

## THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

### CHAPTER 4

The subject of sin is a very important study in the Word of God. In fact, sin is very evident throughout the pages of the Bible. Sin is to blame for all of the suffering and sorrow in the world today. Sin is to blame for every heartbreak and homebreak. We will not be able now to go into a detailed study of this subject, but by God's help, we will study these three important thoughts: (1) *The Entrance of Sin*, (2) *The Effects of Sin*, and (3) *The Escape From Sin*.

#### THE ENTRANCE OF SIN

In Genesis 3:1-7 we have the story of the Entrance of Sin into the world. We do know that before this time, Satan had sinned and had been kicked out of Heaven by God Himself and brought with him chaos and confusion down to the earth.

#### THE FACT OF THE CREATION

When you study the story of Creation in the first chapter of Genesis, you will discover that God created the heavens and the earth, the light, the vegetation, the sun, moon, and stars, the fowls, the fish, the beasts of the field, and everything that exists, in six literal 24 hour days. Then, after creating all of these things, His last creative act was to make man in His own image and after His own likeness. He created everything by the power of His Word. He simply said, "***Let there be...***" and whatever He spoke, happened just as He said. As He finished each day, He looked at what He had created that day and "***saw that it was good.***"

In Genesis 2:7 we read, "***And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***" Here we have a simple threefold statement describing the creation of man which reveals to us that man is (1) *a body from the ground*, (2) *a breath from God*, and (3) *a being that is Godlike*.

After the creation of Adam, God saw that Adam needed an help meet, so He then put Adam to sleep, took a rib from his side, and from that rib, God made the woman and called her Eve, Genesis 2:21-22. For some time, Adam and his wife Eve lived in the garden that God had prepared for them, called the Garden of Eden. Here they lived in a wonderful state of innocence and enjoyed all the wonderful things that God had created. Their only restriction was, they were forbidden to eat of the fruit of one of the trees of the garden which God called "***the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,***" Genesis 2:16-17. God came down and walked with Adam and Eve in the garden in the cool of the day.

## THE FALL OF THE CREATURES

We do not know how long Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden before Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. We are simply told in Genesis 3:1-7 that one day the serpent tempted Eve and she ate of the fruit of the tree which God had forbidden them to eat. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam, who willingly ate it, and by doing so, he willfully sinned against God. As a result of the willful disobedience of Adam, sin made its entrance into God's creation. Notice three things about the Entrance of Sin. First, we look at *the Conquest of Satan*. It is amazing to learn Satan never attacked any of God's creation until God made man. He did not seem to be bothered by the creation of the plant life or the animal life, but as soon as God created man in His own image and likeness Satan goes on the warpath. Satan's conflict is not really with the man and woman, but with God the creator. He actually is attacking God by attacking them.

There are three times that Satan appears in the Bible. Here in Genesis 3, he appears before man the creature and accuses God the Creator and walks away delighted. He attacks the Word of God, the Wisdom of God, and the Will of God, in Genesis 3:1-5. In Job 1:6-12, Satan appears before God the Creator and accuses man the creature and once again walks away delighted. But in Matthew 4:1-11, Satan appears the third time, and this time he meets the Creator-Creature, (the God-Man) and here he accuses the Written Word to the Incarnate Word, but this time he walks away defeated.

Then we must also see *the Course of Sin* that Satan takes in these verses. First, in verses 1-5, he gets Eve to *listen* to him; in verse 6, he gets her to *look* at the forbidden fruit. While Eve was listening to the serpent and looking at the fruit, she **"...saw that it was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise."** The third step is, Satan causes her to *lust* for the food. After Eve *listened, looked, and lusted*, she partook of the forbidden fruit and *lost*. These four steps reveal to us the course of sin. If Satan can ever get you to listen to him, he will soon have you looking and lusting just as he did Eve. Then once you begin listening, looking, and lusting, it will not be long until you will lose also. Satan tempted Eve through three avenues; the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. These are the very same three avenues of temptation which were used on Jesus when He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, Luke 4:1-13; and he still uses them on us today. See I John 2:16.

In Genesis 3:7 we see *the Consequence of Sinning*. Sin affected Adam and Eve externally, internally, and eternally. Sin separates a person from God. The wages of sin is death, not just physical death, but also eternal death. Sin leads to eternal separation from God for everyone who dies unsaved.

## THE EFFECTS OF SIN

The sin of Adam and Eve brought the judgment of God upon the whole creation. This is what we know as "The Fall of Man." A thorough study of Genesis 3 will show that God pronounces judgment upon the Serpent, upon Eve, upon Adam, upon all the animal kingdom, upon all the vegetable kingdom, and upon the ground itself. He placed the entire creation under the curse because of Adam's sin.

In Genesis 3:14, God cursed the serpent. ***“Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”*** He then pronounces the curse upon the woman in Genesis 3:16, ***“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”*** In Genesis 3:17-19, He pronounces the curse upon the man and the ground. ***“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”***

All of the creation, the animal kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, the human race, and the ground itself are still under the effect of this curse today. In Romans 6:23 we read, ***“For the wages of sin is death.”*** Death, along with all the suffering and sorrow of our day, proves that the curse is still upon the creation and reminds us of the effects of the sin committed in the Garden of Eden. Before we leave this study, we should also realize that the sin of Adam and Eve is not the only thing that causes the problems on earth today. Since the fall of man, every person is born in sin. We are sinners by birth, but we are also sinners by behavior. We are responsible and accountable for our own sinfulness. We cannot place all the blame on Adam; we must take the responsibility for our own sins.

