

SIN: THE BIBLE'S EPITHETS FOR SIN

Psalm 51:1-4

INTRODUCTION

- A. What is sin?
1. Sin is a violation of the conscience – RO 14:23.
 2. Sin is knowing to do good and not doing it – JA 4:17.
 3. Sin is a violation or breaking of God's law – 1 JN 3:4.
 4. Sin is a failure to keep God's commands – 1 JN 5:17.
- B. Epithets – "A characterizing word or phrase accompanying or occurring in place of the name of a person or thing." (Webster).
- C. There are a number of words in the Bible – OT and NT – regarding sin.

DISCUSSION

I. WORDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT REGARDING SIN.

- A. Sin is transgression. PS 51:1, 3.
1. Defined – Strong's H6588 *pesha* ' /peh-shah/] "1 transgression, rebellion. 1A1 transgression (against individuals). 1A2 transgression (nation against nation). 1A3 transgression (against God). 1A3A in general. 1A3B as recognised by sinner. 1A3C as God deals with it. 1A3D as God forgives. 1A4 guilt of transgression. 1A5 punishment for transgression. 1A6 offering for transgression."
 2. EX 34:7; PS 32:1, 2; 51:2; IS 59:12.
 3. It means "rebellion, transgression – setting one's self against the will and law of God." (Kyle M. Yates).
 4. The sinner is a rebel.
 5. Sin is a clenched fist and its object is the face of God.
 6. Sin is more than just breaking a set of rules and regulations – it is rebellion against, and a defiance of, the Ruler and Regulator Himself.
 7. Example: King Saul – 1 SA 15 is a graphic illustration of this – 1 SA 15:22-23.
 8. "Transgression" emphasizes one's contempt for the Lawmaker – God!
- B. Sin is iniquity. PS 51:2-3. IS 59:2.
1. Defined – Strong's H5771 *avon*, 'avown /aw-vone/] "1 perversity, depravity, iniquity, guilt or punishment of iniquity. 1A iniquity. 1B guilt of iniquity, guilt (as great), guilt (of condition). 1C consequence of or punishment for iniquity."
 2. It means "iniquity, that which is twisted or crooked. It is in realty depravity of conduct." (Yates).
 3. God's word draws a straight line. It is our responsibility to walk parallel – to walk a straight line – to that word, bending neither to the right or the left. DT 5:32; Joshua 1:7. Truth is absolute! Situation ethics is directly opposed to the Biblical concept of sin being iniquity.
 4. Franklin Camp said, "The shortest distance from earth to heaven is a straight line."
 5. "Iniquity" emphasizes one's contempt for "the law" itself.
- C. Sin is "sin." PS 51:4. IS 59:2.
1. Defined – Strong's H2398 *chata* ' /khaw-taw/] "1 to sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit, purify from uncleanness. 1A (Qal). 1A1 to miss. 1A2 to sin, miss the goal or path of right and duty. 1A3 to incur guilt, incur penalty by sin, forfeit. 1B (Piel). 1B1 to bear loss. 1B2 to make a sin-offering. 1B3 to purify from sin. 1B4 to purify from uncleanness. 1C (Hiphil). 1C1 to miss the mark. 1C2 to induce to sin, cause to sin. 1C3 to bring into guilt or condemnation or

punishment. 1D (Hithpael). 1D1 to miss oneself, lose oneself, wander from the way. 1D2 to purify oneself from uncleanness.”

2. Sin is falling short of God’s purpose or mark for us.
3. Christ is God’s purpose for us. The object of all living must be Christlikeness. When we do not live up to the standard, we sin. We can see that the sinner is a failure. The very definition of the word “sin” conveys the futility of sin.

II. WORDS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT REGARDING SIN.

- A. Sin is missing the mark.
 1. Defined – Strong’s G264 ἁμαρτάνω [*hamartano* /ham·ar·tan·o/] “1 to be without a share in. 2 to miss the mark. 3 to err, be mistaken. 4 to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong. 5 to wander from the law of God, violate God’s law, sin.”
 2. RO 3:23; 1 CO 8:12; 15:34; EP 4:26; 1 JN 1:10; 2:1.
- B. Sin is transgressing or over passing a line.
 1. Defined – Strong’s G3847 παράβασις [*parabasis* /par·ab·as·is/] “1 a going over. 2 metaph. a disregarding, violating. 2A of the Mosaic law. 2B the breach of a definite, promulgated, ratified law. 2C to create transgressions, i.e. that sins might take on the character of transgressions, and thereby the consciousness of sin be intensified and the desire for redemption be aroused.”
 2. RO 4:15; GA 3:19; 1 TI 2:14; HE 2:2; 9:15.
 3. “Hold that line,” is to be our cry. We have a responsibility both offensively and defensively. We must stay on the right side of the line – the line between truth and error, right and wrong, the church and denominationalism, purity and immorality, spirituality and worldliness, etc.
- C. Sin is falling where one should have stood.
 1. Defined – Strong’s G3900 παράπτωμα [*paraptoma* /par·ap·to·mah/] “1 to fall beside or near something. 2 a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness. 2A a sin, misdeed.”
 2. RO 4:25; 5:15, 16, 17, 18, 20.
- D. Sin is lawlessness.
 1. Defined – Strong’s G458 ἀνομία [*anomia* /an·om·ee·ah/] “1 the condition of without law. 1A because ignorant of it. 1B because of violating it. 2 contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness.”
 2. MT 7:23; 13:41; 24:12; TS 2:14.
- E. Sin is bending the right and making it crooked.
 1. Defined – Strong’s 93 ἀδικία [*adikia* /ad·ee·kee·ah/] “1 injustice, of a judge. 2 unrighteousness of heart and life. 3 a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness.”
 2. Acts 8:23; 1 CO 13:6; 2 TI 2:19.

CONCLUSION

- A. One must be serious in their study of sin!
- B. God hates “sin” - no matter what word – Hebrew or Greek – that we defined!
- C. Sin will keep one out of heaven.