

SIN

*Its
Character & Categories*

12 Lessons

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2004

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Lesson One

“The Origin of Sin”

Introduction

1. Man is a creature of Responsibility.
 - a) The very fact of his creation makes him a creature of choice.
 - b) With choice comes responsibility.
 - c) With choice also comes consequences of choice.
2. False premises and pre-suppositions about man’s free moral agency leads to false conclusions.
 - a) Augustine (end of 4th century) tried to influence the church against free-moral-agency.
 - b) Calvin (16th century) fostered this same false teaching on men during the Reformation Movement.
 - c) So, the religious world has been biased somewhat against man’s free moral agency.
3. Purpose of this lesson:
 - a) To define sin.
 - b) To see the origin of sin.
 - c) To see that man is responsible for his sin.

Discussion

I. DEFINITION OF SIN:

A. Greek word (HARMATIA):

- 1) “To miss the mark.”
- 2) It is to fail in doing what I should have done.
- 3) The mark is perfection—complete submission to the Law of God.
- 4) I failed—I have missed the mark.

B. Other expressions:

- 1) 1 John 3:4b—***“Sin is the transgression of the Law.”***
 - a) It is to live in violation of God’s Law
 - b) To live in lawlessness, as an outlaw, outside of Law.
- 2) 1 John 5:17—***“All unrighteousness is sin.”***
 - a) Every wrong action—any wrongdoing is sin.

C. Observations:

- 1) Sin is related to the breaking or transgressing of God’s Law.
- 2) Sin is wrong actions—wrong doing.
- 3) Sin is something that man does contrary to God’s Law.
- 4) Man is guilty of committing Sin against God’s Law.

II. THE ORIGIN OF SIN:

A. In Heaven:

- 1) 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6
- 2) Emphasis upon what Angels did.
 - a) They sinned (Missed the mark).
 - b) They left their first estate—their own choice.
 - c) They were creatures of choice.—responsible.
 - d) They made their choice & suffered the consequences of such.

B. On Earth:

- 1) Genesis 3:1-7
 - a) The serpent came & tempted Mother Eve.
 - b) He deceived her into believing that she would not die.
 - c) She sinned—missed the mark—fell under the curse of sin.
- 2) Romans 5:12
 - a) Adam brought sin into the world of man.
 - b) And all men have sinned ever since.
- 3) But, there is another approach to the concept of the origination of sin:
 - a) James 1:13-15
 - b) Sin originates when:
 - One is tempted—an appeal is made to the desires of man.
 - He makes a decision to yield to these wrong desires.
 - The end result is sin.
 - And sin brings death!

C. Observations:

- 1) Sin is something that both Angels & Men made a choice to do.
- 2) Angels chose to disobey God, and so did man.
- 3) Both had the power to think, to make decisions, and free will.
- 4) With such comes the possibility of sin on the part of Angels and Men.
- 5) Such are not like the animal world.
- 6) God wanted these special creatures to want to choose to obey Him.

III. MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SIN!

A. *Ever since man's sin in the Garden of Eden, he has tried to escape the responsibility of his choices.*

- 1) Genesis 3:9-13)
 - a) Adam's excuse for himself—"the woman you gave me...."
 - b) Eve's excuse—"the serpent beguiled me..."
 - c) Unwillingness to accept responsibility for actions—for choice.
- 2) We, today, are no different.
 - a) We endeavor to blame others, our environment, our circumstances, etc.
 - b) There are others also ready to help us escape responsibility for our actions.
 - c) Psychiatrists have contributed greatly to this escape mechanism.
 - "Man's actions are because of circumstances beyond his control."
 - "He is not responsible for his actions."
 - "The solution is to alter man's circumstances and he will act right."
- 3) Men are trying to replace the word **SIN** with the term **SICKNESS**.
 - a) To say that an alcoholic or a homosexual is a sinner is to say he is in that condition by choice that he made.
 - b) It says—he is accountable for that choice and the consequences resulting from that choice.
 - c) And that he can and ought to change his behavior.
 - d) But to say that the same person is sick is to say:

- That he cannot help what he is or is doing;
- That he ought not to be held responsible for his deeds or the undesirable consequences.
- That he cannot be expected to behave differently.

e) And thus, sinful man feels justified in his disobedience of God's Law.

B. The Bible plainly states that man is responsible for his sins!

1) Deuteronomy 30:19

a) While God gave the Israelites the choice of life or death, blessing or cursing.....

b) Man cannot alter the consequences of his choice.

c) He cannot choose the way of death and be given life.

d) The prodigal son was free to leave his father & go into a far country.

e) But he was not free to determine the consequences of that choice.

2) Some Psychiatrists have seen the light:

a) **Dr. William Glasser** in talking about juvenile delinquents said:

"Regardless of what causes his bad behavior, the child is primarily responsible... (and) we never intimate in any way that entering into Psychiatric treatment relieves him of the responsibility for what he does.....If everybody working with a delinquent child holds him responsible to himself for what he does, the child soon learns the pleasure of doing well and getting credit for it."

b) The wrong approach is to provide delinquents with justification for their wrong conduct.

c) *"Quit explaining to wrongdoers why they are doing wrong, and instead, point out how and why they ought to do the right thing."*

2) God makes it clear...with the freedom to choose comes also the consequences of those choices. (Romans 2:4-11).

CONCLUSION

1. Man needs to understand:

a) That all have sinned and fall short of the mark (Romans 3:23).

b) But all are accountable for their choices that they make (2 Corinthians 5:10).

c) That makes us accountable human beings.

2. Jesus has made it possible for us to escape the horrible spiritual consequences of sin (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Lesson Two

“The Character of Sin”**INTRODUCTION**

1. Some years ago a French Philosopher made this observation:
“Man first became conscious of sin some 6,000 years ago. The cycle is just about completed---he is practically unconscious of it again.”
2. Our age is fast trying to erase sin!
 - a) Not the right way, but the wrong way.
 - b) They are doing more sinning, but calling it something else.
 - c) They are trying to erase “sin-consciousness” from their hearts.
 - d) John 8:31-47
3. But as long as men respect the Bible, Sin will still be sin to them.
4. Our lesson---See how the Bible characterizes Sin!

DISCUSSION**I. SIN COMES OF EVIL PARENTAGE.*****A. Sin is not of God, but of the evil one!***

- 1) John 8:44—***“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.”***
- 2) 1 John 3:8—***“He that committeth (continues in) sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”***

B. Sin originated with the Devil.

- 1) To continue to walk in sin shows who our real father is.
- 2) To deny it is useless.
- 3) The devil loves evil, God hates every evil way.
- 4) To be of God, we too must hate every evil way.

II. SIN IS A DECEIVER.***A. Sin must work deceptively.***

- 1) To come as sin would defeat it's purpose.
- 2) Once that he gets us enslaved, then, “Who cares?”
- 3) But at first, he must come in a garb of pretended good.
- 4) It is trying to do us a favor.
- 5) Look at the Devil's offer to Christ: ***“I will give you all the kingdoms of this world.”***
- 6) Heb. 3:13—***“But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”***

B. It must pose or be similar to righteousness.

- 1) Matt. 7:15—***“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing.”***

- 2) Matt. 23:27—*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.”*
- 3) 2 Cor. 11:14—*“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

C. Its joys are temporary!

- 1) Sin promises great things, but cannot fully deliver.
- 2) It promises us the moon, but gives us the grave.
- 3) Moses’ choice: *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.”*
- 4) But someone observes: **“Look what sin can give you!”**
 - a) Yes, be sure to look real close to what sin brings you!
 - b) Rom. 6:23—*“The wages of sin is death.”*

III. SIN IS A ROBBER.

A. Robs us of our confidence in God.

- 1) The Devil made God out to be a liar to Eve.
- 2) Got them to doubt God.
- 3) Heb. 3:12—*“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”*

B. Robs us of our time!

- 1) Sin leads to waste:
 - a) Wasted bodies, energies, health, possessions, and time.
 - b) It enslaves men for years, so there is little time left to serve God.
 - c) So many missed opportunities to look back upon!
- 2) Eph. 5:15-16—*“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

C. Robs us of helpful companions.

- 1) You can always have evil companions to help you sin.
 - a) 1 Cor. 15:33—*“Evil companions corrupt good morals.”*
 - b) Such are always ready to lead us into sin.
- 2) While the righteous want to help us to flee from sin.
- 3) Jas. 4:7—*“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*
- 4) The Prodigal Son had plenty of help to get into the depths of sin.
 - a) But where were they, when he needed them most?
 - b) To whom did he turn for help?

D. Robs us of our promise of Eternal Life in Heaven.

- 1) This is our birthright.
- 2) We were created by God to be with God.
- 3) To lose heaven is to lose our birthright.
- 4) Rev. 21:8—*“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars,*

shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

IV. SIN IS A TYRANT.

A. *He comes as a temporary guest.*

- 1) "It won't hurt"
- 2) "It is so small"
- 3) "It requires so little"
- 4) "Nobody will ever notice" ...etc.

B. *But soon, Sin demands the best room in the house.*

- 1) One thing leads to another.
- 2) One drink, often leads to drunkenness.
- 3) Going to chaperoned dances, often leads to night clubs, drinking, etc.
- 4) Young people parking in cars, often leads to illicit love affairs.
- 5) Cheating on tests at school, often leads to lying, stealing, etc.

C. *Sin never stops short of tyranic rule, if possible, to completely enslave us.*

- 1) John 8:34---"*Whosoever committeth (continues in) sin is the servant of sin.*"
- 2) Rom. 6:16---"*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness*"
- 3) Peter describes certain ones in this condition..."*cannot escape from sin.*" (2 Peter 2:14)
- 4) 2 Peter 2:19---"*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*"

V. SIN IS A DESTROYER.

A. *Destroys relationships with God.....and MAN also.*

- 1) Isa. 59:1-2
- 2) Only sin can destroy this relationship.
- 3) Not poverty, suffering, reproach, famine, etc.

B. *Destroys peace of mind.*

- 1) No longer have clear conscience.
- 2) Peter wept bitterly after his sin of denying Jesus.
- 3) Judas hanged himself in his remorse.
- 4) Cannot be at peace with God, while we continue in way of sin.

C. *Destroys man's will to serve God.*

- 1) Sin can overcome a man.(2 Peter 2:20-22)
- 2) Men goes to the point where he cannot be brought to repentance.(Heb. 6:4-6).

D. *Destroy the body.*

- 1) 1 Cor. 6:18---"*Flee fornication....he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*"
- 2) Gal. 6:7-8

E. *Destroys the soul in Hell. Rom. 6:23*

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus said He came to release man from the bondage and hold of sin.
 - a) He wants to set us free. (John 8:32)
 - b) He wants us to become servants of righteousness. (Rom. 6:18)
 - c) He offers to give us release from the burden of sin. (Matt. 11:28)
 - d) But it is only through Christ that this burden can be lifted & bondage ended!
2. **“There is a fountain filled with blood, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.”**
3. Will you recognize the TRUE CHARACTER OF SIN?
4. And turn to Jesus for deliverance.

Lesson Three

“Respectable Sins”INTRODUCTION

1. Comments on John 8:1-11
 - a) Woman caught in act of adultery.
 - b) She was brought to Jesus to trap him in His answer to the Scribes & Pharisees.
 - c) The religious leaders tell Jesus what Moses' Law said was to be done with her.
 - d) **“But what do you say?”**
 - e) Jesus' silence caused them to continually press him for an answer.
 - f) **“He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone.”**
 - g) **“Being convicted of their own conscience, they all left!”**
2. Here is a sharp contrast between:
 - a) Respectable & non-respectable persons.
 - b) Respectable and non-respectable sins...as some would define it.
 - c) The Woman was looked down upon as a rank sinner!
 - d) But these religious leaders' sin was also RANK, BUT they looked upon themselves as respectable.
 - e) Which was baser in the eyes of the Lord: THE WOMAN'S SIN OR THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS' SIN?
3. Clarification about the term, “Respectable sins”.
 - a) We are not advocating this distinction.
 - b) But many do....and we want to look at these so-called “respectable sins.”

DISCUSSION**I. LET'S LOOK CLOSER AT THE EXPRESSION, “RESPECTABLE SINS”**

- A. Quote: **“Sin that takes on the semblance of goodness, or innocence, and judges itself by the dignity of its manner and appearance.”**
 - 1) It is sin in the lives of “respectable” people, whether in the community or in the church.
 - 2) These sins are separated from the ones that have open & evident consequences.
 - 3) Because of the “respectability” of the person, their sin may be harder to detect.
 - 4) Rev. 3:17—**“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”**
 - a) In spite of their “respectability”....condemned by God!
 - b) “Respectability” often blinds people to the true character of sin!
- B. **Sin is still sin....even though committed by “respectable people”.**
 - 1) It is wrong to think that sin is only associated with un-respectable people.
 - 2) Jesus condemned the “respectable people” in His society in no uncertain terms because of their sin.
 - 3) Matt. 23:27-28—**“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also**

outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

C. So-called “respectable sins” and sinners have a grave danger about them!

- 1) Sins that bring terrible consequences can be seen for what they are then.
- 2) So-called “respectable sins” often do not bring this same evident evil consequence at first.
- 3) Even some times, a terrible sin, when committed by a “respectable person”, is often overlooked or winked at!
- 4) But analyze and see which is worse:
 - a) Which is worse:
 - 1—A man who breaks into your house and steals money.
 - 2—Or, a man who breaks into your confidence and sells a bad product to you?
 - b) Which is worse:
 - 1—One who lies to get what he wants.
 - 2—Or, politicians or religious leaders who teach lies to get a following?
- 5) In one sense “respectable sins” are more inexcusable than the baser.
 - a) For the “respectable person” has had far better opportunities than the “less fortunate” person in life!
 - b) He knew better...more so than the other!
 - c) Luke 12:47-48—***“And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”***
- 6) “Respectable sins” are often more dangerous because:
 - a) More enticing.
 - b) Wield greater influence for evil.

II. LET’S LOOK AT SOME SINS THAT COULD FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

A) Hypocrisy:

- 1) This is sin under the cloak of religiousness or so-called righteousness.
 - a) They are not really interested in pleasing the Lord.
 - b) They need a front for their consciences and to deceive others.
- 2) Examples:
 - a) Matt. 15:8-9—***“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”***
 - b) Matt. 6:1—***“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”***

B. Extortion:

- 1) This is sin under the garb of the respectable business man.

- a) People who overcharge for their skills or products.
- b) Who are not concerned for people, but themselves.
- 2) 1 Cor. 5:11—***“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”***
- 3) Being in the church may make it seem respectable, but it is not acceptable.

C. **Stubbornness:**

- 1) This is a sin often under the guise of being a great leader!
 - a) “He sure has a good head on him.”
 - b) “Look how capable he is in leading people.”
- 2) But under the surface can be hiding the sin of stubborn pride and self-will.
- 3) 1 Sam. 15:23—***“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”***
- 4) “Respectable” (a king), but a grave sinner before God.
- 5) Warning: ***“Neither as being Lord’s over God’s heritage”***(1 Peter 5:3)

D. **Covetousness:**

- 1) This can be sin under the guise of “the great success story.”
 - a) “He is a good business man”
 - b) “Look how successful he has been business-wise.”
- 2) But the Rich Fool was also a successful business man.
 - a) Luke 12:15, 19-20
 - b) Respectable, but a grave sinner before God.
- 3) Col. 3:5—***“Covetousness, which is idolatry.”***

E. **Worldliness:**

- 1) This is sin under the guise of “a most likeable person.”
 - a) The person is very sociable, well-liked, speaks to everyone.
 - b) He gets along well with everyone.
- 2) Sometimes there is a very good basic reason why he is liked by all.
 - a) No convictions for truth & righteousness.
 - b) Can go along with anything & everything to be with group.
 - c) Can rationalize away any sinful act, so all will like him.
- 3) But worldliness is a sin under any guise!
 - a) James 4:4—***“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”***
 - b) In what sense?
 - 1—It is not wrong to be a friend of people.
 - 2—But it is wrong to partake of their evil or sin.
 - c) 1 Jn. 2:15-17

CONCLUSION

- 1. God’s attitude toward sin is that it is sin, wrong, regardless of who does it.
- 2. It is true that some sins seem to affect more people than other sins.
- 3. But, they are all still sins to be turned from.
- 4. Being “respectable” in a given society does not take away from its sinfulness before God.

