

The Foundation of Repentance

Dealing with the Sin in Our Lives

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Section I – Why Christians Sin

1 John 2:1-2 *My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.*

In this Bible Study, I want to address the issue of how we, as Christians, must deal with sin in our lives. We need to understand that becoming a Christian does not necessarily eliminate the old nature but rather introduces a new nature that wars against the old.

We will see that all Christians do sin, how God's grace keeps us in spite of our sin, what sin does to the Christian, how to receive God's forgiveness and cleansing, and how to live a life of victory over sin. In this lesson, I want to talk more specifically about "Why Christians Sin". But first, "What is sin"?

Sin is the transgression of a divine command, meaning it is an act, the violation of, or want of obedience to the revealed Word of God. Sin is the denial of the divine right to command, representing lawlessness or spiritual anarchy. It is a failure to attain the divine standard, otherwise known as missing the mark.

I. The Problem of Sin in the Christian.

1. All Christians Sin.

No matter who you are, even if you think you are the most perfect person who has ever existed, you still have sin in your life. All Christians do! No Christian can have day-by-day victory over sin and live the happy, joyful, triumphant life until they face the actual facts about sin in their own nature, sin in their own life, what sin will do, and what to do about it.

Remember what it says in *Jeremiah 17:9*, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"*

1 John 1:7-9 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

According to Scripture, we now, present tense, have sin. We all have sin in our hearts and lives. If we say we have not, we are simply deceiving ourselves. To say that we have no sin is not the truth.

- **Every Christian Has Two Natures.**

To better understand why Christians sin, we must understand the difference in the two natures we as Christians have. We have an old nature and a new nature. We are to put on the new nature while putting off the old nature.

Ephesians 4:22-24 *That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.*

What we have to understand is that these two natures war with each other, and the sinful nature sometimes wins out over the new nature, and thus we fall into the trap of sinful behavior as Christians. We see this struggle in Paul's writings to the Romans.

- **The two-fold nature is seen in Paul's writings.**

Romans 7:15-20 *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

When we were born into this world, we were born with a sinful nature that opposes the law of God. But when we are born again by the Spirit of God, we received a new divine nature that hates sin.

Paul talks about the struggle he went through on a daily basis with his sin nature. Notice he is using the present tense. This means when He wrote this letter to the Romans, this was still a struggle in his life. The very day Paul, by divine

inspiration, wrote this letter to the Romans, he was compelled to admit that he still had the old nature, still experienced conflict, and still had to contend with his body and fleshly nature. Paul had the mind or heart to serve the law of God, but he had the flesh and fleshly nature to pull him towards sin continually. It was a continuous struggle between the old and the new.

- **This two-fold nature is seen in John's writings as well.**

1 John 3:6-9 *Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

The above Scripture has always been a hard one for me to deal with. In the past, I have looked at it as not practicing sin, but I don't believe this is necessarily true, because I think all Christians practice sin in one degree or another. I believe it is really talking about the two natures.

Does this mean that whoever sins proves he has never known God or been saved? No! It means that the new nature, the born-again nature, the new heart of the converted person cannot sin. The old man or nature sins, but the new man does not sin and cannot sin. Let's keep in mind that the new man's nature is to bring the old nature under subjection and submission.

- **The example of Lot.**

2 Peter 2:7-8 *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).*

Would you say that Lot did not practice sin when he stayed in that city all those years? All those years he was there, he never influenced anyone towards righteousness, not even his own family. His family couldn't even take him seriously when he told them of the impending judgment. They thought he was joking.

It would be right to say that no Christian can continue to be happy in sin. Lot's soul was vexed or oppressed. No Christian can continue in sin without rebuke

and chastisement. What God is saying here in 1 John is that the new nature does not sin. The part that is born of God does not sin. It convicts our old nature that is still in the process of being transformed.

II. Biblical Examples of Righteous People Who Sinned.

1. Lot was called a righteous man.

As we have already seen, Lot is an example of a worldly Christian who put money and business ahead of serving the Lord. You might say he was saved so as by fire. He lost everything but his soul.

