

Reading: Colossians 1:19 - 20

Introduction

• Sin is, and always has been humanity's greatest problem

1 What Is Sin?

- The word 'sin' and its derivatives are used 841 times in the Bible.
- Sin is the 'breaking of God's law.' [1John 3:4].
- WCF: 'any want of conformity too or transgression of the law of God.'
- Sin affects everyone [Romans 3:23].
- 'Harmartia' to fall short of the mark.
- When we sin we disobey God and also violate one another.
- There are consequences for sin [Romans 6:23], [Revelation 20:14].
- There are sins of thought, word, deed and omission.
- We need to hate sin as much as God hates it.

2 The Origin And Effect Of Sin

- Adam was the '*federal*' head or '*representative*' of the whole race. [Romans 5:12].
- The term '*Original Sin*' refers to the consequences of that first sin the garden.

- We inherited a '*fallen*' nature that's inclined away from God with a bias towards sin. [Romans 7:19].
- Committing sins does not make us sinners, we sin because we are sinner by birth.
- We are spiritually dead in those sins. [Ephesians 2:1].
- As a result we are alienated from God. [Isaiah 59:2].
- We are in a state of hostility and rebellion to God.
- Sin is a vile disease with a 100% infection rate.
- The cure for sin necessitated the death of the sinless Lord Jesus Christ.
- Just as Adam was our representative now Christ is our representative.
- Our sins transferred to Christ and His righteousness transferred to us.

3 Christian At The Cross

- Christian from 'the best of books in his hand' he has learned:
 - That he is a guilty helpless sinner.
 - That he must stand one day to be judged before God
 - That as a result of his sin he will be consigned to hell.
 - A great burden is on his back he is unable to be helped from.
 - Evangelist directs him to the wicket gate (Christ).
 - Eventually he comes to the cross and his burden comes lose and rolls away.
 - Forgiveness is found at the cross and through the work of Christ alone.

4 The Three Shinning Ones

- Three Shinning Ones appear to him.
- I believe they represent the 3 persons of the Godhead.
- The Father: announces peace and sins forgiven
- The Son: puts on him garments of salvation.
- The Holy Spirit seals him unto the day of redemption.

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