Lesson Four

“Sins of Strife”**INTRODUCTION**

1. Sin is at the root of all our ills in Society, Country, Home, Church.
2. God is calling upon all men to put away sin from their lives.
3. But in particular, His redeemed people must put sin away.
4. Eph. 4:22—***“That ye put off concerning the former manner of life of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”***
5. The emphasis is....Put off **AND** Put on!!.....No vacuum!
6. Thus, Christians should be characterized by:
 - a) What they put off;
 - b) What they put on.
7. This study on Sin.....Sins of Strife....to be put off!

DISCUSSION**I. TERMS THAT DENOTE SINS OF STRIFE:*****A. Strife (ERITHEIA)***

- 1) “A contentious spirit”
- 2) “One who stirs up trouble among God’s people.”
- 3) “Faction, Rivalry, Intrigues, Party-making attitude to win followers”
- 4) Jas. 3:14, 16—***“But if ye have envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth....For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”***
- 5) Rom. 2:8—***“But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath...”***
- 6) 2 Cor. 12:20—***“For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults...”***
- 7) Behind the contention, faction, strife is a wrong motive!
 - a) Such a person is self-seeking, not really concern for others.
 - b) He desires to gain his own ends.
 - c) They plan and scheme to get their way.
 - d) More concerned about the triumph of his ideas, than welfare of the church.

B. Sedition (DICHOSTASIA)

- 1) Division, or things that lead to division.
- 2) Identified with Insurrection, Uproar.
- 3) I Cor. 3:3—***“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”***
- 4) Strong disagreement that brings dissension or division.
- 5) A state in which men are divided, feuds flourish, unity destroyed.
- 6) Various kinds of divisions:

- a) Between two people who will avoid and not speak to each other.
 - b) Two separate groups in the church that won't speak to each other.
 - c) Two classes of people in church who won't speak (racial).
 - d) Two churches not having anything to do with each other.
- 7) Dangers:
- a) To justify sedition or division in the name of standing for truth, when, in reality, they are standing for their opinion.
 - b) Or, in the name of principles of righteousness, when it is really prejudices.
 - c) Need to be sure that when we have to take a stand, and even stand alone...it is for righteousness' sake (truth's sake).

C. Heresies (*Hairesis*)

- 1) "One's self-willed opinion instead of submitting to the Truth."
- 2) Which leads to sectarian groups.
- 3) Belief contrary to the truth....taught to gain a following.
- 4) The process:
 - a) Opinions taught rather than truth....Heresy!
 - b) Results in Sectarian groups....Sects!
 - c) Destroys the unity of the "One Body of Christ."
 - d) Word is translated both ways.
- 5) 1 Cor. 11:19—"***For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.***"
- 6) 2 Peter 2:1—"***But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.***"

C. Variance (*ERIS*)

- 1) "Variance, strife, contentious temper, dissension, disputing, quarreling, debate, contention, rivalry, squabbling, argument."
- 2) Primarily....Wrangling, disagreement, discord, state of controversy"
- 3) The end result of wrong attitudes in the heart.
- 4) Prov. 10:12—"***Hatred stireth up strifes; but love covereth all sins.***"
- 5) Prov. 18:6—"***A fool's lips enter into contention.***"
- 6) The gospel came into a world filled with enmity & strife.
 - a) Christ's gospel truly had something desirable to offer.
 - b) A fellowship of love and oneness.
 - c) A closeness together as the Family of God among men.
- 7) 1 Cor. 3:3—"***For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?***"
- 8) No sin works harder than this one to invade the church.
 - a) It is very destructive of Christian fellowship.
 - b) It is one that must be constantly guarded against.

II. WHAT ARE THE SINS THAT BRING STRIFE, CONTENTION, DIVISION?

A. Hatred (*ECHTHRA*)

- 1) “Enmity, Hostility, Quarrels, Feuds, Conflicting elements.”
- 2) “A strong or passionate dislike; detestation, ill-will, animosity.”
- 3) Emphasis is on condition of heart toward others.
- 4) The end result is estrangement, alienation, enemies, strife.
- 5) The ugliness of this attitude is best shown by its contrast:
 - a) Love is its opposite.
 1. An attitude of mind which will not allow bitterness toward any
 2. Love never seeks anything, but the highest good for others.
 - b) Enmity is that attitude which puts up barriers between people.
 1. Draws a circle small, exclusive, leaving people out.
 2. Enmity is a work of the flesh, condemned.
 3. Love widens the circle, holds out hands of friendship to all.

B. Wrath (Thumos) (ORGE)

- 1) To become incensed, angry, wrath.
- 2) Anger boiling up, intense passion.
- 3) Fits of rage, temper, outbursts of passion, ill-feeling.
- 4) Rev. 16:19—“*Great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness(Thumos) of his wrath(Orge).*”
- 5) Thumos is anger explosive, but brief.
- 6) Orge is anger growing, longlasting, cherished in memory against a person.
- 7) The Christian is called upon to bring under control eruptions of anger, furious language, violent impulse.

C. Emulations (ZELOS)

- 1) An envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy, stirring of emotions, outbursts and manifestations.”
- 2) Envy, Jealousy, Indignation.
- 3) Painful feelings, anxious fears, unfounded suspicions aroused in the heart over the excellence of others.
- 4) Unholy desires to excel one another, rivalries.
- 5) Jealousy never allows one to “rejoice with those who rejoice.”
- 6) Jealousy brings pain, hard-feelings, resentment towards others.
- 7) It is an ugly thing.
- 8) Great test of a man:
 - a) See how he reacts to Greatness & Success of others around him.
 - b) If such moves him to noble ambition to be a better person, it is the work of God's Spirit.
 - c) Such bitter resentment is a work of the flesh.

D. Envyings (PHTHONOS)

- 1) Generally: “feeling of ill-will, discontent, or mortification at another's superiority, success, or advantages.”
- 2) A covetous desire for the advantage possessed by another.
- 3) “Rankling anger that is nursed waiting it's opportunity for revenge.”
- 4) Quarrels, Party feuds in the church leave behind: GRUDGES, RESENTMENTS:
 - a) These are hard to heal.
 - b) Comes from the fruit of old contentions.

- 5) Envy does not usually subside like jealousy.
 - a) Jealousy may be a burst of passion...and then it is over.
 - b) Envy remains, smolders, making forgiveness impossible.
 - c) Envy may be the end results of Jealousy, unless the heart can be changed and cleansed.

CONCLUSION

1. Such conditions of the heart destroy UNITY, ONENESS, FELLOWSHIP, LOVE in a congregation of people.
2. Such must be put away: BITTER FEELINGS; OUT-BURSTS OF ANGER; and ALL ILL-WILL, JEALOUSY, AND ENVY OF OTHERS.
3. If we will do so:
 - a) We will be the better for it;
 - b) We will be happier with ourselves;
 - c) Our opportunities for influencing others will be greater for good.
4. To go to heaven, the Spirit of God must win out in our lives!

Lesson Five

“Sins of Fraud”

(1 Cor. 5:9-13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Illustration:
 - a) Young preacher trying hard to impress people with need of cleaning up their lives.
 - b) He exposed some serious sins known to exist among local members.
 - c) One of the members gave him some “Fatherly” advice.
 - d) “Son, you may edify, glorify, and even sanctify, but don’t ever specify.”
2. Most of us would rather not have our sins pointed out to us.
 - a) I do believe we want the kind of preaching that exposes sin for what it is.
 - b) And each of us has to strive to keep sin out of our lives.
3. This lesson.....Looking at Sins of Fraud under two major headings: DECEIT, STEALING.

