

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

July 8, 2018

“The Nature of Sin Part 1”

By Brian Meade

The Bible gives us the nature of what sin really is by example and scripture. It is the Christian’s goal to abstain from sin to the best of our ability, but all have missed the mark (Rom. 3:23). But by a better understanding of what sin is, we can avoid sin’s power over us through the help of God.

(1) Sin is a Choice.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, man has faced temptation from the Devil. Eve was faced with the temptation (Gen. 3:6) and made the decision to partake of the tree forbidden by God. In James 1:14-15, the scriptures make it clear that each person “*is drawn away by his own lusts, and enticed.*”

In I Corinthians 10:13, the scriptures tell us, “*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*” God will provide the way of escape, but it is up to us to choose to take it. Having said that, some deny free-will in regard to temptation and sin, in what is called *man’s sin nature* or *depravity*.

But the scriptures plainly teach us that sin is conceived in the heart of man and is *his choice* to break God’s laws (Ezekiel 18:1-20; Matthew 12:18-20; Proverbs 1:8-33; Acts 5:4).

If man has no choice in the matter of sin, then why would God provide “*the way of escape?*” It would be pointless and utter futile to provide such an escape to someone who cannot choose to take it. Even worse still, if God holds men accountable for something beyond their control—yet, that is the main error of John Calvin and his doctrine of Calvinism. This erroneous doctrine teaches that we are born sinners and do not have the ability to choose anything other than sin. It basically looks at sin as a disease passed on by parents to their children. It even limits those who can be saved to an arbitrary chosen few (without free-will in the choice). When you try to take free-will out of the Bible, you do not come to proper conclusions.

Notice the Bible speaks in such terms that indicate man has a choice. Joshua said to the people of his day, “*Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

It is only when we make the wrong choice and stay in sin— rather than choosing to repent and seeking God’s repentance— that God holds us accountable and will punish us at the Judgment Day. (Romans 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) Otherwise God would not be fair and equitable in His judgment, but such is NOT the case!



(2) Sin is the breaking of God's law.

The best way to define sin is by the Bible itself. The Bible tells us in I John 3:4, "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*" (KJB) Here, in this passage of scripture, sin is defined as transgression of the law of God. Transgression is defined by Webster as, "*1. To go beyond or over (a limit or boundary). 2. To act in violation of the law.*" Newer translations like the NASB, NKJB, and the ESV use the term "*lawlessness*" in I John 3:4. Lawlessness comes from the Greek word *anomia* and is the condition or deed of one who acts contrary to law. The word unrighteousness, *adikia*, is defined as "*a deed violating law and justice.*"



Also, another Greek word translated sin in the scriptures is *harmartia*, and is defined as "*to miss the mark.*" (Vine's Expository dictionary) When we sin, we have missed the mark that God's law would have us to keep.

We have looked at the definition of sin in I John 3:4, and now we can reinforce this by examples of sin.

(1) Adam and Eve broke the command of God in the garden (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6). Genesis chapter three speaks of all the curses that the breaking of God's law brought into the world (sin, death, loss of fellowship with God).

(2) In Exodus 32:1-8, the Children of Israel "*.....turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it,*" (verse 8).

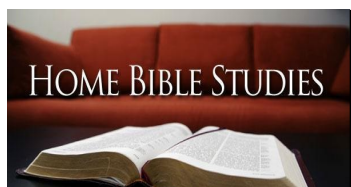
(3) King David sinned in committing adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite (II Samuel 11:1-5). David willfully broke the seventh of God's Ten Commandments, by the act of adultery.

(4) Ananias & Sapphira conspired to lie to Peter and the Holy Spirit in Acts 5:1-10. Their sin cost them their lives that day! We should learn from the past that God looks at the breaking of His laws, commandments, and precepts as a serious offense. (Proverbs 14:9; Psalm 51:1-4; Revelation 21:8)

Some have mistakenly taught that God was all about law, commandments, and precepts in the Old Testament under Moses, but that all ended at the cross. They teach that we are not under any system of laws to keep in the New Testament age. This is called the *no law* position— in regard to the New Covenant. But they have to willingly forget that Christ has laws for us in our dispensation as well. (James 1:25)

Paul even says, "*...Where there is no law, there is also no violation.*" (Romans 4:15) If we have not failed to keep God's law by either omission (neglect) or commission (committing offense), we have not sinned.... No law has been broken.

That would mean, if God has no laws for us today, no one is a sinner. But we ARE under law to Christ, Just as Paul was under law to Christ. (I Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2) We still have the moral laws against adultery (Matthew 19:9; Hebrews 13:4), stealing (Ephesian 4:27); and lying (Colossians 3:9) and so on. These are prohibitions against doing such works of the flesh that Galatians 5:19-21 speak of as sins that keep us out of heaven. Although not written on tables of stone, they are very much in force today as necessary for us to keep.

 <p>HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p>	<p>A Women's Bible Class will meet monthly at Miche, TN. at the home of Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.</p>
---	--

*"O for a faith that will not shrink,
Tho' pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe.*

*That will not murmur or complain
Beneath the chastening rod,
But in the hour of pain and grief or pain,
Will lean upon its God.*

*A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt!*

*Lord give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en here the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home."*

W. H. Bathurst

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, Eric Potts, Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Robert Adams, and Velma Tucker, Gaddy Hall, and Kelcy Whittemore.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Adam Harris
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "The Dangers of Pride"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Page 9, Question #9

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Adam Harris
1 Timothy 2:8-10
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Lord's Table: Russell Briggs
Assisting: Nathan Meade & Chris Callahan
Preaching: Brian Meade
Invitation: "The Modest Dress of a Christian"
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 11th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 84, Question #10
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade