

14 October 2018

Sin – Pt 3 There is not a man that sinneth not

Our previous study on sin we covered a definition of sin according to the scriptures – (1) sin is the transgression of the law, (2) there are additional elements that the Old Testament identifies as sin, and (3) James and Paul in the New Testament add to our definition. In this study our third and final study we establish that (1) sin is stubbornness, witchcraft, idolatry, and (2) there are very grievous sins (3) therefore, with all that we have learnt about sin – there is not a man that sinneth not.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Sin is stubbornness, witchcraft, idolatry, rebellion & rejection of God's word.

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (1 Sam.15: 23).

2. There are very grievous sins.

"And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous" (Gen.18: 20). See also 2 Kg.17: 21.

3. Therefore, there is not a man that sinneth not.

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Eccl.7: 20).
See also 1 Kg.8: 46, 2 Chr.6: 36, and Rom.3: 10 & 23.

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

Paul's epistles attest to believers sinning, with some in the body of Christ committing –

i) fornication

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife" (1 Cor.5: 1).

See also 2 Cor.12: 21.

ii) debates, wraths, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults, uncleanness, and lasciviousness

"For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed" (2 Cor.12: 20, 21).

iii) Envy, strife and divisions (carnal).

"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1Cor.3: 3). See verse 1 – they were carnal "babes in Christ".

Question to think about.

If non-believers sin and Christians sin then what is the difference between the two?

Answer from the scriptures.

The non-Christian does not believe God –

- * the sins of his flesh taint his spirit, &
- * he is a servant of sin and free from righteousness (Rom.6: 20), &
- * when he dies he is cast into hell for his sins, for rejecting God's word.

The Christian believes God (Rom.10: 9–13), and receives the gift of His Son's sacrifice for his sin –

- * the sins of his flesh no longer taint his spirit – which is born of God (Jn.3: 5–8 & Jn.1: 13) and cut asunder from his flesh (Heb.4: 12), &
- * all his sins are forgiven (1Jn.1: 7 & 9, Col.2: 13), and washed in the blood of Christ (Rev.1: 5), &
- * is called to yield his members (his flesh) servants to righteousness unto holiness (Rom.6: 19), &

A son of God is – (i) chastised by His Heavenly Father when he sins (Heb.12: 8), (ii) dies an early death (1Cor.11: 30), as per the example in 1 Cor.5: 5 for very grievous sins and (iii) is blessed on earth, and will receive rewards in heaven for obedience (2Cor.5: 10). Amen!