

“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program

Lesson Three- What is Sin?

Scripture- Genesis 2:15-17

Memory verse- 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:”

INTRODUCTION- The term “sin” has nearly disappeared from public vocabulary, and it has been replaced by words such as: “error”, “mistake”, “indiscretion”, “misdeed”, or “blunder”. Not only has the name of sin been diluted, but also the nature of sin has been weakened. Some have made an argument that sin is merely a figment of our conscience (a guilt complex), while others excuse sinful activities due to immaturity, ignorance, or maladjustment. Regardless of the



modern views concerning sin, everyone comes to know the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. As children, civilized man grows within an environment governed by rules. The choice of disobedience to the law is met with punishing consequences if it is discovered. But, prior to the wrong being found out, guilt of sin begins afflicting the soul of man. We have all suffered under the guilt of sin—knowing we have done wrong. Our problem is not that we are “underdeveloped”, as the Evolutionists teach, but that we are, as the Bible teaches, “*by nature the children of wrath*” (Ephesians 2:3). Our dilemma is not the wrong we have done outwardly, but the sin that we are made of inwardly. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. Though our appearance be altered, in our heart, we would still be a sinner. Therefore, it is not reformation, but transformation that sinful man needs desperately. In this lesson, we will pull back the curtain on sin by answering the question—What is sin?

I. THE “ ” OF SIN IN THE WORLD

SIN- “Any action or thought that contradicts God’s law; the perversion of right according to God’s Word” (I John 3:4; Romans 7:7).

A. Sin was first found in _____.

(Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-18; Revelation 12:1-12; John 8:44; Matthew 4:3, 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

- B. Sin was later found in _____.**
(Genesis 3:1-6; I Timothy 2:13-14; Isaiah 43:27; Genesis 2:17; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)

NOTE- Consider the following illustration: Suppose you pluck an apple from an apple tree, but as you inspect the apple, you notice a “worm-hole”. You assume that a worm has crawled up the tree, out to the limb, and into the apple. You open the apple thinking to find the worm that has entered it to spoil the inside, but find no worm. Why? Because it is not a case of the worm crawling into the apple. The worm laid its eggs upon the apple blossom before it ever became an apple. Once the apple was formed, the eggs hatched within the apple, and the worm crawled out. Sin lies within the very blossom of human existence, and like the worm, it will eventually work its way out into our lives. The ugliness we see coming out of man is but the offspring of what has been born in man—SIN.

II. THE “ _____ ” OF SIN IN THE WORLD

- A. Sin breaks man’s _____ with God.**
(Genesis 2:8; Jonah 1-2)
- B. Sin blinds man’s _____ on God.**
(II Corinthians 4:4; Romans 8:5; I Corinthians 2:14)
- C. Sin binds man’s _____ from God.**
(Zechariah 12:1; Job 32:8; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Ephesians 2:1-5; James 2:26)

III. THE “ _____ ” OF SIN FOR THE WORLD

- A. The prepared place to receive sinners without pardon is _____.**
(Matthew 13:41-42, 22:13)
- B. The prepared place to receive sinners with pardon is _____.**
(Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10-20; Isaiah 53:6-9; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:8-9; I John 1:7; I Peter 3:18; John 14:3; I Peter 1:3-4; Revelation 21:27)

IV. CONCLUSION

To convince people that they have done wrong or that nobody is perfect and without sin is not difficult to accomplish. The difficulty for man seems to be found in his refusal to accept the fact that he needs a Saviour to pardon his sins eternally. Possibly, for some people, their own pride stands in the way of forgiveness. To say that everyone has sinned is easy to admit, but to confess that "I have sinned" is harder. If we should understand that we are guilty of sin, there is a penalty for sin, there is an eternal punishment for sin, but there is an availability of eternal pardon of sin, would it not lead us to find out how we might be forgiven? Will you bear your own sins to the grave or allow Another to bear them for you? Great are the consequences of dying in your sins (Luke 16:19-24).

Student tip- Praise the Lord that Christ did not come to the world to rub sin in, but that He came to rub it out!