


NAMPA BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 5 May, 2008 - www.nampabible.org/newsletter

Sin - By Josh Norris

All the evils of this world, all of Satan's deceptions, and all the corruption inside every human being is neatly encompassed by the word "sin". For the believer, sin represents both the past and the present. While Christ has conquered our sinful past and given us a new nature, sin is not something we repent of once and then forget about forever. We are frequently assured in the Bible that it is something we will struggle with daily. If there truly is wisdom in "knowing your enemy", then sin must be studied and understood to the fullest extent possible. What then is sin?

Sin is the opposite of what God intended. God has gifted His creation with abilities to be used for His glory and our good. Sin is dependent on the existence of those gifts and abilities such as peace and health. Sin can only exist by parasitically leeching off of goodness, because our ability to sin is a gross misuse of the abilities God has given us. By doing this we take gifts intended to grow His kingdom and spend them on our own selfishness. Sin is not just the opposite of goodness, it's the twisting of it. Sin is *ingratitude*, *injustice*, *iniquity*. It's *disease*, *dishonor*, *disorder*, *disobedience*. It's *faithlessness*, *godlessness*, and *hopelessness*. Ultimately sin and goodness cannot be understood apart from the God who defines goodness and against whom all rebellion is done.

The one thing we must be wary of is to not equate sin with a simple checklist of things which are "off limits". Sin is much deeper and much more sinister than that. The Biblical concept of sin carries the idea of missing a target, wandering from a path, and a fragmenting of a whole. Really though, sin is anything that displeases God and thus deserves judgment. This is why Jesus said "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt. 5:27) and why we understand that the first sin was not eating fruit in the Garden of Eden, but was actually choosing to believe a liar over the God of the universe. But sin is not just ugly rebellion against God, it also carries stiff consequences.

The first, and most obvious, result of sinning is the idea of natural consequences. Examples of natural consequences would include speeding tickets, sexually transmitted diseases and prison. Another huge consequence of sinning against God is a broken relationship with Him. Sin puts us under His wrath until we repent and embrace Christ's sacrificial atonement; and even after receiving Christ our relationship with God is still different than was originally intended. It won't be until Heaven that we will experience the unimpeded joy of perfect union with Him. In addition to damaging our relationship with God, sin damages our witness to others. Ongoing struggles with sin and, most importantly, our refusal to recognize them, inflict massive damage to our testimony to others. A byproduct of damaged relationships with God and others is that unhappiness, fear and insecurity are inevitable because we have no one to trust but ourselves.

The other main consequence of sin is that our conscience is gradually eroded and seared (I Tim 4:2). The dangers of a seared conscience are twofold. First, and most obvious, is that as the conscience is deadened the tolerance for sin increases and eventually you don't feel so bad, or even bad at all, about the sins you commit. The problem with this is that "undesirable" sins come flooding in along with the "desirable" ones. So now you don't just have lust, malice and pride, but you also have envy and coveting; sins which are never enjoyable. The other consequence is that it may be possible for your conscience to be deadened beyond repair thus permanently cutting you off from future repentance (Heb 10:26).

Consequences aside, sin is ultimately dissatisfying. It would be a lie to say that sin brings no pleasure. The problem is that the pleasure is only for a moment. Sin is truly deceptive, much like the soft, velvety paws of a cat which hide razor sharp claws and like the bait that hides a steel fish hook. The wise disciple understands that sin is a mere counterfeit of the endless pleasure and joy found in Christ and that freedom from the bondage of sin is only found in communion with Him.

Current Calendar Events....

May 1st thru 10th

4th - Membership Class @ 8:45

4th - Youth Group

7th - Jim Rickwa's Home Group

May 11th thru 17th

11th - Youth Group

13th - Josh Norris' Home Group

14th - Gordon Goldsmith's Home Group

15th - Creative Homemaking "Using spices and herbs"

17th - Men's Ministry Super Saturday Seminar

May 18th thru 24th

18th - Youth Group

21st - Jim Rickwa's Home Group

May 25th thru 31st

25th - Youth Group

27th - Josh Norris' Home Group

28th - Gordon Goldsmith's Home Group

- For more details on any of the calendar events please visit www.nampabible.org/calendar

Application Verse - Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit— with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Pray For...

- Recognition of hidden sins within our hearts.
- A desire to see God glorified and to find our joy and satisfaction in Him alone.
- The strength and self-control to conquer persis-

Quote to live by

"The chains of sin are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken." - Tom Drouot

Did You Know....

- Nampa Bible Church offers a church prayer journal which has a list of all the members as well as inspirational verses on prayer.
- Your ministry can be on the calendar and in the Ministry Spotlight. Contact Josh Norris or Debbie Vierth.
- You can be involved in the newsletter! Talk to Josh Norris to get involved.

Nampa Bible Church

504 S. Diamond
Nampa, ID 83686
Phone: 465-7687; Fax: 465-9065
Website - www.nampabible.org