



GRACE & PEACE

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GO AND

SIN NO MORE

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**GOSPEL:
SIN FORGIVEN**

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“SIN NO MORE”



John 5:14

■ **By Nelson Thomas**

Our Lord’s response to the helpless man at the pool of Bethesda is something that will always comfort and strengthen all who feel lonely and needy. How terrible was his situation, suffering for 38 long years but still waiting for help.

“I have no one”

“I have no one” is the cry of many even today; but praise be to God, our Lord knows our true state and graciously comes forward to help and transform our life. Hence there is no need to feel rejected and deserted. Able men may abandon us, dear ones may depart from us, nevertheless, it is in such conditions that we experience the presence of God Almighty much more intimately.

Apostle Paul writes from experience, “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me..... But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me...” (2Timothy 4: 16, 17a). The book of Acts reveals the special interventions of Christ when Paul was facing difficult circumstances. That r

However, the Lord’s warning to the man in John chapter 5 later at the temple is thought-provoking, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” (John 5:14).

The admonition, “Sin no more” reveals at least three realities:

- a. This man’s misery for all these years was due to his sin.
- b. Even after the divine healing he is still prone to a similar state.
- c. Yet, there is an option to escape the recurrence.

Let us consider each of these truths briefly.

1. Sin and sickness.

It is true in a general sense that all sufferings and pain are the outcome of sin. When sin spread to all from one man, its consequences like diseases and even death were passed on (Gene. 3: 16 – 19; Rom. 5:12; 1Cor. 15:21).

However, not all illness are due to one's sin. Lord Jesus made it very clear when the disciples asked Him "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2) They were referring to the man who was blind from birth. The Lord answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." (John 9:3)

Thus, there are many reasons why one may fall sick. At the same time, this passage teaches that one's sin may lead to physical ailments. David refers to physical and mental affliction due to his unconfessed sins (Psa. 32:3). We may find it difficult to note that the inspired writer did not hide the sickness and the subsequent death of David's child in the same context (2Samuel 12: 15 – 18).

To the assembly at Corinth Paul wrote, "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason, many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep." (1Cori. 11:29, 30)

We should never even think that someone is reaping the consequences of their sins when they go through various miseries. We are nobody to judge the motives and personal experiences of another person.

Nonetheless, it is wise to examine ourselves individually, as we face unexpected troubles in whichever form they may be. Such self-examination will help us to take corrective measures before it's too late.

2. Believer and Sin

Notice Christ's words again, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." (John 5:14) It also means that the present recovery should not make him slack and complacent. Sin still can occur in his life, and then the consequences would be worse than in the past.

Aiming for a perfect and holy life is very much commendable. Scripture repeatedly exhorts believers to live so (1Cor. 7:1; 1Thess. 4:7; Heb. 12: 14; 1Peter 1:15, 16, etc.).

But to claim sinless perfection is illusory. Such an assumption is damaging to oneself as

well as to fellow believers. Apostle John asserts that denial of the sinful nature in us is deception and there is no truth in such a person (1John 1:8, 10). Further he writes, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.” (1 John 2:1a).

Plenty of such warnings and instructions in the New Testament emphasize not only the importance of a holy life but the likelihood of sin’s reappearance too. Notice a few more such scripture portions:

Rom 6:12a “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body”

Rom 12:9b “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

1Th 4:3 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

1Th 5:22, 23a “Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely...”

These admonitions to be away from all kinds of evil forcefully indicate the significance of practical holiness. But that is possible only when we are conscious of its possibility and be on guard.

THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SALVATION

If a Christian would fall again, then what exactly happened on the day of his conversion?

Notice the three aspects involved in the work of salvation.

1

We have been saved from the penalty of sin. (cf. Rom. 8:1; 5:1; Eph. 2:8; 2Tim. 1:9a, etc.)

This is the positional reality by virtue of our being in Christ. Not only we have been forgiven and cleansed, even justified graciously because of the atoning death of Christ on the cross. It is a once-for-all act of God when we trust the Lord Jesus for salvation.

2

We are being saved from the power of sin. (cf. Rom. 5:10; Phil. 2:12; 1 Tim. 4:16, etc.)

This is the practical experience of a believer today when he/she is being delivered from the domination of sin and transformed into Christ-likeness. (2Cor. 3:18) It is possible only when we yield to the indwelling Spirit of God and His word. (cf. John 17:17; Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5: 26)

3

We will be saved from the presence of sin. (Phil. 1:6; Rom. 13:11; 1Thess. 5:9; Heb. 9:28; 1Peter 1: 3 – 10)

This is the completion of the work of salvation. Even though with death a believer leaves this sinful world to be with the Lord, it is at the time of rapture that their body too shall be glorified and the work of redemption will be completed (Rom. 8:23; 1John 3: 1, 2; 1Thess. 4: 14- 17). Then alone we shall be perfect and conformed to the image of Christ (Eph. 5:27; Rom. 8: 29, 30).