He failed to win his wife, his children, his sons-in-law, and the people of Sodom. He called them wicked "brethren". He sinned by living a worldly life, and yet he was called a righteous man.

2. David is a tragic example of a man who sinned.

After David was redeemed by the Lord, a man after God's own heart, who the Holy Spirit inspired to write many of the wonderful psalms, he fell into gross sin. He committed adultery and then tried to cover it up by having Bathsheba's husband murdered.

David suffered terribly for his sins. His baby died under the hand of God. A half-brother, Annon, raped Tamar, his daughter. Absalom killed Annon. Absalom tried to steal the throne from David and was killed. What a price David paid for his sins! God chastises every Christian who sins, yet Christians do sin, even as David did.

3. Peter Sinned.

On the night before Jesus' death and crucifixion, Peter swore, cursed, and denied that He knew Jesus. He later quit the ministry and went back to the fishing business. Later, after the Day of Pentecost, Peter compromised the truth, prompting the apostle Paul to rebuke him openly to his face. He was a saved man.

4. They were all convicted by their sin because of the new nature.

Everyone one of these men had two natures. With the old nature, Lot stayed in Sodom, made money, and let his family and the town go to Hell in the midst of

God's judgment. But the new nature within him rebuked him continually. David sinned, but his heartbroken cry for forgiveness in Psalm 51 shows how desperately his heart wanted to do right, and how sorry he was for his sin. The old nature leads a Christian into sin, but the new nature never lets a Christian be happy in sin. When Peter heard the rooster crow as Jesus had predicted, he went out and wept bitterly. He was a man who had a new nature, and the new nature was grieved and shocked at the sin he had committed, which caused him to weep bitterly and repent of it.

III. Final Thoughts on this Section.

1 Peter 1:5 *...who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Just as it took God's grace to save us from our sins and bring us unto salvation, it takes His grace to keep us in this wonderful salvation. Saved by grace means we are also maintained by grace.

Since every Christian still has the old nature, and since every Christian sins, whether or not they are conscious of any known sin, they are still deceiving themselves if they say they have no sin. Since every Christian is commanded to pray daily, "*forgive us our sins*", then we conclude that God Himself must provide a salvation that includes His own perfect righteousness given freely to the undeserving sinner.

- **We Stand In The Righteousness of God.**

Romans 4:3 *For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

The above Scripture is great. On the one hand, it demonstrates how we have already been perfected through the sin offering of Jesus on the cross, and on the other hand, it shows that our sin nature is still being sanctified. God sees us as perfected because we are standing in His righteousness and not our own.

Hebrews 4:15-16 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find*

grace to help in time of need.

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

We have seen that Christians sin because they still struggle with the old nature, but a true Christian has a new nature that convicts them of the sin in their life and moves them forward in God's grace and victory over sin.

Even though God's grace covers us, this does not give us a license to continue in known sin. When we continue in sin without any conviction coming from the new nature, which is born after God, we should question ourselves as to whether the new man even exists. If it doesn't, then we have not known God.

In the next section, I want to discuss the effects of sin on the Christian. What happens when we do not respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to the new nature within us?

Section 2 – The Consequences of Unrepentant Sin

In the previous section, we began to look at the subject of sin and how we as Christians are called to deal with it effectively. We saw that all Christians do sin, because we have two natures. We have the new nature that does not sin and cannot sin, and we have the old nature that wars against this new nature. The reason we sin is that the old nature wins battles from time to time.

Does the fact that all Christians sin give us a license to continue in known sin? Or does God expect us to turn and repent from known sin and walk in victory?

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

In this section of the study, I aim to address the issue of continuing in known sins after God reveals to you that they are sins that require repentance. This message should put the fear of God into all of our lives concerning sin.

Proverbs 16:6 *In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.*

The fear of God comes from knowing that there are consequences for continuing in sin once God warns us that we are to repent of a particular sin in our lives. If we persist in sin, we will begin to sow to the flesh, and the flesh will reap corruption from it. As a result, our sins will eventually be found out by the fruit of our lives.

