

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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THE BIBLICAL CONCEPTION OF SIN

BY: C. D. COLE

"The thought of foolishness is sin...."

Proverbs 24:9.

"...For whatsoever is not of faith is sin,"

Romans 14:23.

"All unrighteousness is sin...."

I John 5:17.

"...Sin is the transgression of the law,"

I John 3:4.

Introduction: What is sin? The answer to this question is not to be found in human philosophy, but in divine revelation. In the eyes of men what is looked upon by one person as sinful may be regarded by another as entirely proper. It is not what we think or feel that determines what sin is. My feeling or thinking that a thing is right does not make it right. The only rule by which creed or conduct is to be tried is the Word of Him who cannot lie. In the eyes of men things that once were considered sinful are now looked upon as good, and proper. It was once thought that it was wrong for women to wear knee dresses, but now it is perfectly proper in the eyes of the best society. But God's Word centuries ago said *"...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety...."* I Timothy 2:9. Men's conception of sin is that it is a series of pervert acts such as getting drunk, or stealing, or lying or killing, but the definitions of sin found in the Bible go much deeper than that. A woman once limited the number of sinners to young boys in their foolish days. And that is the popular conception today.

There are three words in the Bible, which when put together, give us a full definition of sin. There is a word which means to miss the mark, and nearly 200 times it is translated sin in our English Bible. Man has missed the mark; he has missed the purpose of his being. Man was created for the glory of his Maker, but *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,"* Romans 3:23. Like a clock that fails to tell the time of day, man has failed to fulfill the purpose for which he was created. We are all miserable failures; we have failed in the biggest business; we have failed to glorify God. We have missed the mark.

There is another word which means to turn aside from a straight path and not walk according to it. This conception of sin where God complains that Israel like a deceitful child had turned aside; *"For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments,"* Psalm 78:5-7.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way....," Isaiah 53:6.

There is another word which is

translated transgression, and means to cross the line, and do that which God tells us not to do. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law,"* I John 3:4.

WHO ARE SINNERS?

This question, like all others, must be answered according to God's word. Feelings, conscience, friends, nor enemies can give the true answer. God's word says *"all have sinned."* The case of every one of us has already been tried in God's court and the verdict of guilt has been brought in. God has written upon the brow of every one of us the name "sinner." You may not feel like a sinner but that does not alter the fact that you are one. You may not be conscious that there is much the matter with you but that does not change the fact that you are in a terrible condition, and your feelings will not keep you from suffering the torments of the damned.

WHY ARE WE SINNERS?

Why do we belong to a race of sinners rather than a race of good people? *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

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WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

BY: C. D. COLE

Introduction: There are two kinds of Christians: true and false; genuine and counterfeit; nominal and real; mere professor and actual possessor. Our question has to do with the real, genuine, true, and actual Christian. We use the word Christian as a synonym of a saved person and it might be put in that form: What is a saved man? There are apt to be conflicting answers. Some might say that real Christians are few and far between; others that nearly everybody is a Christian. Both answers false.

I do believe there are few Christians in comparison with the lost. Bible history makes it clear that the saved have always been in the minority. That was true in the days of Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Elijah. Paul talked about a remnant in his day. Jesus said *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it,"* Matthew 7:13, 14. And he who thinks the situation is better in this 20th century is willfully blind to the facts.

This old world is sin-soaked, blood-bathed, and hell-bent as never before. We are living in a shameless age. Sin is popularized even glorified. Men glory in their shame. Nothing is wrong anymore. Ruins of lust have been dropped and sinners are riding hard to hell. All trains to hell are streamlined with every human gadget to make the trip easy and glorious. Immorality is flying high or riding the rails while morality walks and spirituality limps. The world calls it fast-living, but in reality it is fast dying. A newspaper recently released an article that takes the cake and caps the climax and beats the world for sinful propaganda. It seeks to popularize whiskey. The writer pictures a cocktail bar in heaven. Over the large mahogany bar is the sign: Free drinks for all hands - name your poison, gents! The carpet is of clouds, pink clouds and the writer says, "This is heaven."

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

How can a Christian be identified? Where will we find him described? How will he be located?

NEGATIVELY:

Not merely a church member. Church rolls have names of professing Christians.

Not a sinless person. If a Christian is a person who never does wrong, then there are no Christians.