THREE BASIC FACTS ABOUT SIN

We may have many explanations for our failures. Especially the flesh within, the world outside, and the evil forces around us are constantly at the fight with us. However, the primary reason for all failures is carelessness. That is why we should always remember the following elementary truths about sin and be watchful

A.

IT IS A
NATURE
FOUND
WITHIN US.
(ROM 7: 17C)

Modern man may neglect and even deny this, but the reality is that every one of us has this sin nature within us from the womb of our mother (Psa. 51:5). Sinful words and deeds are the visible fruits of this invisible root (Mark 7: 21 – 23; Jam. 4:17; 1 John 3:4). That is why any external effort is futile to get rid of this internal sin nature (Jer. 13:23).

We often hear comments from certain close associates of criminals caught by law enforcement agencies, that they will never do such barbarous acts. The reason behind such an impression is that often man behaves well and pretends to be decent.

But many forget that there is a sin nature within man that has the potential to do any form of wickedness. How strange it is to note that despite human development in every field, man is still corrupt and wicked more than ever. Such is the power of the sin nature that indwells in man.

B.

IT IS
DECEPTIVE.
(HEB 3:13)

Sin always promises pleasure but the enjoyment never lasts. As someone has rightly observed, sin comes as a guest, pretends to be our friend, promises to be our servant, and finally turns out to be our master.

Staying close to us, sin waits for the next opportunity to enslave us. (cf. Gen. 3: 4 – 7; 4:7; 1 Tim. 2:14; 2 Peter 2:19, etc.) Wise men will always be aware of this deceitfulness and keep a safe distance. (Heb. 11: 25; 12:3)

C.

IT IS
DESTRUCTIVE
(JOHN 5:14)

Christ's reference to 'a worse thing to happen' refers to the damage that sin brings about in the lives of men. It takes away the glory, joy, boldness, freedom, etc. that man enjoys from God. It affects our relationship with God as well as one another. Thus, our associates too will have to reap the consequences of our sin (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:2; 1Cor. 5: 4, 5).

Further, the devastating consequences of sin are not only confined to the present day but even beyond (Heb. 12:6; 1Cor. 11:30; 1Cor. 3:15; Rev. 20: 11ff; 21:8).

Realization of such features and the effect of sin should prompt one to seek ways to escape.

3. Victory is possible

Finally, the Lord's admonition clearly states the opportunity for a triumphant life. Despite the indwelling sin nature, the believer needs not to be helpless and defeated by sin.

Apostle John who unequivocally asserted the reality of indwelling sin nature also forcefully emphasizes the practical holiness of a child of God. He writes, "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed, abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:9 (ESV) Notice some of the factors that facilitate a righteous life.

- a. The new nature. (1John 3:9; 2Peter 1:4)
- b. The Spirit of God. (Gal. 5:16)
- c. The present ministry of Christ. (1John 2:1, 2; Heb. 9:24; 4:15; Rom. 5:10)
- d. The cleansing by the word. (Eph. 5: 27; John 17:17)

There are many other truths connected with the redemptive work of God that assure our victory over sin and Satan. The Lord has provided enough resources and safety measures for a believer's sustained righteous life.

It should be our constant experience of knowing and reckoning our death with Christ on the cross. Thereby we can wholeheartedly yield to righteousness (Rom. 6: 6, 11, 19; Gal. 6:24; Colo. 3:5). Then there is no need for a believer to be defeated. But the question is, are we willing?

THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN



■ By Joy Murickal Issac, Kerala

Sin - The word we seldom hear in the secular world. Now-a-days we call it life style or personal taste. We can see a case that is going on now before the Supreme Court constitutional bench regarding same sex marriages. Do we clearly see where we have reached? Once, homosexuality was a crime as per the Indian penal code, but now it has become a different orientation of sex!

Liberalism is so common. Holiness and faithfulness are rarely admired by the modern society; drunkenness and adultery are everywhere. In fact, sin has become a fashion and lifestyle in the secular world; however, the Bible stands out strongly against sin.

God loves the sinner but hates sin. Actually, the incarnation of Jesus Christ was to deliver man from sin and death. Every sin is punishable. The Holy Spirit convicts us against the evil that we commit. The lost son got conviction and he said in his mind, 'father I have sinned against you and heaven. I am no longer worthy to be called your son'. Again, we see that Jesus' disciple Peter wept bitterly after he denied Christ three times. Also, we read in The Acts of the Apostles 2:38, God's Spirit gave conviction, and that led to repentance of sin, and that alone leads us to reconciliation with God.