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Numbers 32:23 *"But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.*

I. Various Consequences of Unrepentant Sin.

- **Unrepentant Sin Defined:**

Unrepentant sins are those sins that the Bible clearly states we are to repent of when we come to Christ. If we fail to repent of these sins, they remain unrepentant. Sins such as immorality, drunkenness, filthy language,

covetousness, evil desires, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, lying, theft, hatred, jealousy, dissensions, murders, etc, need to be dealt with.

There are also areas in which God has convicted you personally, of which you must repent, such as attitudes and sins of omission. Now that we understand this, let's look at some of the consequences of not repenting when God is leading us into repentance. (Colossians 3:5-10)

1. Sin Brings Loss of Christian Joy.

Romans 14:17 *for the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

One of the fruits of coming into the kingdom and knowing Jesus is the joy we have in the Lord. When we continue to walk in sin, whatever it may be that God is convicting us of, we will be robbed of the precious joy of the Lord, and as a result we begin to lose the strength we have in God.

It is impossible to be joyful when you have unjudged, unrebuked, unconfessed sin in your life. Sin brings the smiting of the conscience. It brings the rebuke of the Holy Spirit.

- **The example of David - Psalm 51:8-13.**

In Psalm 51, we have the heartbroken prayer of David after his sin with Bathsheba. Remember, David tried to cover his sin for a time, but was rebuked by the prophet, Nathan.

Psalms 51:8-9 *Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.*

Psalms 51:12 *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your generous Spirit.*

David had been weeping over his baby, who died because of his sin. He had been weeping over his own lost fellowship with God. He begged for the cleansing of his heart anew, a renewal of a right spirit. He begged for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Then he said, "Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation." David had lost the joy of his salvation.

David knew that only through cleansing from sin, only by the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and only by being upheld and helped to walk straight could he have the joy that ought to accompany salvation.

Anyone who claims that he can go into sin and have no burning of conscience, no unrest of soul, no conviction by the Holy Spirit, gives evidence that he does not know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why do you think Peter went out and wept bitterly after denying Christ? His sin took all his joy. Sin will take your joy, too, if you allow it to go unjudged and unconfessed in your life.

2. Sin Quenches & Grieves The Holy Spirit & His Ministry In Your Life.

Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

1 Thessalonians 5:19 *Do not quench the Spirit.*

One of the ways in which the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved is when we allow sin to go unrepented in our lives. It prevents Him from performing His ministry on our behalf. The word "quench" means to put out (as a fire or light): Extinguish, to terminate.

Isaiah 63:10 *But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.*

In order for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to be fully released in our lives He must have possession of our will. He must own us as it says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own..."

Sin loses much of the help of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life. John R. Rice writes in his book, **"When A Christian Sins"**, *"The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian's body. Yet, when Christians sin, they sometimes lose all contact with that same Holy Spirit. It seems as if the Holy Spirit, like an ill-treated and offended guest, shuts Himself up in His own small room in the heart and does not enjoy the fellowship of the inmate who has so grieved Him and wronged Him! The blessed Holy Spirit does not leave when a Christian sins, but His work is certainly hindered."*

Some of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us are as follows:

- assures us of salvation,
- speaks to us,
- opens our understanding to the things of God,
- guides and directs our lives, imparts life,
- strengthens our inner being,
- enables us to pray according to the will of God,
- produces Christ-like fruit in our character,
- calls us to service and ministry,
- guides us into our ministries,
- empowers us to witness, imparts spiritual gifts
- and guides us through our personal struggles.

Can you afford to lose His anointing in these areas because of unrepentant sin? It happens!

3. Sin Brings Reproach on Christ, the Church, and the Bible.

One of the worst things that the sin of a Christian does is to bring reproach on the cause of Christ and upon the name of Christ. How Jerusalem must have buzzed with gossip when Peter denied the Lord, cursed and swore, and quit the ministry!

When the prophet Nathan rebuked David for his sin, he told him that his sin had brought reproach and had given his enemies an opportunity to blaspheme.

