

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state.”

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SIN

By: C. D. Cole

Introduction: Preaching is not primarily for pleasure but for profit. The objective of the true minister is not a plentiful purse and praise of men, but the glory of God and safety of souls. The safe and sound preacher will emphasize the fact, the enormity, the terrible danger and God's sure remedy for sin.

Sin is a patent fact; its existence does not need to be argued. Sin is a fact of experience, of observation, and of revelation. Sin is something I feel in my own heart; it is something I see in others, even in my best friends; and it is something revealed in the Bible.

Sin is dangerous beyond expression and description. Sin is violation of the moral law of God and violated law cries for retribution. Sin is against God; crime is against society. Human society may punish crime; only God can punish sin. Human society may fail to punish the criminal; God will not fail to punish the sin. Every sinner will either be punished in his own person or in the person of a surety or substitute. The only hope of any sinner is in a surety to pay his sin-debt, and the only real surety is Christ. God will forgive the sinner but He will not forgive his sins. The only way for a sinner to be brought into the favor of God is for

the Just One to die for the unjust ones. I Peter 3:18, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* Romans 5:8, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

FALSE DEFINITIONS

Modernism. “Sin is good in the making.” “The brute inheritance which every man carries with him in the process of evolution is an advance towards salvation.” No hope for the sinner as an individual; only salvation is a racial salvation and will be complete when evolution has made the race perfect. This is like the process of improving the razor-back hog by breeding. But the Bible says that which is born of the flesh is flesh and the flesh profiteth nothing. Facts as well as Spirit give the lie to evolutionary salvation. Burning cities and scorched earth, wailing women, crying children, and dying men repudiate modernism.

Christian Science. “A mere figment of a perverted imagination;” “an imaginary creation of abnormal minds.” In other words sin does not actually exist; sin is not

a reality. People just imagine they sin and this imagination is a disease of the mind. The man who is convicted of sin is unbalanced; off in his upper-story, and the man who mourns over sin is terrible insane; but this nonsense is refuted sense and sceptre. When the prodigal son came to himself he said in Luke 15:18, *“...I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,...”* So according to scripture the insane man is the one who denies his sin. I John 1:10, *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

The popular view. Confuses sin with crime and vice. Sinners are young men sowing their wild oats, or women of the brothel; men who are murderers and gangsters. The Bible teaches Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* Paul Kana-mari's preaching was resented by the Japanese. They said he talked to them as if he were an official talking to convicts. They confused sin with vice. Every person is a sinner, but all are not vicious or criminals. There is many a virtuous woman but no sinless women. There are many law-abiding men but no sinless men. There are many beautiful babies, but no baby is without a sinful nature. Psalm 51:5,

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

SOME TRUE DEFINITIONS

Westminster Confession:

“Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of the law of God.”

A. Strong: “Sin is any lack of conformity to the law of God, whether in act, disposition, or state.” He recognizes sin as a condition of nature. They are sinners while asleep, although sinful nature is not breaking out in acts of rebellion.

I John 3:4, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* Literally: sin in lawlessness.

MISSING THE MARK

There is a word which means “to miss the mark” and nearly 200 times in our English Bible, it is translated sin. Man has missed the mark; he has missed the purpose for his being. Why did God make man? For His own glory, but man has sinned and *“...come short of the glory of God;”* Man has failed in the biggest business ever committed to his care, he has failed to glorify God. Like a clock that fails to tell the time of day, man is good for nothing if he does not glorify God.

There is another word which means to turn aside from the straight path. This conception of sin is expressed in Psalm 78:40-41, 56-57, *“How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel... Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt*

unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.” Isaiah 53:6, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; ...”* Man is off-center. Instead of revolving around God, making the glory of God his chief business, man has become a wandering star, living for his own selfish ends.

COMPETITION WITH GOD

Sin may be defined as competition with God in realm of authority. This view of sin is seen in the story of the first human sin. Genesis 2:16-17, *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* Genesis 3:4-6, *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”* The word sin does not occur in the account but the fact of sin does, and it is described as competition with God. Satan told Eve that by eating the forbidden fruit they would become as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the deed had been done, Genesis 3:22, *“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil:...”*

In the first sin man became like God. In what sense? Not in the

sense of character. In eating that fruit man did not improve his character but lost the good character with which he was created. Not in the sense of acquiring the divine attributes such as power, holiness and wisdom. In eating that fruit man lost power to live and died; he lost his original holiness and became depraved; and he lost his wisdom and became a fool. Sin is consummate folly. Every sin is an act of playing the fool.

The only possible way in which it can be truly said that man became like God was in spirit and aim. Adam and Eve would compete with God and determine for themselves what they could do. They asserted their independence of God. They would determine (know for themselves) what is good and evil. They would no longer be tied to God’s word about what they could do or have. They would be a law unto themselves and do as they pleased. Do that which was right in their own eyes. They entered into competition with God for sovereignty. They started a rebellion against their Maker and Ruler and that is sin.

Every sin is in competition with God in realm of authority. If I have a right to say what is right and wrong, then I am God; I am supreme in realm of authority. Sin is a declaration of independence before God and this means war. Isaiah 43:10-11, *“...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”*

SIN IS DANGEROUS

Great Britain could do little about it when her American colonies declared their independence

and threw off her yoke of authority, Britain lost the war. But there is much God can do with his rebellious creatures. The sinner is waging a hopeless war against God. God will allow no rivals or competitors. God is the only person who has the right and ability to do as he pleases. God is the only person in all the universe who can safely consult his own pleasure about what he does. God the only person who has the right to be selfish and live for His own glory; all moral creatures are obligated to glorify him in all they do. I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

WHOM TO FEAR

Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Many people have a woefully inadequate conception of sin. Sin is more than a slight demeanor for which God gives men a scolding; sin is a species of high treason against an almighty God. Jesus teaching in Mark 9:43-48, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two

eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Sin is something more than a puncture of good resolutions on the highway of life; sin is a blow out that sends men to death and destruction.

But there is hope; I Corinthians 15:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered

unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;"



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 3175 Briar Hill Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40516
 Phone 859.299.9164
 Web Site: www.bryanstation.com
 Email: mail@bryanstation.com
 Alfred M. Gormley, Pastor
 Don Waltermire, Assistant Pastor

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