DISCUSSION**I. DECEIT, DECEPTION, DECEITFUL.****A. *Look at the concept of Deceit:***

- 1) Defined:
 - a) “Concealment, perversion of the truth for the purpose of misleading.”
 - b) “Deception; Fraud; Cheating”
 - c) “An act or device intended to deceive.”
 - d) “To cause to believe what is false or to disbelieve what is true.”
- 2) Scriptures:
 - a) Mark 7:21-23 (What comes out of the heart)
 - b) Rom. 1:29—“Deceit” is mentioned in long list of sins.
 - c) 2 Cor. 4:2—“***But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.***”

B. *Lying is a form of deceit!*

- 1) Various forms of lying mentioned in Scripture:
 - a) Lev. 19:12—“***Ye shall not swear by my name falsely.***”
 - b) Prov. 19:5—“***A false witness shall not be unpunished.***”
 - c) Gal. 1:6-7—“***I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.***” (Pervert the truth)
 - d) Ps. 12:3—“***The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips.***”
 - e) 1 Tim. 3:8—“***Deacons must be...not double-tongued.***”
 - f) 1 Tim. 1:4—“***Neither give heed to fables.***”
 - g) Tit. 2:7-8—“***In doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned.***”

- 2) We have terms that we use that are very similar:
 - a) Falsehood
 - b) Misrepresent truth
 - c) Suppression of truth
 - d) Exaggeration
 - e) Evasion
 - f) Half-truths
 - g) Straining a point, etc.
- 3) Warnings against lying:
 - a) God hates them that regard lying. Ps. 31:6
 - b) He hates a lying tongue. Prov. 6:17
 - c) Lying lips are an abomination to Him. Prov. 12:22
 - d) We are to put away lying. Eph. 4:25
 - e) A righteous man will hate lying. Prov. 13:5
 - f) Liars shall not escape God's punishment. Prov. 19:5, 9
 - g) We are not to lie against the truth. Jas. 3:14
 - h) We are not to change the truth of God into a lie. Rom. 1:25
 - i) God does not lie. Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18; Tit. 1:2
 - j) If do not love truth, God will send a strong delusion so we will believe a lie and be lost. 2 Thess. 2:11
 - k) All liars will have their part in the lake of fire. Rev. 21:8

C. Hypocrisy is also a form of deceit.

- 1) Forms of Hypocrisy mentioned in Scripture:
 - a) Guile:
 1. Form of deceit, cunning, craft, treachery. 2 Cor. 12:16
 2. Jesus was said to be free of guile. 1 Pet. 2:22
 3. The Righteous are those that have no guile. Rev. 14:5
 4. Christian is to put such away from his lips. 1 Pet. 2:1
 5. Pray to keep lips from speaking guile. 1 Pet. 3:10
 - b) Feign:
 1. To deceive or pretend. Mk. 12:40; Prov. 26:26
 2. Pretend to be just what we are not. Lk. 20:20
 3. False teachers use feigned words to make merchandise of us. 2 Pet. 2:3
 - c) Mat. 7:15—***“As wolves in sheep's clothing.”***
 - d) Matt. 15:7-9—***“Draw nigh with lips, but heart far from me.”***
 - e) Phil. 1:16—***“The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely...”***
 - f) Jas. 1:8—***“A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”***
 - g) 2 Cor. 13:5—***“Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.”***
- 2) Warnings:
 - a) Not to be like the hypocrites. Matt. 6:5
 - b) Such is to be put away from our lives. 1 Pet. 2:1
 - c) God's woes are pronounced upon all hypocrites. Matt. 23:13
 - d) God is against them. Job 17:8
 - e) Shall not come before God. Job 13:16

II. 2ND AREA TO DEFRAUD IS STEALING, THIEVERY.**A. Stealing:**

- 1) Defined:
 - a) To take, or take away, dishonestly or wrongfully.
 - b) Appropriate (ideas, credit, words, etc.) without right or acknowledgment.”
 - c) Take without permission.
 - d) To take, get, or win by insidious arts or subtle means.
 - e) To gain by chance or luck.
 - f) To appropriate or use another’s ideas, methods, etc., without asking leave, or giving credit.
- 2) Scriptures:
 - a) Exo. 20:15—**“Thou shalt not steal.”**
 - b) Eph. 4:28—**“Let him that stole, steal no more.”**
- 3) Various terms that we use today:
 - a) Plunder
 - b) Rob
 - c) Black-mail
 - d) Burglary
 - e) Shop-lifting
 - f) Pilferer
 - g) Kidnap
 - h) Racketeer
 - i) Taking tools from company
 - j) Finders keepers, losers weepers
 - k) A thief.
- 4) We are warned against stealing. Exo. 20:15; Lev. 19:11; Deut. 5:19
 - a) Such shall be cut off. Zech. 5:3
 - b) God’s people to put such away. Eph. 4:28

B. Extortion is a form of stealing.

- 1) Defined:
 - a) Oppression, snatching away, to wring out, to bite.
 - b) To wring something from a person by violence, intimidation, or abuse of authority.
 - c) To obtain money, information, etc., by force, torture, threat, or the like.
 - d) To take illegally under color of office
 - e) Illegal exaction.
 - f) Excessive price or interest.
 - g) Grossly excessive prices.
- 2) Scripture: 1 Cor. 5:10-11; 6:10
- 3) Various terms we use today:
 - a) Over-charge
 - b) Privateering
 - c) Terms that deal with excessive charging of interest.

C. Dishonesty is a form of stealing.

- 1) Defined:

- a) Lacking in integrity.
- b) Disposed to lie, cheat, or steal; fraud or theft.
- 2) Scriptures:
 - a) Ezek. 22:13—“*...I have smitten my hand at thy dishonest gain.*”
 - b) 2 Cor. 4:2—“*But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully...*”
- 3) Other terms:
 - a) Cheating
 - b) False weights and measures (Amos 8:5)
 - c) Plagiarize
 - d) Forger
 - e) Counterfeiter
 - f) Receiver of stolen goods
 - g) “Good horse trader?”

D. Free-Loader is a form of stealing.

- 1) The idea of:
 - a) Getting something for nothing. (Gambling, Lottery??)
 - b) Living off of others.
 - c) Taking advantage of others.
- 2) Paul warned: “*If a man will not work, neither let him eat.*” (2 Thess. 3:7-12)

CONCLUSION

- 1. Deceit, lying, hypocrisy, stealing, extortion, fraud, dishonesty, free-loading:
 - a) are things not to be found in the lives of Christians.
 - b) Must be put away.
- 2. The world is just as much aware of these concepts as we are.
 - a) They may chose to practice one or more for their own ends.
 - b) But they recognize the wrongness of the principles within.
 - c) What a shame, that one calls himself a Christian, and can't see it.”
- 3. “You must have nothing to do with any kind of evil.” (1 Thess. 5:22)
 - a) Even though the Bible does not name things clearly, they could still be wrong.
 - b) To assume that just because it is not named, it is all right....is not correct.
 - c) Many of these decisions require a very conscientious heart!
- 4. Let's remember our goal as a Christian:
 - a) High principles
 - b) High values
 - c) Let's not see how close we can get to sin, but how far away!.

Lesson Six

“Sins of Sensual Passion”***Introduction***

1. Sin is treated like a play-toy by many in this country!
 - a) But its bite sooner or later will convince them otherwise.
 - b) Sin will take its toll on the lives of those involved.
 - c) Gal. 6:8—“*...he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption...*”
 - d) It affects us whether we are willing to admit it or not.
 - e) 1 Cor. 6:18—“*Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body.*”
2. God's Law is being ignored.
 - a) People are living as they please—without concern.
 - b) They think they can beat the game—to play with sin without paying the penalty.
 - c) But God's Word is sure—sin will bring its retribution.
3. This lesson looks at the sins of sensual passion or the “works of the flesh.”
 - a) It is important to understand that the body is not sinful in itself.
 - b) It is the corrupt use of the body for evil that God warns against.
 - c) Quote: “*The whole system of corrupt nature as it breaks forth into many different forms of transgression against God.*”
 - d) It is a heart in rebellion or disobedience to God (Matt. 15:19-20).
 - e) It is satisfying the desires of the body in the wrong way.
4. Four Words illustrate this group of sins: Adultery, Fornication, Uncleanness, Lasciviousness.

Discussion**I. ADULTERY*****A. In the list in the King James Version.***

- 1) Adultery is not in the later versions.
- 2) It is believed to have been an addition to the text.
- 3) However, there are other listings where both words are in the text: Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:21.
- 4) The word Fornication is a general word and would include Adultery.

B. Adultery Defined:

- 1) **MOICHEIA**—“denotes one who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another.”
- 2) Jesus defines it in Matthew 19:9—“*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and whoso marries her which is put away does commit adultery.*”
- 3) Simply, it is to be married to someone that I should not be because they have been married and divorced without scriptural cause.