2 Samuel 12:13-14 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. **"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."**

The sins of the preacher who falls are blazoned on the front pages of newspapers. E.g., Jimmy Swaggert - Newspaper headline. "Jimmy Had A Whore". The sins of a normal Christian believer are held up in his own family and in his own community against Christ and the Gospel by those who are the enemies of God. E.g., a person beating his wife, who was on the school board. What shame and reproach the failure and sins of God's people bring on the whole cause of Christ!

5. Sin Causes God to Turn a Deaf Ear to Your Prayers.

The Bible is quite clear that God delights in hearing the prayers of His people. We are plainly invited and promised, in *Matthew 7:7*, "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*"

Most Christians live far below the level of joy and usefulness and provision which God intended His children to have, simply because we do not take everything to God in prayer and ask our Heavenly Father for what we need. But we are plainly warned that sin shuts up Heaven to our prayers. In *Isaiah 59:1-2*, we find this solemn statement:

Isaiah 59:1-2 *Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

Lamentations 3:42-44 *We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned. You have covered Yourself with anger and pursued us; You have slain and not pitied. You have covered Yourself with a cloud, that prayer should not pass through.*

Any known sins, such as unconfessed, unjudged, unforsaken sins, make it so that God cannot honorably and righteously give us many of the things we ask for and need. God cannot put Himself in the position of endorsing our sins when He answers the prayers of sinning Christians who do not judge their sins and do not turn from them.

III. Final Thoughts on this Section

As we can see, unconfessed sin that has not been repented of really hinders our walk with the Lord and brings reproach to those around us. All of us should continually search our ways to see if there is anything hurtful in us.

Lamentations 3:40 *Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD;*

In the next section, we shall continue to look at some more consequences of unrepentant sin, such as God's chastisement, the vulnerability to Satan's deceit, how it prevents us from entering into the fullness of the kingdom blessing, and how unrepentant sin can lead to blaspheming the Holy Spirit and loss of salvation.

Section 3 – The More Severe Consequences of Unrepentant Sin

In this Bible Study, I have been focusing on how we as Christians must deal with the sin in our lives. Understanding that we all still have a sin nature and the propensity to sin, "How does God expect us to deal with it?"

In the previous section, we began to look at the consequences of sin and saw that it is through the fear of the LORD that one departs from evil. This must be at the foundation of our victory and battle over sin; otherwise, we will continue to walk in unrepentant sin.

Proverbs 16:6 *In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.*

The fear of God comes from knowing that there are consequences for continuing in sin once God warns us that we are to repent of a particular sin in our lives. If we persist in sin, we will begin to sow to the flesh, and the flesh will reap corruption from it. As a result, our sins will eventually be found out by the fruit of our lives.

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

We began to look at the consequences of unrepentant sin in the previous section and saw that there are some serious consequences, such as:

- Loss of Christian Joy,
- The Holy Spirit being quenched and grieved,
- reproach upon the Christ and His church, and
- God will turn a deaf ear to our prayers

With this in mind let's continue to look at some more of the more severe consequences. These are more severe than the other four. It takes both an understanding of the goodness and the severity of God to walk in repentance.

1. Unrepentant Sin Brings Chastisement From God.

Hebrews 12:5-7 *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening,*

God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Revelation 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.*

Psalms 107:17 *Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.*

What happens when we continue in known and willful sin is that God removes His precious covering from us, and we become open to all kinds of adversity, sickness, and even death. Satan will take full advantage of us when we are in this condition. God allows it to happen for our own good. We see this in Paul's letters to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

1 Corinthians 11:29-32 *For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

The condemnation or judgment mentioned in verse 29 does not mean condemnation to Hell, but condemnation to God's judgment and punishment in this world. We are solemnly warned that every Christian ought to judge himself carefully, lest he should be judged of God and punished. But, thank God, He chastens us now instead of letting us be condemned with the world, as lost sinners are condemned to Hell!

2. Sin Prevents You From Fully Entering Into Kingdom Blessing.

Luke 17:20-21 *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

It is essential that we recognize the kingdom of God has already arrived, and God is already bestowing upon us a significant portion of our kingdom

inheritance here on earth. But when we fail to walk in repentance, we miss out from fully entering into the kingdom blessing.

