug Addicts will pay for sin in time with weakened physical-mental faculties.

C. The Man of Crime will finally be caught and punished or killed.

2. Sin Will Find You Out in Others.

A. Broken homes, delinquent children.

B. No man lives alone - a sinner influences others to sin.

- (1) He is actually leading them to hell.
 - a. Think of parents who are doing this to their children by a refusal to accept Christ and follow Him.
- 3. Sin Will Find You Out in One's Own Conscience.
 - A. The Sin of Adultery is a classic example of this.
 - B. The Depraved Prostitute will remember her days of purity and innocence.
 - C. The Cheater on School Exams and won the diploma by fraud.

Illustration: (Man in Middle Tennessee who killed little boy and dog.)

- (1) His conscience caused him to confess on deathbed after many years.
- D. Sometimes the Punishment May Be Immediate.
 - (1) Judas - Who went out and hung himself.
 - (2) Peter - Who went out and wept bitterly.
- E. Sometimes the Punishment May Be Remote.
 - (1) Macartney in The Greatest Texts Of The Bible says:

"Sometimes conscience is chloroformed and dulled by the occupations or pleasures of the world and sometimes by the very temporary delight which men get out of their transgressions. But this only means that the punishment of conscience will be all the more intense, and its exactions the more dreadful, when conscience finally awakes. Conscience may sleep in prosperity, only to awake in the storm of adversity."

VII. CALVARY'S CROSS IS GOD'S ANSWER TO SIN AS BLACK AS HELL.

- 1. Isa. 53:10-12: "Yet pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he ... shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied ... "
- 2. Isa. 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
- 3. I Cor. 15:3: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for your sins according to the scriptures."
- 4. II Cor. 5:21: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- 5. Gal. 1:4: "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."
- 6. Rom. 5:8: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

7. I Tim. 1:15: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."
8. Heb. 1:3: "Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."
9. I Pet. 1:18-19: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."
10. I Pet. 2:24: "Who His own self bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."
11. I John 1:7: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanseth us from all sin."
12. I John 2:1-2: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. And He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world."
13. Rev. 1:5: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."

VIII. REPENTANCE IS A MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN CONVERSION.

1. It is Here That a Man's Attitude Toward Sin and Rebellion is Changed.
 - A. Thus, Christianity becomes a way of life as a result of a changed perspective. It becomes one from disobedience to one of loyalty.

"There is a Fountain Filled With Blood
 Drawn From Immanuel's Veins
 And Sinners Plunged Beneath That Flood
 Lose All Their Guilty Stains."