

WHAT IS SIN?

Roman 6:23

INTRODUCTION

- A. Preachers and teachers of the Word of God would like to have the power to conceive what sin is and to set it adequately before mankind.
- B. The history of man is built around three trees:
 1. The tree of knowledge – GE 2:17 – bringing to our mind man’s sin.
 2. The tree of Calvary – Acts 5:30 – revealing to us man’s redemption.
 3. The tree of life – RE 2:7 – telling us of man’s eternal home.

DISCUSSION**I. THE BIBLE’S DEFINITIONS OF SIN.**

- A. Sin is a violation of the conscience. RO 14:23 – “Faith” in direct contrast with “doubt” – not “the gospel system” like GA 1:23; Jude 3. Refers to faith in the subjective sense, the persuasion or confidence of the individual. We must have full persuasion that what we are doing is lawful; otherwise, to act, is to sin. We must believe a thing to be right, that God will approve of it, before we do it.
 1. Conscience is that moral nature about us that reacts favorably or unfavorably, sanctions or disapproves, hurts or feels good, as we react to the things we think, say or do.
 2. The conscience must be educated. The best education for the conscience is the Word of God. Cf. Acts 23:1; 24:16; 26:9 – good conscience but not right.
 3. The conscience is not an infallible guide. JN 16:2.
 4. The conscience can be dulled. 1 TI 4:2; EP 4:19.
 5. Need to obey HE 10:22 when in doubt. (Doubt – playing a certain game, going to a certain place to eat, attending any function, saying a certain thing, selling a given commodity, practicing a certain habit.
- B. Knowing to do good and not doing it, is sin. JA 4:17.
 1. Sin is not only wrong doing it is also failure in right doing, failing to do good. The knowledge of what is right carries with it a responsibility to do right. Cf. LK 12:47-48.
- C. A violation or breaking of God’s law is sin. 1 JN 3:4.
 1. This passage teaches us that there is a law. RO 4:15.
 2. Since the law says that we are not to sin, curse, forsake the assembly, etc and we do anyone of these, etc, then we have sinned.
 3. This passage teaches that sin is a personal refusal to be governed and circumscribed by God’s law – human will verses divine will.
 4. This passage teaches us that sin is something done not inherited. GE 3:13.
- D. A failure to keep God’s commands is sin. 1 JN 5:17.
 1. Since a failure to obey the commands of the Lord constitutes unrighteousness, how does the following commands relate to your individual life.
 2. Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 1 CO 16:2; JA 1:27; Acts 17:30; MK 16:15-16; 2 TI 2:2.
 3. We sin by breaking the law of God and when we fail to obey His commands.
 4. Sin is any thought, word, action, omission or desire, contrary to the law of God.

II. A DISCUSSION OF THE SIN OF OMISSION.

- A. Sin of omission? The question is: What have you done? MT 25 – in these judgment scenes they were lost because of what they had failed to do.
- B. MT 21:19. Harmlessness is not holiness!
- C. What causes the sin of omission?

1. Indifference. RE 2:1-7.
 2. Spiritual indolence and a lack of zeal. RE 3:14-22; RO 12:11; TS 2:14.
 3. Over cautiousness.
 4. Resting upon the brethren. GA 6:4-5.
 5. The grasshopper complex. NU 13:26-14:5; PH 4:13.
 6. Fear of failure. MT 25:25.
 7. A lack of faith. GA 5:6; JA 2:14-26.
 8. A lack of love. 1 JN 3:17-18; JN 14:15.
 9. Confusion between the work and worship of the church. Acts 2:42; 5:42.
 10. Substituting words for works. Acts 11:29; MK 14:8.
 11. Substituting preparation for performance.
 12. Failing to accentuate the positive.
 13. Failing to realize that we are all responsible and that we are all needed.
- D. What will help us to overcome the sin of doing nothing?
1. We must remember that what we are doing is being done for and unto the Lord. MT 25:31-46.
 2. We must remember that the smallest deed done will receive its appropriate reward. MT 10:42; PR 11:18.
 3. We must never forget that success is assured in working for the Lord. PS 126:5-6; 1 CO 15:58.
 4. We must come to see the importance of our work. MT 16:26.
- E. The sin of omission, the sin of doing nothing, the sin of shirking our responsibilities, is indeed tragic and fraught with many curses.
1. It violates every command of the Bible to work. JN 9:4; 1 CO 15:58; 2 TI 2:15; 1 TH 1:3; 1 TI 4:10.
 2. It is turning a deaf ear to the Lord's invitation to work in His vineyard. MT 20:1-16; 21:28-32.
 3. It is antagonistic to every figure of the NT church. MT 20:1; EP 6:11-17.
 4. It is so ungodly and un-Christ-like. JN 5:17.
 5. Spiritual growth is retarded. Acts 8:1-4; CO 1:23.
 6. Factions and troubles will arise.
 7. Sins of commission will automatically obtain. LK 11:23-26.
 8. Such constitutes a real hindrance. LK 13:7.
 9. God's work will just not get done.
 10. The individual is robbed of happiness. RE 22:3.
 11. One is rendered unfit for death and the judgment. MT 25.
 12. Such will cause one to miss heaven. JN 15:1-8.
 13. A religion that does nothing, costs nothing, gives nothing, suffers nothing, and is worth nothing!

CONCLUSION

- A. We need to study SIN seriously!
- B. Sin – whether it is commission or omission – will cause me to lose my soul!