

Overcoming Some Of Life's Problems # 2

The Problem Of Sin

Introduction:

1. While it is true that life has its problems - not all problems have the same weight & importance.
 - a. Some are material in nature and temporal in consequence.
 - b. Some are spiritual in nature and eternal in consequence.
2. Sin is the first and greatest problem man has.
3. In fact, that is the story of the Bible.
 - a. Man fell - thus needed a redeemer.
 - b. God provided a remedy through Christ.
 - c. From Genesis to Revelation the theme is "Christ the Redeemer".
 - d. Why is that the theme? *Because man has a problem with sin!*
4. Let's see what the Bible says about this problem:
 - a. Man has several problems with sin.
 - b. We are going to look at Biblical answers to the problems of *What, Who, When, Why & How.*

I. The Problem of WHAT (*What Sin Is*)

- A. *The term "sin" isn't used as it has been and should be in the world.*
 1. As if man doesn't sin anymore.
 2. Instead of calling sin "sin", we give it a different name - makes it more acceptable. (One is not thought of as a sinner - they have a disorder.)
- B. *Sin is a transgression of the law of God,*
 1. 1 John 3:4
 2. Example: Adam and Eve.
 - a. The law: Gen. 2:17 - not eat of the fruit.
 - b. The sin: Gen. 3:1-6 - they ate of the fruit.
- C. *Can sin by **doing** and also by **not doing**.*

1. When we do what is forbidden, we commit sin (Jas. 2:9).
2. When we fail to do what is commanded, this omission is sin (Jas. 4:17).

II. The Problem Of WHO (*Who Sins*)

- A. *Some think only of the low life (drunkard, thief, rapist, liar, etc.) when they think of a sinner.*
- B. *All men (whole world) sin*
 1. Rom. 1-3 shows the need man has because all are in sin.
 - a. Rom. 1 - The Gentiles are in sin.
 - b. Rom. 2 - The Jews, likewise, are in sin.
 - c. Rom. 3 - Concludes that **all** are in sin (cf. vv. 9, 23).
 2. 1 John 5:19 - whole world lies in wickedness.
 3. 1 Kings 8:46 - no one that doesn't sin.
- C. *Even good moral & religious people - sin*
 1. Cornelius - Acts 10
 - a. A good moral man (Acts 10:2, 22).
 - b. Yet, he still needed to be saved from sin (Acts 10:6; 11:14).
 2. Ethiopian Treasurer - Acts 8
 - a. A religious - dedicated man (Acts 8:27-28).
 - b. Yet, he still needed to be saved from sin (Acts 8:36).

III. The Problem Of WHEN (*When One Becomes A Sinner*)

- A. *Not at birth.*
 1. Calvinism teaches *Hereditary Total Depravity*. It says than one is born in sin. That doctrine bred other doctrines and practices like: direct operation of the Spirit, unconditional election and infant baptism.
 2. There is no passage that teaches one is born in sin.
 3. Ezek. 18 shows that sin is not inherited.
- B. *At the point of becoming accountable before God.*
 1. Rom. 7:9
 2. How can one know he has reached that point?
 - a. Old enough to know & understand about Christ (John 8:24).
 - b. Old enough to know what one must do to be saved (Acts 2:38).

- c. Old enough to sin - can recognize it in your life (Acts 22:16).

IV. The Problem Of WHY (*Why Sin Is A Problem*)

- A. *Sin separates from God.*
 - 1. Isa. 59:1-2
 - 2. Death (spiritual separation from God).
 - a. Ezek. 18:4
 - b. Rom. 5:12
 - c. Rom. 6:23
 - d. Jas. 1:15
- B. *Sin will keep us out of heaven (John 8:21).*
- C. *The reason for obeying the gospel is - man is in sin. He has a need!*

V. The Problem Of HOW (*How To Deal With The Problem*)

- A. *Saved by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8; Tit. 3:4-7).*
- B. *God's grace provided a sacrifice (Heb. 2:9).*
 - 1. Sin (being a violation of the law) demands that a penalty be paid.
 - 2. Man cannot pay. He has nothing to offer.
 - a. He cannot clear himself.
 - b. He can only face the consequence - Hell (Rom. 6:23).
 - 3. God has always demanded blood sacrifice.
 - a. Life is in the blood (Lev. 17).
 - b. Animal sacrifice could not remove sin (Heb. 10:4).
 - c. The perfect sacrifice was the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - 4. He died for our sins so we would not have to pay the penalty (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22).
- C. *Receiving the benefits of God's grace is conditional*
 - 1. Heb. 5:8-9
 - 2. 1 Pet. 1:22
- D. *What are the conditions? What must one do to be saved?*
 - 1. Hear - Rom. 10:17; Acts 2:22
 - 2. Believe - John 8:24; Acts 2:36

3. Repent - Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38
4. Confess that you believe - Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37
5. Be baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38

E. *The very nature of the problem suggest urgency in dealing with sin.*

1. Consequences if die in sin:
 - a. If die in sin - can't go to Heaven (John 8:21).
 - b. If die in sin - spend eternity in Hell (Rom. 6:23).
2. Danger of delay:
 - a. Christ could return - (1 Thess. 5:2).
 - b. You could die (Heb. 9:27).

Conclusion:

1. Indeed, sin is the greatest problem we face.
2. If we overcome this problem, all others are much easier to handle.

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