In order for us to understand what the effects of sin really are, we first must know what sin is. What you and I think about sin does not really matter. What GOD SAYS ABOUT SIN IS WHAT REALLY COUNTS. Men sometimes disagree on what is, or is not sin, but man is not the judge; God is. Since God is the judge, let's find out what He says is sin. The only place to find the correct answer is the Word of God. Here are four passages from the New Testament that gives us the definition of sin. Study them very carefully.

1. Romans 14:23, ***“...For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”***
2. James 4:17, ***“To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”***
3. I John 3:4, ***“...sin is the transgression of the law.”***
4. I John 5:17, ***“All unrighteousness is sin.”***

The Scriptures teach us there are three things that sin will do. Look at these very carefully.

1. Sin will lead you on, James 1:15
2. Sin will find you out, Numbers 32:23
3. Sin will pay you off, Romans 6:23

It has been said, ***“Sin will take you farther than you want to go; keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”*** If you ever think you can get by with sin, just study your Bible. You will find that greater men and women than you did not get by with their sin and you will not either.

In Isaiah 59:1-15, there is a good picture of what sin will do in the life of a believer. I will just give you the outline and you can follow it in your Bible.

I. SIN SEPARATES, V 2, -It will separate:

- A. A Man from his Creator
- B. A Man from his Church
- C. A Man from his Companion
- D. A Man from his Children

II. SIN STEALS, Vs 8-11, -It will steal:

- A. Your Peace, V 8
- B. Your Perception, V 9
- C. Your Power, V 10-11

III. SIN SCARS, V 12, -It will scar:

- A. Your character
- B. Your conscience
- C. Your career,
- D. Your children

## **THE ESCAPE FROM OUR SIN**

Man has tried many different ways to deliver himself from the bondage of sin, but none of them have proven to be successful. Man has tried the religion of his own works; he has tried reformation, and many other of his own ways, but none of them brought him freedom from the bondage of sin. There is only one place to find real freedom. In John 8:32, our Lord said, "***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***" We will briefly look at the truth that makes men free by providing him an Escape from Sin.

In order for one to escape from the prison of sin, there has to be a *Door*. In John 10:9, Jesus said "***I am the Door.***" A door is no good until it is hung, so God hung His door and swung it wide open upon Calvary's cross. Through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, God has provided a door of escape for every human being, so that we now can escape from the prison of sin.

This door of escape is available to every sinner through the gospel of Christ and the grace of God. The gospel of Christ and the grace of God are the two hinges upon which the door of escape swings open to the sinner who is bound in sin's prison. The grace of God rides upon the wings of the gospel message. There will never be any grace experienced where there is no gospel preached, but with the preaching of the gospel God releases His power to set men free. Paul said in Romans 1:16, "***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...***" We also find in Romans 5:20, "***...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.***" I am glad that there are no prison bars of sin so strong that the grace of God cannot break them open and set the captive free.

Not only must we realize there is a Door through which we can escape from sin, but also there is a *Delivery* that sets us free from our sins. When we were saved by the grace of God, the Lord Jesus took the scissors of grace and cut every band which sin had on our life and set us free from sin so that we might serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

This delivery began with our justification, it continues to be carried out in our daily lives in sanctification; and one day it will be completed in our glorification. Notice three simple thoughts about this delivery in II Corinthians 1:10. ***“Who delivered us from so great death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us.”*** Here we find that the word “deliver” and “delivered” occurs three times in this verse. The first delivery is *past*, the second delivery is *present*, and the third delivery is yet *future*. The first one speaks of *our past deliverance from the penalty of sin*, which happened in the *moment of our salvation*. The second one speaks of *our present delivery from the power of sin*, which is happening to us now *daily in our sanctification*. The third one speaks of *our future deliverance from the very presence of sin* and this will take place *in our glorification* when He comes again and resurrects us from the dead. Thank God, I have been delivered from the penalty of sin, I am now being delivered from the power of sin, and one day I shall be eternally delivered from the very presence sin.

Before we close this study, let me ask you a very serious personal question. Have you come through the door into the grace of God and found an escape from your sins? If you have not, God is waiting for you to come to Him right now with repentance and faith. Humble yourself and come to Christ and He will save you right now. Don't put it off.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did you read every passage of scripture that is mentioned in this chapter? If you did not, do so right now.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ created everything that exists today in \_\_\_\_\_ literal \_\_\_\_\_ days.
3. What are the three truths revealed in Genesis 2:7 which describe the creation of man.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. Adam and Eve lived in a state of \_\_\_\_\_ before they sinned.

5. Name the four steps in the course of sin.

a.

b.

c.

d.

6. Name the three avenues that Satan used to tempt Eve and still uses to tempt us today.

a.

b.

c.

7. What three ways did the consequence of sin affect Adam and Eve?

a.

b.

c.

8. What do we mean by the “fall of Man”?

9. What judgments did God place upon the serpent because of his part in the fall of man?

10. What judgments did God place upon the woman because of her part in the fall of man?

11. What judgments did God place upon the man because of his part in the fall of man?

12. Man is a sinner by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Give the four New Testament definitions of sin.

a.

b.

c.

d.

14. Name the three things which sin will do and give the Scripture references.

a.

b.

c.

15. Name the three things which sin does as mentioned in the outline of Isaiah 59.

a.

b.

c.

16. Who is the door through which we may escape from sin?

17. Name and describe the threefold deliverance from sin mentioned in II Corinthians 1:10.

a.

b.

c.

18. Have you been delivered from the penalty of sin by the Lord Jesus Christ?

*Be sure to study these questions until you know them well before you go to the next chapter.*