II. FORNICATION***A. Defined:***

- 1) It is a generic word that includes all kinds of sexual immorality.
- 2) **PORNEIA**—“illicit sexual intercourse.”

- 3) This would include:
 - a) Violation of the marriage bed.
 - b) Unlawful pre-marital sex or extra-marital sex.
 - c) Translated as: **Harlot, Whore, Whoremonger.**
- 4) Other translations:
 - a) **RSV**—Immorality
 - b) **Moffatt**—Sexual vice
 - c) **Phillips**—Sexual Immorality
- 5) The idea of “Prostitution” is obviously involved in this word.
 - a) Involves “love that is bought and sold.”
 - b) Not true love, but earthly, sensual love.
 - c) Where a person is treated as a thing for gratification.
 - d) An instrument through which lust & passion are satisfied.
 - e) One to be purchased & discarded without respect for personality.
- 6) Our word “Pornography” comes from this Greek word also.
- 7) This word would include: Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Incest, Bestiality, Rape, etc.

B. The World in Christ's day:

- 1) It was an “*age where shame seems to have vanished.*”
- 2) **Greeks:** “*We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for the day to day needs of the body, but have wives in order to produce children legitimately and to have a trustworthy guardian of our homes.*”
- 3) **Romans:** “*Innocence is not rare, it is non-existent.*”
- 4) Homosexuality was widely practiced even among public figures: Plato, Socrates, Julius Caesar, etc.
- 5) Writings of the Pagans well illustrate the degradation and shame of the world of that day: “*They were disgusted with themselves.*”
- 6) 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- 7) Our country today is fast rivaling this condition.

C. Christians must avoid such sins or be swallowed up by them!

- 1) Such sins were practiced in the name of religion then.
- 2) It is still practiced & justified by religious people today.
- 3) But God calls these things: Works of the flesh.
- 4) And those who practice such shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

III. UNCLEANNESS

A. Defined:

- 1) **AKATHARSIA**—“*Impurity of mind (thought) and deed.*”
- 2) Translated by: **Uncleanness, Unclean lives, Foul desires, Base motives, Indecency, Sexual immorality, Dirty-mindedness.**

B. Use in the Old Testament:

- 1) Hosea 2:10—“*And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers.*”
- 2) Proverbs 6:16, 18—“*These six things the Lord hates: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him....a heart that devises wicked imaginations...*”

3) Micah 2:10—“*Arise and depart: for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.*”

4) Moral depravity that disgusts the person who sees it.

C. Use in New Testament:

1) 2 Cor. 6:17—“*...come out from among them, and touch not the unclean thing.*”

2) Eph. 5:11-12—“*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*”

3) It would seem to include all kinds of sexual deviations also: Bestiality, Sodomy, Incest, etc.

4) These were all sins common among the heathens—Unnatural lust and moral impurity of every kind.

5) Romans 1:24-27

a) Describes the perverseness of men—degradation—shame.

b) But also states—“*They receive proper recompense they deserve.*”

IV. LASCIVIOUSNESS

A. Defined:

1) **ASELGEIA**—“Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.”

2) “**Filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.**” (Thayer)

3) Translated by: **Lasciviousness, Wantonness, Filthy.**

4) It is used in connection with men of Sodom (2 Peter 2:7).

5) It carries with it the idea of Shamelessness, Lewd, Sensual, Unrestrained violence, open indulgence in impurity.

B. Broad General concept of word:

1) The Love of sin

2) A ceasing to care what God or man thinks.

3) Sin openly, flaunting his sin.

4) Disregard for public decency and public opinion.

5) It is the loss of one's SELF-RESPECT....A SENSE OF SHAME.

Conclusion

1. If man's lust & sensuality is not checked—it progresses to its end of open shamelessness.

2. Those who walk in (practice such) shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

a) The kingdom consists of those regenerated, who are led by the Spirit of God.

b) Those in the kingdom are warned to put such things away.

3. Those who continue to walk in such things (practices):

a) Prove their rebellious spirit;

b) Prove or show where their heart really is;

c) Will openly manifest that they are in the kingdom of darkness.

Lesson Seven

“Sins of Superstition”***Introduction***

1. Mankind is basically the same as he has always been!
 - a) The differences are only in degrees!
 - b) He is either more wicked or less wicked.
 - c) Or, more striving to do right or less striving to do right.
2. The same admonitions that God gave 3500 years ago are still applicable today.
 - a) Yes, Christianity has made its impact!
 - b) But that varies with time.
 - c) One writer stated that Christianity had almost stamped out witchcraft.
 - It was written just a few years ago.
 - Now, it is again becoming more and more prominent.
3. Man doesn't for long stay on the road of righteousness.
 - a) This is the reason why we continually need to be reminded of right things.
 - b) And strong encouraged to practice righteousness.
4. This lesson will look at two words: Idolatry & Witchcraft.

Discussion**I. IDOLATRY*****A. Defined:***

- 1) Greek word **EIDOLOLATREIA**—“Appearance, Seen, Idea.”
- 2) Thus, an image of something to represent a missing person or being.
- 3) Thayer: “*The worship of false gods, idolatry.*”
- 4) 20th Century Dictionary: “*An material object to which religious worship is addressed; hence, a false god or fictitious divinity, as of a heathen people.*”
- 5) It is giving worship & adoration to or before an object that has: Appearance, Form, Figure, or Shape.
- 6) Stresses an appeal to the senses of man.

B. Old Testament teachings & dealings with Idolatry.

- 1) Heathen world given over to Idolatry.
- 2) God tried to protect the Israelites from this danger by various things.
 - a) Invariably, they would get caught up in it time after time.
- 3) The prophets taught strongly against such.
- 4) They characterized them as:
 - a) Weak, Nothing, Feeble, Lifeless, Dumb, etc.
 - b) Called them: **Graven images**—that which man fashions himself.
Molten images—that which is fashioned of metal.
 - c) A man takes a tree:
 - With a part of it, he makes a fire to warm himself;
 - With another part, he uses for fire to bake bread to eat;
 - With some of it he makes into an image to worship.

C. Dangers & Evils connected with Idolatry.

- 1) May have first begun as an aid to worship the true God.
 - a) But deterioration sets in quickly.
 - b) The image becomes the dwelling place of the divine.
 - c) Or, the image takes on special reverence and is worshipped.
- 2) It leads to, or is a denial of, the True God of heaven.
 - a) Who is invisible to the human eye;
 - b) Who cannot be captured by man's arts and devices;
 - c) Who cannot be contained in that small place of man's choosing.
- 3) This visible form restricts a person's concept of God.
 - a) It is demeaning to God, an affront to His greatness.
 - b) It is a perversion of the True knowledge of God

D. The sin is to worship the creature rather than the Creator.

- 1) Romans 1:19-23
- 2) Man's pride causes him to make his own gods.
- 3) He thereby worships himself.
- 4) He then, sets on the course of debasing himself.

E. New Testament emphasis on defining Idolatry.

- 1) Putting self before God. (Phil. 3:19).
- 2) Covetousness is called Idolatry (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5)
- 3) The general concept then is:
 - a) Idolatry can be anything that comes or is put before God.
 - b) Family before God.
 - c) Success before God.
 - d) Money before God.
 - e) Things before God.
- 4) But, it can also be a sacred object that is bowed down before or revered.
- 5) A man's god is that to which he dedicates his Time, Substance, Talents, and Himself unto.
- 6) Whatever holds the principle place in our hearts, minds, aims:
 - a) Becomes our god;
 - b) Usurps the place of God.
- 7) Idolatry leads away from the True God—not to Him.

II. WITCHCRAFT**A. Greek Word PHARMAKEIA—“Drugs, Medicines” in its original use.**

- 1) This is the way we use it today—Pharmacy—where medicines are sold.
- 2) But the word was corrupted when men took these drugs and put them to an evil use.
- 3) It then became defined as: “*A drug, an enchantment, pertaining to magical arts.*” Or “*Bewitch, charm, sorcery, magic, or magical influence.*”
- 4) The word has gone full cycle:
 - a) From healing & curative drugs;
 - b) To vicious & malignant dealing in witchcraft or sorcery.
- 5) Acts 8:9-11 illustrates.

