

# S i n!

Properly understood, the most horrible word in the vocabulary of man is the word “**sin**.” The most miserable condition one can be in is to be in a lost condition, a condition which results from **sin**. It was **sin** which caused man to be driven from the Edenic paradise with the sentence of death upon him, Gen. 3:16-19, and it is **sin** that separates man from the God of heaven, Isaiah 59:1-2. In every possible way **sin** is an insult to God and a reproach to man. Concerning **sin**, there are at least four questions to which we need to know the answers; namely: (1) What is sin, (2) What causes sin, (3) What sin does, and (4) How to overcome sin.

## What Is Sin?

“*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law; for sin is the transgression of the law,*” I John 3:4. To transgress means “to go aside,” “to go beyond,” “to go over,” or to overstep “the limits.” (**Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**, by Vine, page 149. Therefore a person sins when he steps aside, goes beyond, cuts across, or in any way violates the law of God. This is so clearly illustrated by the sin of Adam! God said to Adam, “*of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it,*” Gen. 2:17. Adam, however, “*did eat*” thereof, Gen. 3:6, and, in so doing, he overstepped the limits of God’s law, and thus “*sin entered into the world, and death by sin,*” Gen. 3:6; Rom. 5:12.

## What Causes Sin?

Sin is caused by the temptation of lust which has been allowed to conceive. “*But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,*” Jas. 1:14-15. This is why it is so imperative that we “yield not to temptation,” and why we, when tempted, should pursue the “*way of escape*” which God has so lovingly provided. Cf. I Cor. 10:13.

## What Sin Does

“*...Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,*” James 1:15. “*The wages of sin is death...*,” Rom. 6:23. “*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear,*” Isa. 59:2.

## How To Overcome Sin

We can’t on our own! Sinful man is helpless to save himself. Because of sin, animal sacrifices were offered from the time of Abel, Gen. 4:4, to the crucifixion of Christ, but of those sacrifices the apostle declared: “*It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins,*” Heb. 10:4. On the other hand, man who “*has sinned and come short of the glory of God,*” Rom. 3:23, was not in a position to provide a satisfactory atonement for his own sins. It required nothing less than Divinity becoming incarnate with humanity; namely, the sacrificial offering of the Spirit-conceived, virgin-born, heaven-sent Son of God, “*the lamb of God,*” John 1:29, dying upon that cruel cross in behalf of sinful man; yea, in behalf of **you** and **me**! Through His sacrificial death in

our behalf, the demands of divine justice were thereby met, enabling a merciful God to be both a “*just*” God and at the same time a justifying God! Rom. 3:23-26. Hence, Jesus the Gift of God’s love, John 3:16, “*became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross,*” Phil. 2:8, and in His death, “*he by the grace of God*” tasted “*death for every man,*” Heb. 2:9. Moreover, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the “*Gospel*” became a reality, I Cor. 15:1-4, and through their obedience to the gospel sinners can be saved, Rom. 1:16.

However, it is possible for man to spurn the gift of God’s love, to ignore His invitation, to reject His saving Gospel, and thus be lost in a devil’s hell, 2 Thess. 1:7-9! Though He wants all people everywhere to be saved (and though He died to make it possible), Jesus will not save everyone. He “*became the author of eternal salvation*” only to those “*that obey him,*” Heb. 5:9. The faith that moves one to repentance, confession, and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Matt. 10:32; Acts 2:38) is the faith that saves one from his past sins and makes him a child of God, a member of Christ’s body, the church. (Acts 2:47; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-29),

How does one overcome sin? By obeying the primary requirements of the gospel of Christ, and thus, having his sins “*washed away,*” Acts 22:16, continuing thereafter to “*walk in the light*” of God’s revealed will, I John 1:7. Friend, are you a saved servant of Jesus Christ, or are you a lost servant of sin? Jesus invites you to “*come to*” Him, Matt. 11:28-30. Don’t delay! Tomorrow may be too late!

\*\*\*\* —B. Witherington

### “**Into All Truth**”

“*Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into **all truth**: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear; that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come,*” John 16:13.

Bible students will recall that this scripture contains a promise Jesus made to the apostles prior to His being crucified, and prior to His glorious ascension to heaven. Though Jesus would soon be crucified, raised from the dead, and ascend from their midst, He promised His apostles that the Father would give to them “*another Comforter...even the Spirit of truth,*” Who would “*teach*” and bring “***all things***” to their remembrance. Cf. John 14:26; 15:26.

But how much truth did Jesus say His apostles would receive? Jesus said they would be guided “*into **all truth,***” John 16:13. This is why Jesus prayed for those who would believe on Him “*through **their** word,*” John 17:20. This is why the last apostle, before forever laying down the pen of inspiration, closed the last chapter of the Bible with an anathema placed upon all who would “*add unto*” or “*take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,*” Rev. 22:18-19.

**If** the apostles were guided into “***all truth,***” **then** how much truth of a spiritual nature was yet to be delivered after they passed from this life? **None!** Then this necessarily knocks the spiritual props from all who would contend for the idea of

modern-day progressive revelation — whether it be the pope of Rome when he supposedly speaks “ex cathedra,” the religious cults of today (Adventists, Mormons, “Jehovah Witnesses,” etc.), the creed-makers of denominationalism, or even the anxious sinner, who is seeking for some supernatural “experience of grace” in the form of additional direct, apart-from-the-Bible revelation from God.

It simply means that one must not look outside the **word of God**, the Bible, **for the word of God**. Therein is revealed “all *truth*” — truth which we can “*understand*” if we “*read*” what the inspired men wrote, Eph. 3:4. This is why we must “speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where it is silent,” and why, regardless of who the preacher is, we must do as did the Bereans as they listened to the apostle Paul; they “*received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so,*” Acts 17:11.

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