God has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us.

2 Peter 1:2-4 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

Proverbs 28:13 *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

- Sin has a heavy cost because Satan is a thief and a destroyer of all that we have.
- **Illustration: Old Testament sacrifices.**

Every time they sinned, they had to take part of their inheritance to present it as a sacrifice for their sins. Imagine someone who continued in willful sin. Pretty soon, their whole flock could be gone. The children of Israel eventually lost their whole inheritance because of sin and disobedience.

3. Unrepentant Sin Opens Us Up To Satan's Deception.

Because the heart of man is so deceitful, once we begin to walk in unrepentant sin, we begin to open ourselves up to Satan's deception as well. His goal is to get us so deceived that we will come to the place where we deny or disown Christ.

Romans 7:11 *For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, [deceived] me, and by it killed me.*

2 John 1:7-8 *For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.*

4. Unrepentant Sin can Lead to Blaspheming the Holy Spirit and Loss of Salvation¹.

The Bible clearly states in 1 John that there is a sin that leads unto death. This is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, of which Jesus spoke.

Mark 3:28-29 *"Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; "but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation."*

Blaspheming of the Holy Spirit occurs when you have become so deceived by your unrepentant sin that you no longer believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation. As a result, you disown Christ, and He disowns you.

2 Timothy 2:12 *if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.*

Hebrews 6:4-6 *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

Hebrews 10:26-27 *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.*

III. Final Thoughts on this Section.

As we can see, walking in known and unrepentant sin can have severe consequences, but through the fear of God and the goodness of God, we can be led into genuine repentance that enables us to walk in victory over sin.

¹ Please see the Bible Study on Eternal Security

Romans 11:22 *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*

Romans 13:12 *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

Section 4 – Applying the Blood of Christ to Our Sins

Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

In this Bible Study, I have been addressing the issue of "Dealing with the Sin in our Lives." We have seen that we all sin -- that no one is capable of sinless perfection. We have also seen that there are some severe consequences when we persist in known and unrepentant sin and begin to backslide, which can lead to apostasy.

In this section, I want to begin focusing on the victory Christ has given us concerning our sin – how, through His Blood, we have complete forgiveness and victory over sin.

Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

At the very foundation of our victory is the forgiveness Christ has granted unto us. Therefore, I want to talk about what it means to have the Blood of Christ cleanse us and what it means to walk in genuine forgiveness from day to day.

As I have shared in the previous sections, there are times in our lives as Christians when we sin and blow it big time, just like Peter did when he denied Christ.

The Bible says he went out and wept bitterly over his sin. He was in turmoil of hate for himself and his sin and loss of joyful fellowship and usefulness, which had been his.

Just as Peter was able to receive complete forgiveness and cleansing, and have restored fellowship with his Savior, you and I can too. This is what this message is all about – How to have complete forgiveness and cleansing when we have sinned as Christians. Understanding the forgiving power of Jesus Christ through His Blood is the first step to the cleansing process.

I. The Blood Of Christ.

In order to properly understand the forgiveness and cleansing we have through Jesus Christ, we must have an appreciation and an understanding of the victory

Christ accomplished by pouring out his Blood for our sins.

1. It Is Blood That Makes Atonement For The Soul.

Leviticus 17:11 *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law almost all things are purged with Blood, and without shedding of Blood there is no remission.*

2. The Blood Of Christ Cleanses From All Sin.

The Blood of Christ being poured out for our sins is the basis for our forgiveness. All of our sins were paid for with the precious Blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19 *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

When Jesus died on the cross He cried out, "It is finished." He meant that even the faintest dust of sin had been paid for, for me and for every sinner who would accept His wonderful, atoning death on the cross. All my sins are paid for -- every one of them. Jesus died once and by that one sacrifice He purchased redemption and forgiveness for all of our sins.

Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

Because of this sacrifice, the Blood of Christ now cleanses us from all sin no matter what it is.