B. The Ancient World was riddled with such indulgence.

- 1) Deut. 18:9-13
- 2) God was warning Israel:
 - a) Don't turn to this superstition to find your answers for life.
 - b) Turn to the Lord your God—hear Him.
 - c) Don't depend upon these charms you wear about your neck to protect you.
 - d) Look to God for protection.
- 3) Superstition is not easily rooted out.
 - a) The wearing of special, sacred, things about the neck is still practiced today in the name of Christianity.
 - b) Magic powers are given to certain names, men, objects—even today.
 - c) The abilities to look into the future through various signs, etc., still is practiced today.

C. God's Word says such is evil!

- 1) It is turning from God to the inventions of evil men.
- 2) It is trusting in what men say rather than the Word of God.
- 3) It is believing that men can:
 - a) Influence unseen powers to produce love or hatred upon others;
 - b) Or bring prosperity or adversity upon others by sorcery.
- 4) It turns that which is good into an evil use.
 - a) Immorality, Impurity, Licentiousness are perversions of the sexual instinct.
 - That which is lovely, beautiful, God-given.....
 - Is perverted into something dirty, filthy, shameful.
 - b) Idolatry is a perversion of the True Worship of God.
 - c) Sorcery is a perversion of the use of healing drugs for evil purposes.

Conclusion

1. This is the awful power of sin!
 - a) To take that which is given for man's good.....
 - b) Then, to turn it into something evil.
2. God has revealed Himself to us through His Word.
 - a) So we would not turn to Idolatry.
 - b) So men would not feel the need to turn to sorcery for direction.
3. He has thus warned us: ***“Those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”***
4. But, the one who worships and serves the True God of Heaven:
 - a) Will find rest for his soul;
 - b) Hope in his heart;
 - c) Assurance of his relationship with God.
5. Do you have this rest, hope, assurance?

Lesson Eight

“Sins of the Tongue”

Introduction

1. James shows the tongue's great potential for evil (James 3:1-8).
 - a) It can be offensive.
 - b) It can be a great boaster.
 - c) It can be like a fire...devouring.
 - d) It can stir up a world of iniquity.
 - e) It can defile the whole body.
 - f) It can set on fire the course of nature.
 - g) It is almost untamable.
 - h) It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.
 - i) With the same tongue, we bless God and curse men who are made in His image.
2. We are challenged to:
 - a) Exercise control over our tongues.
 - b) See the great evil that it will do if we do not control it.
3. In this lesson we will look at sins of the tongue under three categories:
 - a) Speech to mislead;
 - b) Speech to intentionally do harm;
 - c) And speech unproductive of good.

Discussion

I. SPEECH TO MISLEAD

A. Lying

- 1) Falsehood, untruth, misrepresenting facts, fabrication.
- 2) Eph. 4:25

B. False Teaching

- 1) Mis-teaching, to lead astray, to lead into error, inaccurate speech, incorrect teaching, spurious teaching, perverted teaching.
- 2) Gal. 1:7; Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 4:1-3

C. False Witness

- 1) Swearing falsely, perjury, lying against someone.
- 2) Exodus 20:16

D. Deceit, Deception

- 1) 2 Thess. 2:3
- 2) Titus 1:10

E. Flattery

- 1) Exaggeration, misrepresent the truth—to mislead.
- 2) Proverbs 28:23; 26:28; Psalms 12:3

F. Boasting

- 1) Windbag, braggart, pushing of self.
- 2) 2 Chron. 25:19; Jas. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:29, 31

G. Excuse making

- 1) Luke 14:18

II. SPEECH TO INTENTIONALLY DO HARM

A. Evil speaking

- 1) Enmity, animosity, heartless, cold, discourtesy, insensibility.
- 2) Jas. 4:11; Tit. 3:2; Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29

B. Talebearer, Whisperers, Backbiters

- 1) Proverbs 26:22; 16:28
- 2) Romans 1:29-30

C. Blasphemy

- 1) Reviling, rashness, contempt, disdain, scorn, ridicule, derision, mockery.
- 2) Col. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:20

D. Harsh criticism

- 1) Judging harshly, condemning, hate, bitter resentment.
- 2) Matthew 7:1-5

E. Cursing

- 1) Threat, swear at, denounce
- 2) 1 Tim. 6:4
- 3) Defamation, reviling, slander, abusive language.
- 4) Rom. 12:14; Jas. 3:9

F. Admonition—Col. 4:6

G. Danger Areas:

- 1) To tell the truth with malicious intent.
- 2) To tell the truth with intentions of misleading someone.
- 3) To conceal the truth that needs to be spoken.

III. SPEECH UNPRODUCTIVE OF GOOD

A. Foolish talking

- 1) Buffoonery, smartness in talk, stupid, foul talk.
- 2) Proverbs 12:23; Eph. 5:4
- 3) Slang language identified with evil or sinful people.

B. Jestng

- 1) Eph. 5:4
- 2) Scurrilous talk, suggestive jestng, levity, flippant talk, coarse jokes.

C. Idle words

- 1) Careless thing, thoughtless words.
- 2) Matthew 12:36
- 3) All these things are “out of place among you.”

Conclusion

1. We are admonished concerning our tongue....our speech:
 - a) Be slow to speak (Jas. 1:19).
 - b) Learn to bridle our tongue or our religion is vain (Jas. 1:26).
 - c) Seek to be a perfect man who controls his tongue (Jas. 3:2).
2. God promises....1 Peter 3:10.
3. What a challenge!
4. But what a blessing to those about us when we rise to the challenge.

Lesson Nine

“Sins of Excess”

Introduction

1. Leviticus 10:1-11

- a) This is one of the unusual events in the Old Testament that warns God's people of a grave danger.
- b) Why did God take their life?
 - There is a lot that we do not know.
 - But, we are told two things in particular.
 - They disobeyed God by offering strange fire upon the altar.
 - They failed to sanctify & glorify God in their actions.
- c) But immediately afterwards an admonition was given—Lev. 10:9-10.
 - Why the admonition at this particular time?
 - Were they drunk when they went in to wait on the services of God?
 - We know what strong drink can do to a man's thinking & actions.
 - If they were drunk, we can see the gross sacrilege of God's worship.
- d) One of the works of the flesh is Drunkenness. (Galatians 5:19-20)

2. This lesson will look at the concept of sins of excess.

Discussion

I. DRUNKENNESS

A. Defined:

- 1) METHE—“Drunkenness, be drunken, be made drunk, have well drunk.”
- 2) Drinking bouts, hard drinking.
- 3) Thayer (Greek Lexicon)—“Intoxication, drunkenness, intoxicating drink.”
- 4) 20th Century Dictionary—“One addicted to the excessive use of strong drink.”

B. Scriptures:

- 1) 1 Thess. 5:7; Eph. 5:18; 1 Tim. 3:3, 8; 1 Peter 4:2-5

C. What is the Bible condemning?

- 1) It is clearly the excess use of wine or strong drink.
- 2) And, it is not hard to see why, even in our society today.
- 3) Drunkenness & Alcoholism are among the chief causes of:
 - a) Loss of work & productivity;
 - b) Loss of most of one's material possessions;
 - c) Loss of Billions of dollars to society;
 - d) Large % of car accidents & deaths on highways;
 - e) Loss of health & years to one's life expectancy;
 - f) Loss of respect by family, neighbors, and friends;
 - g) Loss of family—divorce, separation, etc.

D. Why is so much emphasis placed on abstinence by many religious people?

- 1) Not because the Bible specifically states such.
- 2) But rather, a reasoning process that has led them to this conclusion.
 - a) They see the grave dangers of what alcohol has and is doing.

- b) They realize the danger of becoming an alcoholic (1 in 15).
- c) To avoid drinking altogether lessens such dangers.
- 3) But there is also a principle in Scripture that many refer to:
 - a) Rom. 14:21—***“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbles, or is offended, or is made weak.”***
 - b) If don't drink, won't be a stumbling block in any one's way.
- 4) We must keep in mind:
 - a) These conclusions are personal convictions.
 - b) They should be kept as personal, not as law to bind on others.