Once a person who is convicted as a sinner accepts the Savior's call, he becomes a born again child of God. He receives God's salvation, faithfulness, goodness and inherits the best in Christ. Praise be to the Lord!

Sin has no longer any power on a saved person. The Holy Spirit and God's word guide and motivate us to lead a holy life. 1 John 5:3-9 is a big lab to test ourselves and give us a testimony regarding who we are. Actually, a born again person never continues in sin.

Sin in a believer's life brings a lot of trouble and misfortune to him. The Holy Father will never let us go unpunished. Surely, He is a loving, affectionate and merciful God, but very strict also in connection with sin. Hebrews chapter 12 explains all His actions as a father to a son. I don't wish to repeat them here.

Beloved, we are in a great battle field. Let us conquer sin and the sinful nature which are in our flesh till our death. This battle will continue to our last breath. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are going to inherit eternal life, so be faithful and holy. God is preparing a mansion for each one of us.

Let me conclude with a portion from 1John 1:4-9: there we read that it is written to complete our joy. Never give space for sin in our life; repent and forsake evil if any. Our Lord Jesus is there for us. He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” May His name alone be glorified and be blessed. Amen.

ANECDOTE

THE PATH OF SIN

▪ Source: International Business

In August of 2012, holidaymakers at a beach in Italy were shocked when a car pulled up next to a man who had just left the water and shot him at least seven times. The man was Gaetano Marino, leader of the Camorra crime family. He was known as “Stumpy” because his hands had been blown off nearly twenty years previous when a bomb he was attempting to set for someone else went off prematurely.

Police said they believed the killing was part of a struggle for control of the cocaine business between rival mob factions. Marino was part of a “family business” that placed him on the path that resulted in his death.

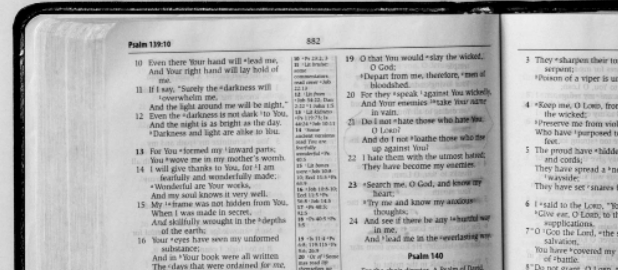
The law of sowing and reaping has not been repealed. When we set out on a course of action, there are consequences that we can and should anticipate (both good and bad) that ought to play a large role in our choices.

Many people get in trouble when they decide to associate with people who put them on the wrong path. Though they never intend to end up in great danger, they begin walking an evil road, which always results in destruction in the end.

The only safety we have is to avoid such paths. Continuing down the wrong road and hoping to get off at the last moment is a recipe for disaster.

“*One leak will sink a ship, and one sin will destroy a sinner.*”
- *John Bunyan*

What is True Biblical Revival?



By George Sturm, Albania

“Then Hilkiah the high priest said . . . “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.” . . . Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.” 2Ki 22:8-11

Revival is the talk of the town today. Many are praying for a revival, and some say revival is already happening. Some others claim to have attended a revival. But, if a true revival would manifest itself today, what should we expect?

Word vs. Worldliness

Unfortunately, in many circles, obedience to the Bible is viewed as legalism and about as unnecessary as obedience to the Book of Mormon or the Koran. Conformity to the world has fallen to alarming levels - divorce is as common in the Church as it is in the world, lukewarmness abounds, commitment to social media far exceeds commitment to the local church, the epidemic of scarring one’s body with tattoos, confusion over the Biblical roles for men and women, the acceptance of the woke and homosexual agendas – need I go on? Of course, there are exceptions to this dismal state of things, but I am speaking of things that cannot be denied.

True revival?

Look no further than the revival which took place under King Josiah (2 Kings 23). It began with a return to the Word and a determination “to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His

testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book”(v3).

In other words, it began with a desire to thoroughly change their practices based on the Scriptures which had been neglected for years. What follows (vs4 - 20) was a “breaking down and taking away, putting down and slaying, cutting down and burning with fire and pulverizing into powder.”

This purging was then followed by the keeping of the Passover, in such a manner that had not been seen since “the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah” (v 21-22). Truly, it was a return to Bible standards, Biblical practices, and to the Lord Himself.

This is a true revival. Do not be deceived by anything less. This is the type of revival that is desperately needed today.