POSITIVELY:

A Christian is a person, black or white, rich or poor, learned or ignorant who has lost all hope in himself and has found hope in Christ. This truth can be stated in many ways. Dissatisfied with himself and satisfied with Christ. Afraid to risk his own record before the law of God and is trusting what Christ did for sinners when He died the just for the unjust. I expect most people think a Christian is one who thinks well of himself. But not so: he is one who despises and despairs of himself. Gives himself a vote of *"no confidence in the flesh,"* Philippians 3:3. Most people have this thing of profession all wrong. The Christian does not profess faith in himself, but in Christ. You can't believe in Christ as Saviour as long as you believe in yourself. To trust Him is to distrust yourself.

A Christian is a person who has been born again; born from above; born of the Spirit. A moral or spiritual and not a physical birth. This birth is necessary for understanding: *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,"* John 3:3. For faith: *"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him,"* I John 5:1. For love: *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God,"* I John 4:7.

A Christian is a person who is not as good as he wants to be or tries to be. A Christian has the desire but not the ability to be sinless. *He has the will but can-*

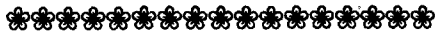
not find the how to be good. "For I know that in me [that is, in my flesh,] dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not," Romans 7:18. He is not as good as he will be. *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled,"* Matthew 5:6. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is,"* I John 3:2.

A Christian is a person who is justified before the law of God. No charge can be brought against him. He is legally perfect. No condemnation but justified from all things. He is humbled by the knowledge that his perfection is based upon the obedience of another even Christ Jesus. Legal perfection is based upon obedience to the law. As a citizen of this state I am legally perfect by keeping the laws of the state. In this sense I am perfect. I have no fear of the sheriff's laying hands on me. I do not tremble when the grand jury is in session. Now in the same sense I am perfect before the law of God. But this perfection is not because I have kept His law, but because Christ kept it for me. I am not perfect as a husband, or pastor, or father or a child of God.

I am righteous with Christ's righteousness. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption,"* I Corinthians 1:30. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,"* Romans 5:19.

A Christian is a child of God and all of God's dealings with him is in view of this new relationship. He is not considered as a transgressor before the law. When he does wrong it is the sin of a child against the Father. As a child in the family he is chastised for his sins. The Father's chastening is for his correction; for his good; not for damnation. *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...Now no chastening for the*

present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby," Hebrews 12:6, 11.



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Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous," Romans 5:12-19.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SIN?

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 6:23.

HOW IS SIN TO BE REMOVED?

"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John 1:29. "...But now once in the end of the world hath he (Jesus) appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself," Hebrews 9:26.

Those who reject the Bible have no standard of righteousness. "...Every man did that which was right in his own eyes," Judges 17:6.

Those who reject the Bible can find no way to escape the consequences of sin. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..." Hebrews 2:3.

Bryan Station Baptist Church's 20th ANNUAL MISSION BIBLE CONFERENCE



October 22-24, 2001

Mark your calendars. The Bryan Station Baptist Church would once again like to invite you to join us at our annual conference this fall, the Lord willing. Our members are always refreshed by the preaching of His word and by His people who attend. We're sure you will be too.

CHECK OUT THE BOOKS

Brother Tom Ross has the following books available.

Cultivating Christian Character. This book consists of 46 chapters and is very practical in nature dealing with subjects such as Pride vs. Humility, Sincerity vs. Hypocrisy, Contentment vs. Covetousness, etc. It is ideal for personal study, family worship and devotions, group Bible studies, Sunday School classes, as well as Christian and home school classes. The price is \$6.95 each, plus p&h. On orders of 10 or more, the price is \$5.95 each with free postage.

Outlines of Systematic Theology. This is an outline study based on the theology book written by T. P. Simmons. It is 8½ x 11 loose leaf, and is designed so that preachers and teachers can take it to the pulpit to teach from, and students can follow along with their copy. It is ideal for personal study, Sunday School classes, or even Bible College courses. The price is \$9.95 each, plus p&h. On orders of 10 or more the price is \$8.95 each with free postage.

Elementary Eschatology: A Study of Premillennial Prophecy. There are only 250 copies left of this book. The price is \$6.95 each, plus s&h. On orders up to \$20, add \$3 for p&h; on orders from \$20 to \$100, add 15%; on orders over \$100, we will pay postage.

Place your order with (and make checks or money orders to) the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 6939 County Road 15, Chesapeake, VA 45619. (740)894-6546. All proceeds go into the Church Printing Fund to be used for future publications.



Bryan Station Baptist Church has published several new books in the last few months. Check the back page for ordering information for:

BSBC: Our History/Heritage
Christ's Church and Baptism by Rosco Brong
Following Holiness by Rosco Brong