

## All Have Sinned

### *Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

The first thing we must realize before anything else will make sense is that we are a sinner who is in need of a Savior.

Let us read a few scriptures that paint this picture:

- "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Proverbs 20:9
- "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. . . ." Isaiah 53:6
- "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. . . ." Isaiah 64:6
- "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8
- "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5

These scriptures give us a real clear understanding of where we stand with God without His righteousness. No matter how good a person you are, or how good a life you have lived in our approach to God we must first understand, we have sinned.

### **Sin separates us from God.**

The word separate means: "to be afar, alone, cut off".

For different people there are different sin issues, what may be a temptation for one may be a non-issue for another, but everyone has something they struggle with.

- In our approach to God we must desire to get rid of the sin that separates us from God.
- When the bible talks about sin and iniquity, sin is the action; iniquity is the spirit behind the action, the motivation to sin so to speak.

Let's look at some more scriptures.

- "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18
- "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2
- "And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities." Isaiah 64:7
- "They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them." Hosea 5:6

**Sin brings about eternal death.**

This means eternal separation of the sinner from God, a casting into the lake of fire which is called "the second death."

- Hell is a real bible doctrine, a literal place of torment.
- "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:23-24

What does the scripture about sin bringing about death?

- "As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." Proverbs 11:19
- "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4
- "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12
- "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

Yet, God requires that a person who gets into heaven must be without sin and must be holy.

- "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin." 1 John 3:5
- "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:5-6
- "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:8
- "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13
- "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Corinthians 15:50

**The sin issue must be recognized.**

When we are asked to be without sin, we are asked to be something that is utterly impossible for us to accomplish within ourselves. It is impossible for us to generate within ourselves a quality of life that will put us into the kingdom of God.

- It only takes one lie to make a person a liar, only one murder to make a person a murderer, and only one sin to make a person a sinner.
- If sin cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven and God cannot know sin, then how are we to ever get there?

Job dealt with that in this manner, "How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin." Job 13:23

- Before a person can be cleansed, they must first know that they are dirty. The Bible tells us we are.

- Again the scripture, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. . . .” Isaiah 64:6
- “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:...” Romans 7:18

Since we have this sin issue, religion is not the answer, traditions are not the answer; the only answer to the sin issue is Jesus.

- Before we can sincerely look to Jesus as our answer, we must be willing to lay aside every preconceived idea about salvation.
- We must be willing to lay aside all family traditions and religions.
  - *Grandma cut the ends off her ham, so will I*
- We must be willing to accept the Word of God as the final authority on salvation.
- “...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” Psalm 138:2
- “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105
- “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89
- “Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.” Psalm 119:41

### **The Word of God must be established.**

Once the Word is established in our hearts and mind as the final authority, we can begin to move toward God.

- As long as there is doubt about His Word, we will struggle in our salvation search.
- James put it very plainly in James 1:8, “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
- Double-minded here means a person that is being pulled between two or more opinions.
- James goes on to say later in James 4:8, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
- The writer of Hebrews said Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- We must believe that Jesus is the ultimate authority in our salvation. Faith is believing in something even when you can’t see it or understand it.
- “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” 2 Corinthians 5:7

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Coming to God means that we must believe in Him and His Word.

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We need to ask the Lord to soften our hearts and help us to open our minds to receiving what He wants to have.

In our next lesson we will cover how to get God to hear us, even though we are a sinner.