II. REVELLINGS

A. Defined:

- 1) KOMOS—“Revelry, carousing, orgies, riotous feasting, disorderly dancing, rioting.”
- 2) Thayer—“A nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before the houses of their male and female friends.”
- 3) 20th Century Dictionary—“To make merry; indulge in boisterous festivities....an occasion of merry-making....formerly, an occasion or course of noisy festivity with dancing, masking, and other forms of entertainment.”

B. Scriptures:

- 1) 1 Pet. 4:3; Romans 13:13

C. Concept:

- 1) Excessive & boisterous festivities.
- 2) Gay & wanton dissipation.
- 3) The idea of debauchery....pleasures that come from such.
- 4) We can easily see that Drinking, Drunkenness, Lewdness, Licentious singing and dancing is connected with such.
- 5) Giving in to the lust of the flesh...indulgence.
- 6) One writer suggested—the wild beach parties of teenagers is an illustration of such today.
- 7) The bars—drinking, dancing, excesses engaged in—lewdness, sensuality.

III. AND SUCH LIKE

A. This expression shows....that the list in Gal. 5:19-20 is not complete.

- 1) There are other things that are similar in nature, not mentioned here.
- 2) Anything akin to the above falls into God's condemnation.
- 3) To try to justify an indulgence because it is not named is not valid.
- 4) “And such like” covers it.

B. Just what does “And such like” cover?

- 1) Some people would gladly give you their list.
- 2) But it is rather interesting—God didn't choose to give a list further.
- 3) Why?

- 4) Because he thought his children would have enough sense to figure out for themselves what that list would include.
- 5) So, the burden is put where God wanted it put—on each Christian.

Conclusion

1. Going to extremes or excesses is condemned in various forms in Scripture.
2. Satan's constant effort is—to get man to take the good & abuse it.
3. These are works of the flesh, when we go to excess.
 - a) They are no longer of God.
 - b) Such is not prompted by the Spirit of God.
 - c) God speaks against such excesses.
4. God's people have no business engaging in such excesses.

Lesson Ten

“Jesus and Sin”

Introduction

1. The Scribes & Pharisees saw Jesus eating with the Publicans and sinners (Lk. 5:27-32).
 - a) They could not understand why Jesus would associate with such people.
 - b) And also the disciples of Jesus were also eating with such people.
 - c) They murmured against them for doing so.
2. Jesus' statement to them showed they misunderstood what it was all about.
 - a) He said that He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
 - b) The ones that needed enlightenment were those in darkness.
 - c) The ones that needed to be made whole were those who were sick.
3. Misunderstandings and confusion is common in our world also.
 - a) Men are confused and have misconceptions about God:
 - Who He really is;
 - What He will and will not do.
 - b) Misconceptions about Sin & Evil in the world also:
 - About God's attitudes towards sin and the sinner;
 - About God's willingness to forgive sin;
 - Man's relationship to sin.
4. Jesus came into the world to clear up these misconceptions.
 - a) He came to enlighten us;
 - b) To show us the truth;
 - c) To make us free of error and darkness (John 8:31-32).

Discussion

I. JESUS MAKES KNOWN THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD & SIN.

A. Misconceptions:

- 1) The evil in the world is because God hates man.
- 2) That He allows all this evil to punish us for our sins.

B. The Truth:

- 1) God is Holy (1 Pet. 1:16).
 - a) He is perfect and without sin (Matt. 5:48).
 - b) He not only does not sin, but cannot condone sin in man.
 - c) He cannot have fellowship with sin nor the sinner.
- 2) God hates sin (Prov. 6:16-19; Ps. 5:5)
 - a) God cannot abide sin, condone sin, or allow sin in His midst.
 - b) Therefore, sin must be punished.
 - c) Rom. 6:23
- 3) Jesus came and demonstrated the Father's hatred for sin:
 - a) By His person resistance to sin, Himself.
 - 1 Pet. 2:22-23
 - Heb. 4:5

- b) By His teaching of God's truth in contrast to the lies of mankind.
 - John 18:37
 - John 12:46
 - c) By His insistence upon man's need to be subject to God's Will.
 - Matt. 7:21
 - d) And ultimately, by His willingness to pay the penalty for man's sin.
 - Tit. 2:14
 - 2 Cor. 5:21
- 4) But, God also loves the sinner.
- a) Man has a tendency to be repulsed by God.
 - He either runs in terror from Him in fear of punishment;
 - Or, turns away in disgust, because things aren't going well and God must not care.
 - b) God coming in the flesh as a man was Deity's way of saying: God does care!
 - c) The Old Testament prophets labored hard to free man from his degrading views of God.
 - They presented God as worthy of worship.
 - To show Him as not only Lord Almighty, but as a loving, forgiving, longsuffering, and compassionate God.
 - d) The coming of Jesus in the flesh was the final means of revealing the True God of heaven to man.
 - e) The supreme task of Jesus was:
 - To fully make known the Father;
 - To banish man's foolish unbelief, imagined resentment, and willful rebellion;
 - So that man can be reconciled to God.
 - f) He showed this most clearly in His death on the cross (Jn. 3:16).

II. JESUS CAME TO MAKE KNOWN THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN.

A. Misconceptions:

- 1) Sin is inherited--so, it is not our fault.
- 2) We are a victim of circumstances.
- 3) "The Devil made me do it."
- 4) "I just can't seem to do what is right."
- 5) Etc.

B. Truth:

- 1) Sin is voluntary—a choice that man makes.
 - a) Rom. 1:19-21, 28, 32
 - b) Wrong attitudes towards God and His Law (Prov. 1:22, 29).
 - c) He doesn't want to be instructed by God—turns a deaf ear.
 - d) It is a choice to rebel against God (1 Jn. 3:4; 2:3-4).
- 2) Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.
 - a) To let man know that God had a plan of redemption for us.
 - b) That forgiveness was not only needed, but available.

- c) That restored fellowship with God meant life—eternal life (Jn. 10:10).

III. JESUS CAME TO MAKE KNOWN THE TRUTH ABOUT FORGIVENESS

A. Misconceptions:

- 1) Man has allowed himself to be deceived about God, His nature, His attitude towards sin.
- 2) He has allowed himself to be deceived about the consequences of sin.
- 3) He has also allowed himself to be deceived about God's forgiveness.

B. The Truth:

- 1) Forgiveness is not something forced upon man, but must be desired.
 - a) Jesus came to call men to repentance—not force them.
 - b) God does not take away man's power of choice.
 - c) So God gives man a choice:
 - To keep on believing his deceptions that lead to eternal ruin;
 - Or, to believe what God says (Jn. 8:24, 31-32).
- 2) Forgiveness comes through the process of man's enlightenment.
 - a) Jn. 8:32; 3:19-21; 1 Jn. 1:7
 - b) The Gospel message of hope in Christ is presented to men.
 - It will enlighten their hearts and minds to the truth about God and sin and forgiveness.
 - But man must make a choice whether to believe this message.
 - If he will believe it, he can then be forgiven (Jn. 3:16; Mk. 16:16).
- 3) Forgiveness comes through man's repentance also.
 - a) Man is being called back to God—to no longer continue in sin.
 - b) The true knowledge of God's love & mercy towards man should bring him to repentance (Rom. 2:4-6; 6:17-18).

Conclusion

1. Now, man has no excuse for his rebellion.
 - a) Jesus has not only revealed the true nature of God towards sin and the sinner;
 - b) But, He has once and for all revealed the terrible nature of sin and gave Himself up so man could be deliver.
2. Now, the choice is up to man:
 - a) Whether to open their minds and hearts to Truth;
 - b) Or, to continue in darkness, error, and sin.
3. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance!

Lesson Eleven

“Hiding Our Sins”**Introduction**

1. David had successfully hidden his sins from those about him, but not from God (2 Sam. 12:1-7).
2. God's prophet pointed out his sin openly so he would face up to it.
3. Men may slip past other men with their sins, yet:
 - a) It is impossible to escape the ultimate grasp of sin!
 - b) The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).
 - c) Death always claims its victim! (Num. 32:23)
4. But in spite of such excellent examples & warnings about the inescapability of sin:
 - a) Men still try to hide their sins.
 - b) This is done in various ways.
5. This lesson will look at some of the ways men attempt to hide their sins.

Discussion**I. MEN THINK THEY CAN HIDE THEIR SIN FROM GOD.****A. Gen. 3:8**

- 1) They knew they had done wrong—guilty conscience.
- 2) But, they were unwilling to face God with their disobedience.
- 3) They thought they could hide from Him.

