

CHRISTIANITY

101

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

About

SIN & SALVATION
RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT

↑
HEAVEN

HELL
↓

THE NATURE OF MAN

◉ *The Nature of God* ◉

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SIN: THE TRUE ENEMY

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STUDY

- ▶ Theodore Parker once said: "I seldom use the word sin. The Christian doctrine of sin is the devil's own. I hate it utterly". His view of sin shaped his views as to the person of Christ, atonement, and salvation.

- ▶ In fact, the sin question is back of one's theology, soteriology, sociology, evangelism, and ethics. One cannot hold a Scriptural view of God and the plan of salvation without having a Scriptural idea of sin.

- ▶ One cannot proclaim a true theory of society unless he sees the heinousness of sin and its relation to all social ills and disorders. No man can be a successful New Testament evangelist publishing the Gospel as "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth", unless he has an adequate conception of the enormity of sin.

- ▶ Nor can a man hold a consistent theory of ethics or live up to the highest standard of morality, unless he is gripped with a keen sense of sin's seductive nature.

Charles B. Williams

WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN “SIN” AND “SINS.”

- ▶ “Sin is not a weakness or a flaw for which we cannot be held responsible. It is an energetic, purposeful antagonism to God.”
- ▶ SIN - The tendency or disposition to sin that we inherit from Adam.
- ▶ SINS - The specific, individual acts that we commit as a result of the tendency.

THE BIBLE GIVES US FIVE DEFINITIONS OF SIN. SIN IS:

- ▶ To break God's law (1 Jn. 3:4).
- ▶ Neglecting to do what we know is the will of God (Jm. 4:17).
- ▶ Acting outside the bounds of faith (Rom. 14:23).
- ▶ Unbelief (Jn. 16:8-9).
- ▶ All unrighteousness (1 Jn. 5:17).

FINALLY, CONSIDER THESE THOUGHTS ABOUT SIN, MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM:

- ▶ There are open sins and secret sins (Ps. 90:8).
- ▶ The open sins are obvious things like drunkenness, lying, profanity and theft.
- ▶ The secret sins are things that lie within the heart.

- ▶ 1 Jn. 3:15
- ▶ Mt. 5:27-28
- ▶ Jer. 17:9
- ▶ Mk. 7:21-22

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE SEEM LIKE BIG SINNERS AND OTHERS NOT SO MUCH? LET CLARENCE LARKIN ANSWER:

- ▶ In fruit there is a tendency to rot and decay, and unless preserved it will soon perish. So it is with the “root principle” of sin in the human heart. Out of Christ there is no difference between men.

- ▶ Take a man honest, honorable, truthful, upright, benevolent; take a woman pure, chaste, amiable, gentle, meek, the embodiment of all loveliness: take some sweet girl, pure as a lily, the light of the household, a living joy; take a little child, innocent, the heaven-sent prattler of the fireside, and as unspotted as the new fallen snow;

- ▶ ...and what is the difference between any of these and the lost spirits, the sin saturated souls hating and hated, cursing and cursed, blaspheming and damned that writhe in Hell? It is simply the difference between meal into which the leaven has been placed, and meal in which the leaven has done its work. It is simply the difference as to time and development (Rightly Dividing the Word, p. 186-187).

WHAT IS MEANT BY “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH?”

- ▶ First of all, it is more than mere physical death because those who are righteous die physically.
- ▶ It is not “spiritual death” because sinners are already spiritually dead (Ep. 2:1-3).

- ▶ It refers to “eternal death” (Rev. 20:11-15).
- ▶ Death is the separation of the soul from the body (Ge. 35:18).
- ▶ At the resurrection of the wicked dead, they will get their bodies back.
- ▶ Once they are judged and sentenced, they will “die again.” This is the second death and it is eternal.

CHARLES SPURGEON

- ▶ “Men will allow God to be everywhere but on his throne. They will allow him to be in his workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow his bounties. they will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean;

- ▶ ...but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth. And we proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust."

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