Notes on Tabernacle – 18:

THE BRAZEN LAVER (Contd)

■ By Charles E. Wigg, Australia

In the Temple, there was a bronze sea, which rested on the backs of twelve oxen. (1 King 7: 23 – 26) Some believe that the sea was a huge reservoir, and the water continually poured from the mouths of the oxen, was collected in a lower receptacle, and drained away.

In that case, the oxen would remind us of the unfailing patience of God. How patiently He bears with us in our failures, and when we turn to Him for cleansing and forgiveness, He never turns his face away, and James told us that “In many things, we often offend”.

We are commanded that before attending the remembrance meeting, to partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are to examine ourselves, and only then to eat of the bread and drink of the cup, and to do so worthily.

To Die Not :

If the priest was to ignore the instruction and entered the holy place in a defiled state,

he exposed himself to the disciplinary judgment of God. Similarly, if we ignore the commands of scripture regarding personal holiness, and continue to participate in the holy things, we too may come under the disciplinary judgment of God.

This happened to the Corinthians, they were turning the Lord’s Supper into a drunken feast, and as a result, some died, and many were weak and sickly amongst them. (1 Cor.11: 30) Much sickness is the result of sin, even today. It may be the result of abusing the body through the practice of sin in pre-converted days, or the indulgence in sinful habits in the present.

Even apart from this, today people do not fall dead when they sin like Ananias and Sapphira did in Acts 5: 1 - 11 yet people do die spiritually, and this may explain why there is so much deadness in the assemblies of God’s people today. People take an active part in the ministry of the assembly yet no spiritual joy is visible. Let us heed the warning!

“*It comforts and quiets the depraved heart of man if he can only find a person worse than himself.*”

- *John Nelson Darby*



GOSPEL:

SIN FORGIVEN

■ By Aby Kuruvilla, Mumbai

If we desire a better life, we can agree that largely our circumstances matter in shaping that desire. To the poor, it may be riches. To the rich, it may be power. To the foolish, it may be wisdom. To the wise, it may be joy.

One such man who was sick of palsy was brought to Jesus Christ for healing. Jesus Christ had become renowned as the great healer of sicknesses. For He being God incarnate, He had the power to heal sicknesses. But in contrast, He told that man, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” (Matt 9:2). The pressing need for that man was to be healed of his palsy. But from God’s perspective, the pressing need was his sin.

Divine Perspective

It is very important to have our lives assessed in the light of the omniscient God. The Bible says, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). Sin has a consequence and it is death. Not just physical death, but eternal separation from God. There is a day approaching of the fierce judgment of God upon man for his sins.

God, on that day, will condemn to eternal damnation all those who have not received forgiveness for their sins (Rev 20:15). This is the great and pressing need of mankind, to be saved from this dreadful day of the wrath of God.

But how can we be saved? No, not by our good works, for God declares, “There is none who does good.” (Ps 14:1) and “our righteousness are as filthy rags” (Isa 64:6). Nor can pilgrimages or rituals of washing or sacrifices bring us forgiveness, for God declares the inability of the rituals as “which cannot make him who performed the service perfect” (Heb 9:9).

Lord Jesus, being God himself, has the power to forgive sins. However, this forgiveness is not by Him simply closing His eyes to the sin, or by brushing it under the carpet. Every sin has a price to be paid. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). Therefore, according to the holy standards of God, every sinner must die! “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8).

Oh, how blessed the provision we have in Jesus Christ. He died in our stead so that in his death the wages of our sins have been paid in full. Not only that, the scriptures state, “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7b). By fulfilling the holy demands of God for sin, Christ has perfected the forgiveness of sin through his death and resurrection.

Our Part

What then must we do to receive forgiveness of our sins? The scriptures state, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). It is in Christ alone that we can receive forgiveness of sins and by no other means or person.

No longer delay, but go to the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8). Let us not be deceived but come in humility to the One who out of His great love for us, “gave Himself for our sins” (Gal 1:4a).

OUTLINE

THE POWER OF SATAN

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. <i>Satan's Seat, Reve 2:13</i> | - | <i>His Political Power, John 12:31</i> |
| 2. <i>Satan's Depths, Reve 2:24</i> | - | <i>His Deceptive Wiles, Reve 20: 3 -10</i> |
| 3. <i>Satan's Synagogue, Reve 3:9</i> | - | <i>His Religious Devices, 2Cor 4:4</i> |

In the first he appears as a Roaring Lion. (1Peter 5:8)

In the second as a Subtle Serpent. (2Cor 10:3)

In the third as an Angel of Light. (2Cor 10:14)

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