B. Scriptures: Jer. 23:23-24; Ps. 69:5**C. Comments:**

- 1) How futile for any to try to hide from God.
- 2) Much less hide their sins from Him.
- 3) Things that men may never see:
 - a) God will see;
 - b) And He will bring every secret thing into Judgment (Rom. 2:16).
- 4) Sinful men love darkness, but that darkness cannot hide them from God and His judgment.

II. MEN ATTEMPT TO BLAME OTHERS FOR THEIR SIN.**A. Gen. 3:8-13**

- 1) God faced them with their disobedience.
- 2) But neither was willing to accept responsibility for their actions.
- 3) They wanted to blame it on someone else.

B. God would not let them get by with their efforts.

- 1) Gen. 3:14-19
- 2) Both the man and the woman were punished for their disobedience.
- 3) They were responsible for their decisions and actions.

III. MEN CALL EVIL GOOD, AND GOOD EVIL**A. Isaiah 5:20**

- 1) Because sin has an enjoyment, alluring factor—men want to engage in it.

- 2) To try to justify their disobedience, they rationalize and say that the evil is good.
- 3) If they are opposed by righteous people, they will even attempt to show that good is evil.
- 4) This makes them feel justified in their sinful actions.

B. *But such people are strongly condemned by God.*

- 1) Isaiah 5:24; Rom. 2:4-9
- 2) To say that evil is good does not make it good.
- 3) To say that good is evil does not make it evil.
- 4) God had determined the standard of what is good & evil.
- 5) Men must recognize it or be punished.

IV. MEN PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING THEY ARE NOT

A. *Luke 22:47-48*

- 1) Judas pretended to be a devoted disciple of Jesus.
- 2) He placed a kiss on Jesus as a way of betraying him to the mob.
- 3) While the other disciples may have thought it to be a cordial greeting.....
- 4) The Lord knew it was to betray Him.

B. *Matt. 23:13-28*

- 1) Such want to appear righteous to men outwardly, but inwardly, they are full of all kinds of evil.
- 2) Trying to hide their true selves from men—their sinfulness.

C. *Illustration:*

- 1) Man was working on his Income Tax forms.
- 2) Juggling figures and claiming invalid deductions to cheat government.
- 3) But he attends worship on Sunday:
 - a) Takes part in all avenues of worship;
 - b) May even take a leading part.
- 4) He says to God and others:
 - a) I am a Christian;
 - b) I have surrendered my life to follow Christ.
- 5) But, He is a liar, a hypocrite!
- 6) Can he fool God—can he hide his sins from God?

V. MEN TRY TO HIDE THEIR SINS UNDER A FALSE DELUSION

A. *Acts 26:9-11*

- 1) Saul persecuted followers of Jesus severely.
- 2) And all the time thinking that he was right in what he was doing.
- 3) That he had a good relationship with God.
- 4) Acts 23:1
- 5) But his delusion didn't make him right—nor saved!

B. *Jesus warns about listening to false prophets that delude.*

- 1) All the time, thinking they were right with God, but were not.
- 2) Matt. 7:21-23

D. *To be forgiven:*

- 1) One needs to obey the Gospel (Mk. 16:15-16).
- 2) As a Christian to walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7-9).

- 3) Avoid the idea that man can work out his own means of salvation.

Conclusion

1. Illustration:

- a) Man filling out job application—came to question: “Have you ever been arrested?”
- b) He put down “NO.”
- c) Next question asked, “Why?”
- d) Didn't understand, so he answered why—“I never got caught.”

2. We may not have the finger of accusation pointing at us—“You are the one.”

- a) Nevertheless, we are all sinners.
- b) What's more, we know it.
- c) More important, God knows it.
- d) We may hide our sins from men, but not from God.
- e) All such efforts are in vain.

3. The correct thing to do with our sins is to have them forgiven by God in His appointed way.

4. If we are unconcerned, someday the penalty will be paid for those sins.

Lesson Twelve

“Sin and its Consequences”

Introduction

1. Poem:

“Once I was pure as the snow, but I fell;
Fell like the snowflakes from heaven—to hell;
“Fell, to be trampled as the filth of the street,
Fell, to be scoffed, to be pit on, and beat.
“Pleading, cursing, dreading to die;
Selling my soul to whosoever would buy.
“Dealing in shame for a morsel of bread,
Hating the living and fearing the dead.
“Merciful God! Have I fallen so low?
And yet I was once like the beautiful snow.”

2. Since the beginning of sin among men, the above has been the scene among men.

- a) We were created perfect—in the image of God.
- b) But sin has brought us low—so low!

3. What is sin?

- a) It is unrighteousness—not doing what is right (1 Jn. 5:17).
- b) It is a transgression of God’s Law—lawlessness, non-observance of Law (1 Jn. 3:4).
- c) It is partial obedience (King Saul—1 Sam. 15:10-23).
- d) It is Omission—to know and not to do (James 4:17).
- e) It is that which is not of faith (Rom. 14:23).

4. Why do men sin?

- a) Hundreds of years have passed to give us some kind of an answer.
- b) Thousands of examples all about us.
- c) Men sin, even in spite of God’s warnings against such (Gal. 6:7-8).
- d) Possible reasons:
 - Because they are deceived (Heb. 3:13). It promises a reward it never pays and even promises exemption from the consequences of sin (Gen. 3:1-5).
 - Look upon Judgment as a long way off (Eccl. 8:11).
 - Because of the pleasure of sin (Heb. 11:25).
 - Evil companionships (1 Cor. 15:33). Their influence that leads into sinful activities.

5. Let’s look at the consequences of sin given in the Bible.

Discussion

I. SHAME

A. Adam and Eve realized their shame (Gen. 3).

- 1) They sought to hide behind fig leaves.

B. We are ashamed before our parents, children, friends, God.

C. At first, we blush with shame—unless we destroy this concept by sinfulness.

II. MAKES US COWARDS

A. Proverbs 28:1

- 1) Adam and Eve tried to put blame elsewhere.

2) They tried to hide sin.

B. *Man cannot hide his sin forever. (Num. 32:23)*

III. WARPS THE JUDGMENT

A. *Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:17-18*

B. *It causes a person to reason foolishly.*

- 1) He will try to actually justify sin.
- 2) It caused the religious leaders to put Christ to death.
- 3) It causes people to put off obedience to the Gospel.
- 4) It will cause us to be lost eternally...stubbornness.

IV. DULLS THE CONSCIENCE

A. *1 Tim. 4:1-2*

B. *It will no longer prick us—jar us to do our duty or responsibility.*

V. PARALYZES THE WILL

A. *Rom. 6:15-16*

- 1) We become a bondman or slave to sin.
- 2) A tool of the Devil.

B. *John 8:34*

C. *It becomes habitual.* (Drink, Cigarettes, Temper, Stubbornness, etc.)

VI. DESTROYS OUR INFLUENCE FOR GOOD

A. *Matt. 5:13-16*

- 1) Sin causes us not to be salt or light

B. *We lose respect of good people.*

VII. MAKES THE WAY HARD

A. *Cain's remark: "My punishment is greater than I can bear."* (Gen. 4:13)

B. *The effect on the sinner's body—sorrow, diseases, misery.*

C. *Reaping a harvest (Gal. 6:7-8)*

VIII. LEAVES ITS SCAR

A. *God can forgive, but it can still leave a scar (Gal. 6:7-8).*

- 1) Ruined body—unhealthy.

C. *The Apostle Paul's bitter memory—"chief of sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15)*

IX. SEPARATES FROM GOD

A. *Isa. 59:1-2; Jn. 8:21—In this life and the life to come.*

B. *Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6-7—No peace with God, nor with self.*

X. BRINGS THE WRATH OF GOD

A. *Rom. 1:18; 2:4-6*

- 1) Examples in the Old Testament
- 2) Ananias & Saphira
- 3) ***"Vengeance is mine, I will recompense, saith the Lord."***

4) *“Our God is a consuming fire.”*

B. Rev. 20:11-15

Conclusion

1. Why should man revel in sin for a season—spend eternity in Hell?
2. The Lord has provided a way of escape of eternal destruction.
3. We need to avail ourselves of such.

