

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #16 — MAN'S PROBLEM WITH SIN (PART 1)**

And that brings us to the study of our second lesson in this series, and that is to talk about man's problem from the very beginning: his sin; and God's solution for that problem: His abundant love, as embodied in His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ. To give you an idea of the major topics we'll discuss in this lesson, I'd like to look at a brief outline of the major points. First of all, we'll begin with a definition of sin. Secondly, we'll study the history of sin, going back briefly and looking at the beginning. And, thirdly, we'll study how does sin work in our life, so that we can be prepared to fight against it. Fourthly, what is the result, or some of the results, of sin? They're horrible. Number five, God's answer to our problem with sin, and that is, Jesus the Christ. Number six, we'll talk about how do we receive the benefits of Jesus' blood, which is the only thing that can wash away our sins. Number seven, what if we sin after we're baptized? Do we have to be baptized again? Has God made provision for our forgiveness? We'll study that. Number eight, what does Jesus mean to the Christian? We'll study many things that Jesus is to the Christian, that ought to give us joy and happiness in our Christian life. So that'll give you an overview of the major points that we want to study in this lesson.

Let's begin with the first point, and that is, a biblical definition of sin. We want to begin by recognizing that the word translated "sin" is a Greek word, and it's "harmartia," and we want to look at a definition of it. According to W.E. Vine, in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Terms, it means "a missing of the mark." And then Thayer says, "That which is done wrong, an offense, a violation of the Divine Law in thought, or in act." So according to the meaning of the word, it's a missing of the mark. picture in your mind a bowman who is taking a bow and an arrow and shooting for a target, shooting for that bullseye, and he ends up coming short of the bull's eye. That's what sin is. The mark is the New Testament of Christ.

What about a biblical definition of sin? 1 John, chapter 3, verse 4, we learn that, "Whoever commits sin commits lawlessness, for lawlessness is sin." Sin then, according to that passage, is violation of God's law. And 1 John, chapter 5, verse 17, says, "All unrighteousness is sin." All of God's commandments are righteousness, so all unrighteousness is that which violates the will of God, the Word of God. Then, James, chapter 4, verse 17, our memory verse for the next class, James said, "Whoever knows to do right and does not do it, to him, it is sin." So if we know to do something that is right, and choose not to do it, we sin by violating the will of God.

We want to continue our study of lesson number two, which we introduced at the end of the last class period together, where we're talking about man's problem from the beginning: his sin. And God's solution for man's problem, that is, His abundant love as embodied in His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ.

Now you remember, at the very end of the last class, we began to talk about sin. We looked at definitions of the word that is translated sin in the New Testament, and saw that

that word means a missing of the mark. It means an offence, something that is done wrong, something that violates the Divine Will. So we see that sin is missing a standard, a mark. And we know of course, that the standard is God's Word. We have that standard in our mind, but sometimes we fall short of that standard, and that's when we commit sin, we violate the law of God.

Then we looked at three passages of Scripture that gives God's definition of sin. In 1 John, chapter 3, verse 4, we saw that sin is lawlessness, violation of the law of God. That law for today, as we've studied, is the New Testament. So sin is violation of the New Testament.

1 John, chapter 5, verse 17, God said that all unrighteousness is sin. We saw, by looking at Psalm 119, verse 172, we can see by looking at that psalm, that all of God's commandments are righteousness. So unrighteousness is breaking God's commandments, violating His will. That's another way of looking at sin.

And then we looked at James chapter 4, verse 17, where God says, "If we know to do what is right, and choose not to do it, that is sin to us." So not only can we sin by doing something wrong, but we can also sin by avoiding doing what is right. We can sin by not doing anything, when we should be doing something. So God has made it very clear to us what sin is.

Now our topic is man's problem from the beginning, that is, his sin. Let's look at several examples of sin as seen in the history of man recorded in the Bible. Several examples from history. We want to begin at the very beginning. Since that is the topic that we're looking at, man's problem from the beginning, let's go back to the Garden of Eden, as recorded in Genesis chapter 3. And we're familiar with the scene there.

