

The Bible Doctrine Of Sin

Lesson 2

Defining Sin

Introduction

It would truly be a wonderful world if there was no sin...it would be Eden before Adam & Eve's initial transgression. But that is not reality. We live in a world that not only has sin in it, it dominates the world. It is constantly pushed in our faces as "legitimate behavior." The people of God are being told to tolerate more & more things the Bible would classify as "sin."

If one understands God is opposed to sin, then the first step to not being guilty of it is to learn what it is. Without a way to concretely define (*identify*) sin, man cannot commit it. In **Rom. 7:7**, Paul argues that sin is understood through knowing the will of God. We can remain innocent of sin (*and be spared the separation from God it brings*) when we listen to God through His word. The basis of this lesson is to review different terms the Scripture uses to define "sin."

NOTE: *The following "list" is not meant to be exhaustive...we are not even suggesting every indication of sin in the Scripture will fall somewhere on this "list." These are simply some examples of how the Scripture reveals behavior that could be described as "sinful."*

SIN (*hamartia*)

- by far the most prevalent of terms used; 152 N.T. references
- literally, it means to "miss the mark" (*to fail to hit the intended target*)
- it describes deficient actions & attitudes of man (**1 Cor. 6:18; Titus 3:11**)
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Rom. 3:23 _____

Jas 4:17 _____

LAWLESSNESS (*anomia, anomos*)

- usually translated "iniquity"; 20 N.T. references
- literally, it means "no law"
- "properly, the condition of one without law, either because ignorant of it or violating it"
[*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- "...never the condition of one living without law, but always the condition or deed of one who acts contrary to law" [*Trench Synonyms Of The N.T.*]
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Mt. 7:21-23 _____

Acts 2:23 _____

1 Cor. 9:21 _____

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TRANSGRESSION (*parabasis*)

- 7 N.T. references; always translated as a noun
- "a going over; metaph. a disregarding or violating..." [*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- literally, it means an overstepping of a boundary line
- how did Adam & Eve demonstrate this idea of sin? (Rom. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:14)

TRANSGRESS (*parabaino*)

- 4 N.T. references; always translated as a verb
- "to go past or to pass over; to overstep, neglect, violate" [*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- "it refers to actions that do not hold to the true doctrine" [*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Mt. 15:2-3 _____

2 Jn. 9 _____

TRESPASS (*paraptoma*)

- 20 N.T. references; usually translated "trespass" or "offense"
- "a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness; a sin; misdeed" [*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Mt. 18:35 _____

Rom. 5:15-19 _____

UNGODLINESS (*asebeia*)

- 6 N.T. references; always translated as a noun
- "the want of reverence towards God; impiety" [*Thayer Greek Lexicon*]
- a lack of respect for anything God desires or expects
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Rom. 1:18 _____

Titus 2:11-12 _____

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UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (*adikia*)

- 24 N.T. references; usually translated as a noun
- "injustice; unrighteousness of heart and life; a deed violating law & righteousness"
[Thayer Greek Lexicon]
- in its adjective form, "one who violates justice; one who deals fraudulently with others"
[Thayer Greek Lexicon]
- unfairly treating others; depriving them of what they are due (2 Cor. 12:11-13)
- how do each of the following passages illustrate this particular meaning?

Lk. 16:8 _____

Acts 8:23 _____

Notice in all these passages, the origin of sin is not discussed. When Jesus or one of the apostles spoke about sin, they didn't discuss its origin. Instead, they focused on its awful consequences (*both in this life & eternally*). Yet, man wants to debate the origin of sin...a major "sticking point" among man-made denominationalism.

Questions

- 1) How might passages like Gal. 5:21 and 1 Tim. 1:10 be included in a discussion of sin?
- 2) How does the N.T. warn about sin's danger? (Mt. 16:6, 11-12; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; 15:33)
- 3) Why does the enthroned Christ hate "lawlessness?" (Heb. 1:8-9)
- 4) Why was what was paid to Balaam called the "wages of unrighteousness?" (2 Pet. 2:15)
- 5) How is one way "ungodliness" produced? (2 Tim. 2:15-18)