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

The precious Blood of Christ still cleanses every child of God who confesses his sin. The Blood of Christ cleanses me today as I walk in the light confessing and forsaking known sin. Even though the Blood was shed nearly 2000 years ago, God applied it to my credit and I can draw from whenever I am in need of it.

III. How To Apply The Blood.

For the Children of Israel it wasn't enough for the blood sacrifice of a lamb to be made. It had to be applied to the door of their homes. That was their responsibility in the process.

Exodus 12:7 *And they shall take some of the Blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*

Just as the Children of Israel had as responsibility to apply the Blood, we too, have a responsibility to apply the Blood. This is not something Christ does for us. When we learn to apply the Blood we find immediate forgiveness and cleansing and the way to complete restoration of fellowship with God. Therefore, let's look at how Jesus expects us to apply to Blood to the doorposts of our hearts.

1. We Must Sincerely Confess & Forsake Our Sins.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Any Christian who honestly confesses his sin to God has it instantly forgiven and cleansed. The key is to confess honestly and sincerely before God.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (Verses 11-12 also).*

- **Illustration:** of a child who comes to parents crying and begging forgiveness for a sin just committed.

Psalms 103:13 *As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

Like a child who runs to her daddy pleading for forgiveness saying, "I'm so sorry, Daddy. Please forgive me! I'll never do it again!" So should we be before the Lord. How could a father judge what has been judged. A spanking or chastisement would be meaningless. Our Heavenly Father has the same pity towards us when we come to Him godly sorrow confessing our sin.

1 Corinthians 11:31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*

The very moment we confess our sin, and thus judge the sin and takes sides with God against sin, that sin is blotted out, both forgiven and cleansed. Thus, upon simple confession of sin, the child of God has peace with God about the sin, and he has victory over the sin. So we see that through confession we are applying the Blood of Christ to our sins. But our confession must be honest and sincere.

2. What Honest Confession Involves.

- **Honest confession means you call it by its name and don't excuse it.**

It means you admit it was sin. Don't let your heart deceive you as the prophet Jeremiah says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

To say, "I couldn't help myself or it really wasn't my fault," is excusing sin and taking sides with it. You must face it honestly and call it by its name. If you want mercy, face sin for the black thing it is, recognize it, admit, take sides against it, judge it! When we excuse our sin, we are still covering it.

Proverbs 28:13 *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

E.g., of exaggerating. Call it a lie if you want to move on. When you go to someone and ask them to forgive you for exaggerating, let them know you were lying. It is no honest confession if you leave it half uncovered, have excused, and still loved and defended.

- **Honest confession means forsaking sin.**

For your mouth to say, "*Lord, this is a sin, I am sorry,*" while the heart says, "*But I still love it and I still plan to hold on to it,*" is not an honest confession of sin. It is hypocrisy. Watch that deceitful heart of yours and ensure that it releases its grip on the sin it pretends to confess. Sin that is not forsaken is not honestly confessed.

Acts 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..."*

Any straightforward confession of sin that will please God and gain His forgiveness and cleansing must involve the will. Does your will give up the sin? Does your mind cry out with brokenhearted David: "*I acknowledge my*

transgressions: and my sin is ever before me...Create in me a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within me.. An honest confession means you are sick of it, that you despise it, that you long to be cleansed from it.

Psalms 51:17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise.*

- **An honest confession means restitution may be necessary.**

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

You may have to tell someone you are sorry or you may have to set a wrong right in some way – whatever, that's between you and the Lord.

IV. Final Thoughts on this Section.

Yes, it is true, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Just make sure it is an honest confession, a confession that judges the sin honestly, that repents of the sin and turns from it, and that does anything that properly can be done to undo the sin. Anything less than that is not an honest confession of sin.

Do not fail to have the forgiveness and cleansing that you need by dealing lightly or dishonestly with sin. This is how the Blood is truly applied to the doorpost of our hearts.

May God bless you and may His Blood thoroughly cleanse you of all your sin. This is the first step in receiving your complete victory over the sin that so easily ensnares you.