God had created the first man Adam, out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul. God knew that it was not good for the man to be alone. So he took a rib out of Adam's side and formed out of that rib Eve, the first woman, and brought Eve to Adam, brought them together and united them in marriage. And they were filled with joy when they knew that God had brought them together in that way. And God told them, "Don't eat of the tree in the middle of the garden. Don't eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. For in the day that you do, you will die." And remember how Satan entered into that beautiful scene, which God had created for man. And Satan said to Eve, "You will surely not die." The Great Deceiver began at the very beginning. With his deceits and his lies, God said, "You will die." Satan said, "You won't die. You'll be like a god. You'll be able to know the difference between good and evil."

And Eve, partook of that fruit. And in doing that, she violated God's command. She sinned, and sin entered into the world. And Adam participated in that sin with her by partaking of the food also, of the forbidden fruit also. So here in the very beginning of the Bible, we see the entrance of sin into the world. And ever since that time, we, mankind, have had a problem with sin.

But let's go down the stream of time a little bit further to the world at Noah's time. And this is found in the book of Genesis, the sixth chapter, and we'd like to go to Genesis chapter six. Like to invite you to turn in your Bibles with us to Genesis chapter 6, so that we can read several verses about the world at that time. Genesis chapter 6, verse 5, is the first verse that we want to look at. Genesis 6, verse 5. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every thought of the intents of his heart was only evil continually."

Then let's turn up to verses 11 through 13, of this same chapter. "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked down upon the earth, and indeed, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. And behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'"

So not very long after the Garden of Eden, we have this scene portrayed before us by God, that man had grown corrupt, every thought of his heart was evil continually. The earth was filled with violence and all flesh had corrupted God's way. So man still had the problem with sin, at that time, in the history of mankind.

We go a little further down the stream of time to the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities. And this is recorded in the book of Genesis, also. We'll look at Genesis, chapter 13, verse 13, and chapter 18, verse 20. Let's look first at Genesis 13, verse 13, to see God's description of the people of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 13, verse 13. "But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked, and sinful against the Lord." Then in the 18th chapter of the book of Genesis, and verse 20. Genesis 18, verse 20. "And the Lord said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous.'" Very horrible; very bad.

Then let's look in the New Testament. In 2 Peter, chapter 2, verses 7 and 8. 2 Peter 2, verse 7, and 8. Here we have God's inspired comment concerning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as recorded in the New Testament. And he says, "And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds." What a horrible description, a description of the inhabitants of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. They were wicked, exceedingly sinful, against the Lord. Their sin was very grievous. They were guilty of filthy conduct. Crude, animalistic conduct in their conduct against each other and with each other. And they were guilty of unlawful deeds. Reminds us a lot of the world in which we live today. God could look down on the world today and say those same things about many people in many countries.

Going a little further, we want to look at the period of the judges in the history of the nation of Israel. And we want to just look at one verse as a good summary of what was going on during that period. This verse is found in the book of Judges, in the 17th chapter, in verse 6. Judges 17, verse 6. "In those days, there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes." We know that when we studied the book of Judges, we see that the kingdom of Israel, the nation of Israel, went through periods when they would forsake God. They would turn against God, and they would turn to immorality and all kinds of sin, and idolatry. And God would give them up. He would allow them to be overtaken by a foreign power, and the people of Israel then would repent of their sins, and cry to the Lord. And the Lord would send a judge to deliver them. And that cycle is repeated over and over again in the book of Judges.

But a good summary of the problem with the people at that time, is that they did what was right in their own eyes. They didn't do what was right in God's eyes, in God's sight, as revealed in His Word. They did what they wanted to do, what they thought was right. And we've seen that we cannot afford to use that as a standard of authority. Because we can be wrong. Our feelings, our emotions, can mislead us, can lead us down the wrong path.

And then a final example, from the history of man, Israel during the divided kingdom. During the divided kingdom, when Israel and Judah were two separate kingdoms. We see time and again, in God's record of his dealings with those nations at that time, that they forsook God, that they sought help from human powers rather than God. They tried to make alliances with foreign powers, heathen powers, if you will, those who were not followers of the one true and living God. And they worshiped false gods or idols of these nations, and partook of their sinful practices. So we can see from just those brief examples, the point is true, that man has had a problem with sin from the beginning of time, even up to this time, the present time when we're living.