

A PROPER VIEW OF SIN

(Ps. 51:1-12)

Introduction:

1. Sin is not an oops. Sin is not something that we should avoid *ideally*. Sin is the destroyer of humans, with the slaughter of billions to its credit. It is not casual, it is not a black area countering a white area (as seen in the eastern Yin and Yang). It is not one side of a two-sided coin, flip and choose.
2. No, sin is horrific; an unspeakable evil that crushes the most gentle and debases the most pure. It put our Lord on the cross and kept Him there until he died.
3. Let us this morning look honestly at sin, what it means, how it comes, what it does.

Discussion:

- I. The Heads of the Hydra (Ps. 32:5).
 - A. Sin (Rom. 6:23 = *hamartia* = to miss the mark-Thayer).
 1. Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4) = God has established law and when we violate that law we sin (the sin of commission).
 2. Sin is NOT doing what we know we ought to (Jas. 4:17). God has given commands and when we do not do them we sin (the sin of omission).
 - B. Trespass (Eph. 2:1) = *paraptoma* = to fall beside; deviation from truth and uprightness-Thayer).
 1. Trespass is to go where God's word did not lead.
 2. Trespass is something that is done that ought not to have been done (Matt. 6:14, 15; 18:35).
 - C. Iniquity (1 Cor. 13:6 = *adikia* = injustice-Thayer; literally to not be fair).
 1. Iniquity is to twist God's word/standard to suit self (*avon* = Hebrew to pervert from a root meaning to make crooked-Brown/Driver/Briggs).
 2. Iniquity is when we twist the truth to suit our desires (1 Cor. 13:6).
 - D. A simple way to try and keep all of these straight is: when we fall short of God's standard we sin, when we go beyond where we ought we trespass, and when we twist God's word to justify our actions/desires we commit iniquity.
- II. The Deeds of the Devil.
 - A. Satan tempted man to allow sin to come into the world (Gen. 3:4-7; Rom. 5:12).
 - B. How it works (Jas. 1:12-17) = our desires draw us away (to fall short, go beyond, or twist) we then fall short, go beyond, or twist and then we die!!
 - C. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), blindness (1 John 2:11), division (1 John 2:19), strife (Jas. 4:1-4), and seared consciences (1 Tim. 4:1).
- III. Where the reproach hits the road.
 - A. The destruction of the family = Divorce, abortion, children-hating, parent dishonoring, and the loss of God's safety net/refuge/classroom/caregiving.
 - B. The degradation of society = evil called good and good called evil, corruption of good morals, loss of innocence, loss of community, and the loss of God's grace.
 - C. The depression of people = the walking dead of 1 Tim. 5:6, the dissatisfaction of Solomon (Eccl.), and the hopelessness of Job.

Conclusion:

1. Jimmy Clark once asked, "What would God have to say about sin and its effects to make us not want to engage in it?" What else could he say?
2. Let us be more serious and sober about sin; about what it is, what it does, and why we should strive so hard to avoid it.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON "A PROPER VIEW OF SIN"

1. Are you hurt, angered by the wickedness in the world? Lay the blame where it belongs, on sin. All the pain, all the sadness, and all the outrage ought to make us detest sin so much that it would only be natural that we would do everything in our power to avoid it.
2. Attributing to sin the consequences of sin is how we are able to love the sinner and yet hate the sin (Gal. 6:1-5; Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1-7; overtaken = 2 Tim. 2:24-26-3:17; Jas. 5:19, 20; 1 John 5:16-21).
3. God has set a standard, shown the standard, and provided mercy for stumbles. God forgives those in Christ, and He continues to forgive those in Christ who are striving to live Christ-like lives but stumble. He does not forgive those outside of Christ, nor does He forgive those in Christ who are not striving to live Christ-like lives. **AND HE KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE PERFECTLY, GOD IS NOT MOCKED!**
4. Sin can and should be avoided because of the harm it brings, and the insult it is to God (Ps. 51:4).
5. Exegesis of Ps. 51.
6. The solution to sin according to Paul = 2 Tim. 2:15 (in its full context).
7. The solution to sin according to Peter = 2 Pet. 1:2-15.
8. The solution to sin according to our Lord = Luke 9:23.