

30th of September 2018

## Sin – Pt 1 A definition of sin according to God's word

We have just concluded a study on our conscience, and one of the points we noted was "conviction of sin takes place in our conscience", and in a previous topic – "the nature of man" we established that none are righteous no not one. But we have not yet completed a study on "sin". This week we begin our first teaching on the topic of "sin", and provide three points – (1) the thought of foolishness is sin, and (2) all unrighteousness is sin, and (3) whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. The thought of foolishness is sin.

"The thought of foolishness is sin" (Prov.24: 9).

It should be no surprise to us that the enemy attacks our thoughts because one of the weapons our Heavenly Father provides is used to defend ourselves against thoughts that come from Satan – "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2Cor.10: 5).

### 2. All unrighteousness is sin.

"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death" (1 Jn.5: 17).

According to Isaiah – "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Is.64: 6). When a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified they are imputed with the righteousness of God (Rom.4: 24), and "the righteousness of God...is by faith of Jesus Christ" (Rom.3: 22), and in Christ there was no "sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Pet.2: 22).

Something to think about – For those that believe "another gospel" where they add to the gospel of Christ crucified, by way of example the need to live a sinless life (which can not save anyone), there would be no need for God to impute to them His righteousness, because they would have already achieved His righteousness themselves before they are saved (Gal.1: 6–9 & Rom.10: 3).

### 3. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom.14: 23).

Our previous point included "the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ" (Rom.3: 22), hence there is link between righteousness and faith, and it was Christ's perfect faith that wrought His righteousness before His Father. Whereas we are imputed with His righteousness at the moment we believe, we are to live by the faith of Christ each day, and when we do not, we sin.

## An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

"And the men took of their victuals, and asked counsel at the mouth of the Lord. And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them...And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them" (Josh.9: 14–16).

Question to think about.

What was the sin of the children of Israel in Josh.9:14?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Israel did not ask the Lord whether they should make a league with the inhabitants of Gibeon. And we cannot live by faith without talking with God. And so it is today, we are to live by faith (Rom.1: 7 & Gal.3: 11), the faith of Christ. And when we do that which is not of faith we sin.

We conclude therefore that – given that the thought of foolishness is sin, all unrighteousness is sin, and whatsoever is not of faith is sin – Is it any wonder that no Christian comes before the throne of God in their own righteousness, but with the imputed righteousness of Christ. Because our best righteousnesses are but filthy rags before God who is righteous and Holy (Ps.145: 17).