

# Sin, Sins & Sinners

## The Cause of Sin

- Sin did not originate with mankind. It began with the pride of the devil (Isaiah 14.13-14).
- It is possible that the devil took this proud attitude when he saw God give a lower created being than him (Adam) dominion over the earth (Genesis 1.26, 28).
- Sin began on earth and infected the human race as a consequence of the serpent (devil) tempting Eve (Genesis 3.1). Adam and Eve sinned because they disobeyed God and rebelled against His commandment (Genesis 2.17).

## The Character of Sin

There are *many* words the Bible employs to describe the terrible nature of acts of sin. Some of the principal words are:

- » *hamartia* = the general term for sin, meaning 'to miss the mark' (Romans 5.12).
- » *parakoe* = failing to hear when God speaks, or hearing carelessly and inattentively (Romans 5.19).
- » *parabasis* = transgression, the breaking of a recognised limit or boundary (Romans 5.14; 1 Timothy 2.14).
- » *paraptoma* = a false step, a mistake in judgement, an unintentional error, being caught off guard, a 'falling beside' rather than 'falling short' (*hamartia*), Romans 5.15-20. All of these words for sin are used of Adam and/or Eve.
- » *Anomia* = lawlessness or rebellion, a violation of the law of God which was written on *tablets of stone* for Israel and the *heart* for Gentiles (Romans 2.14-15).
- Sometimes the Bible describes specific acts of sin such as: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, division, envy and drunkenness (Galatians 5.19-21).
- Our lives should be lived for the **glory** of God, our Creator. Anything short of this is sin (Romans 3.23).
- There are sins of commission and **omission**, i.e. failing to do what we know is right and good (James 4.17).
- The conclusion is clear. Not one human being can reach God's standard. **ALL have sinned** (Romans 6.23).

## The Comparison of Sin and Sins

- The Bible makes a difference between *sins* (plural) and *sin* (singular). **Sin** = *what I am*; **sins** = *what I've done*.
- **Sins** are individual, personal, outward acts. **Sin** is an inward, evil principle. **Sin** is the *root*; **sins** are the *fruit*.
- *What grows on an apple tree? Apples! What grows on a pear tree? Pears! What grows on a sin tree? Sins!*
- This evil, root principle entered the world when Adam fell (Romans 5.12). As the head of mankind, the moment Adam sinned, the rest of mankind was constituted sinners. We are sinners by *nature* and *birth* (Psalm 51.5).
- This evil principle is incurably bad and defiles every part of us: will, mind, emotions. It always tends to evil, never good. Children are *naturally* disobedient! '*We do what we do because we are what we are.*'
- *Sinful acts* (sins) have their root cause in the evil principle (sin) which dwells within us (James 1.14-15). When we act upon sinful desires (lusts), we commit acts of sin.

## The Consequences of Sin

- Every sin is rebellion against God and His revealed standard (Psalm 51.4). God told Adam that the day he broke His commandment he would die twice, literally 'in dying thou shalt die' (Genesis 2.17). So, when Adam sinned he died *spiritually*, i.e. he was cast out of God's presence (Genesis 3.23-24). Later he died *physically* (Genesis 5.5).
- Sins produce three things: **guilt** (Romans 3.19), **defilement** (Isaiah 64.6) and **separation** (Isaiah 59.2). To die physically without receiving God's salvation (in His Son) is to remain in this state for eternity.
- After death comes **judgment** (Hebrews 9.27). The unsaved will be resurrected to the Great White Throne where their lives will be judged (Revelation 20.11-15). God will review their *actions* (Ecclesiastes 12.14), *words* (Matthew 12.36) and *thoughts* (Ezekiel 18.4). The final verdict will be given (Revelation 20.15) and the lost will face eternity separated from a God of light, love and life, forever confronted by their own filthiness (Revelation 22.11).
- Hell is *awaiting sentence*, the Great White Throne is *passing sentence* and the Lake of Fire is the *death sentence*.

## The Cure of Salvation

- The work of Christ at Calvary deals with the **fruit** (sins) and **root** of sin.
- Through faith in Christ, my individual sins (what I have done) are *forgiven* on the basis of the precious shed blood of the Lord Jesus (Romans 3.25; 4.7; 5.9). I am **justified**.
- However, what I am (sin) cannot be forgiven. Instead God finishes what I am through the death of Christ.
- At the cross, God condemned what I am by nature, He condemned 'sin' and terminated **me** by death (Romans 8.3). But, I live! God's remedy for *what I am* is death followed by regeneration; new birth and new life (2 Corinthians 5.17).