

7 October 2018

Sin – Pt 2 More on the definition of sin according to God's word

Our previous study we began our topic on sin and covered a definition of sin according to the scriptures – (1) the thought of foolishness is sin, and (2) all unrighteousness is sin, and (3) whatsoever is not of faith is sin. In this study we provide three additional points that add to our understanding what is sin according to our holy, righteous and just God – (1) sin is the transgression of the law (2) in the Old Testament – ceasing to pray, and a high look are sins, and (3) in the New Testament when we know to do good and do it not we sin.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Sin is transgression of the law.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 Jn.3: 4).

2. In addition to the 500-plus laws the Old Testament also identifies –

i) Sins in ignorance

"And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord" (Lev.4: 27).

ii) Ceasing to pray for our brethren

"God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (1 Sam.12: 23), &

iii) A high look, a proud heart and the plowing of the wick is sin

"An high look, and a proud heart, [and] the plowing of the wicked, is sin" (Prov 21:4).

iv) He that hasteth with his feet sinneth

"he that hasteth with his feet sinneth" (Prov.19:2).

v) A multitude of words

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise" (Prov.10: 19).

3. James and the apostle Paul add to our definition of sin in the New Testament –

i) to know "to do good, and doeth it not, it is sin" (Jam.4: 17), and

ii) "when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ" (1 Cor.8: 12).

Something else to think about

David (a man after God's own heart), said of himself – "There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin" (Ps.38: 3).

Paul said – "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me" (Rom 7:17 & 20).

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

There is a group that are called the holiness movement which believe a Christian is free from "outward sin" – <https://www.britannica.com/event/Holiness-movement>.

Question to think about.

How can anyone say they are free from sinning?

Answer from the scriptures

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1Jn.1: 8) & "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1Jn.1: 10).

The only reason any living person before or after Christ could say they have no sin – is if they have been deceived by our adversary the devil. "Be ye not deceived", God's standard for sinlessness is unattainable. However, we look forward to the day when we will no longer have this vial body –

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil.3: 21). Until then let no man deceive you into believing that they or you can attain sinlessness, because according to the definition from the Old and New Testament "sin is ever before me" (Ps.51: 3).