

THE WORST THING

(Take your soul to Hell)

Romans 3:23

I looked a Picture Friday Night - just a Snap shot - Revelation of a Tragedy. Taken in Wilson, N.C. at a funeral home. A Corset Young Mother less than 30 yrs. & Beside her a Sweet Baby toched few days 1 yr. Also another Corset with child not quite 10 - Why mention this? - That mother & her 2 children were strangled by a 19yr. old Drunken Driver!

Sin is the biggest business in the world. There was a clearance sale which read - it is the oldest and most solidly established firm with the largest number of stock holders. With the Devil as its founder and president, this business uses the ultimate in sales promotion.

Sin comes in every color, size, shape, and form conceivable and inconceivable to mere man. Interesting blank price tags flutter. You name the price you are willing to pay. Clearance sales are held for every generation. Reductions are drastic in all cases. Satan is never bankrupt.

There are bargain counters where customers claw their lives away searching for that certain something - only to arrive at death's door with nothing.

Books are never closed. Accounts are never paid in full. Until the gentle lamb of God is noticed amidst the mad den and the buyer accepts the free gift of salvation. Only then, is the reverse side of the shoddy merchandise revealed. It is marked rejected, second choice, imperfect. The true price of eternal death comes to light in the company of sin and Satan loses another customer.

Yes, sin always promotes clearance sales. Sin is a three letter word that spells the difference between happiness and misery. Freedom and bondage, Heaven and Hell. Men may deny its existence and some may minimize its influence. And try to evade its consequences.

But it remains a reality. Separation of the soul from Almighty God.

Now the fact that sin is proved in three ways. History bears testimony to its existence and its influence. As long as there have been men upon this earth, there have been wars, disease, death - all of these, bear out the truth of sin.

Creation bears the marks of evil as you look on the pages of all of history. You can see the effects.

Now the second thing that proves the fact of sin is the conscience of man. He bears witness to his own sinful nature. No man, however good he may appear to be, can rightfully claim to be free from envy, pride, lust, greed, malace, or hate. An honest man who calls things by their right names will not hesitate to say that this is a part of his own sinful nature.

The third thing that proves the fact of sin are the Scriptures. They bear repeating. Sin's reality - from the beginning to the end of the word of God, you have to face the problem of sin and how it is going to be solved. The Bible traces the drama. From the time that man sins until the redemption takes place - and he is delivered from the curse of sin.

Now we want to look at the doctrine of sin - along with these other doctrines that we have considered. And I have entitled it "the worst thing". Because it has to do with the unredeemed man of 1978. Because this man under stress and the deeds of evil lives in a terrible time. And we see that the man of this year is making

certainly a terrible record in history.

Somebody said of the Quaker George Fox, that he had sown his wild oats, but that they were only (Quaker Oats). Now, there are lots of people who take sin and mock at it. And like a foolish man, and say that sin is just a little mistake. And anybody can make a mistake. And money can cover up most of our mistakes - can it not. That's the way we reason today in this age. Furthermore, there are those who reason and say, it is just a little sin. Yet, the little sin can interrupt the spiritual life.

The worst thing - sin. People foolishly as they practice it, they say just this once - it can't possibly hurt me. Just one time in sin, and a girl's life can be ruined. Just one dose of L. S. D. and a man's life can be changed. Even can be wiped out.

Or we say, I won't let this (sin) drown out the good in my life. With the passing of time, an on looker can observe that the sinner has gradually let sin destroy him. For example, the social drinker starts with just a drink. Then in order to keep up with the social set, years later, he is an alcoholic. He's lost his home, he's lost his job.

Quite often there is complete denial that he is a sinner. That man is blinded by the effects of sin. And it just blackens and destroys him.

We might ask the question, why then is there so much wickedness, suffering, and

sorrow. How did all of this hatred come about. Why have we created false idols. Why do we worship at the throne of greed. Why did God send his own Son to save us. Why is nation struggling against nation today. Why are families so divided today. Why are people doing such insane violent things. As we discover in news reports. Now the Bible tells us exactly what happened in the beginning and why man has gone along this path with the worst thing that he could possibly tamper with. God created the whole world in harmony. It was a perfect place for man. And Adam was perfect because nothing that God does can ever be less than perfect. And, God bestowed upon Adam a very precious gift and it was a gift of freedom. We need to remember here that the first man that God created did not live in a cave, he was not back in the Stone Ages. Or was a creature that lived like a jungle beast. Adam was created - full grown. He had all the faculties physical and mental. The Bible says that he walked with God and had fellowship with God. In the garden, here was the perfect man - the first man. And the only earthly creation that God had given the wonderful gift of freedom. Adam had total freedom. He could chose or he could reject. He had the freedom to obey God and his commands.

And what we chose and what we do with our freedom today determines whether or not we are going to find peace, with ourselves and with God.

Now we hear often people pride themselves on being good. But God gave Adam all the freedom of choice. He gave him every opportunity to exercise it. He was without sin. He was innocent. He was without blemish. And God had created his work. And waited to see what choice his child would make. And this was the test. And this was the moment that Adam would chose the right path or the wrong path. He would chose because he wanted too. And not because that sin was the only path open to him. He made his choice and he suffered his consequences. And so do we because Adam was the fountain head of all the human race.

Now God is not to be blamed for this. The fault lies with Adam. Adam was given his choice. He listened to the lies of the temptor rather than to the truth of God.

But you might say - well, that is unfair. Why should we suffer today because of this man's sin. Why hasn't mankind recovered during these years.

It is just like saying why doesn't the great river that comes down and makes up the Chesapeake Bay - why doesn't it turn and go back. It doesn't because it can't. It has no power within itself. And it will always go this way plunging on into the Bay and into the ocean. And Adam's sin - the worst thing - and he went deeper and deeper into darkness.

Now Adam was the head of the human race - even as our President today is the head of our country. The President acts - he really acts for the American people-- and the people act through him. When he makes a decision, the entire people of the land have to stand by it. Now Adam stands as the Federal head, of the human race. When he failed - then all the generations yet unborn fell with him. The Bible states this very clearly.

Now there are several things we ought to look into. As we come to look at this doctrine. First, let's take a review of sin and talk about the nature of it.

And second, let's think a little bit about the record of sin. Some of the results

of it.

And thirdly, let's think about the remedy for sin. The cure and the confession and the conquering of it.

The review, the record, and the remedy.

Will Hozer said once that man of the so. had a way of slating everything around the Civil War - night English said, at day is it the moon beautiful tonight! Soundness - "you ought to have seen it before the war"

I. REVIEW OF SIN

Now when it comes to the nature of sin, we discover that Adam stands as the head of the house. Gen. 3:17, 19. He describes the tragedy that Adam's act brought upon all of us. Cursed is the ground for thy sake. In sorrow thou shalt eat it all the days of thy life. Thorns, also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. And thou shalt eat the erbs of the field. By the sweat of the face thy shall earn thy bread. And eat it. Til thou return unto the ground, for out of it was thou taken. The dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.

To Eve, God said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow, and thy conception in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children. Thy shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee. Gen. 3:16.

In other words, as you review sin, it is because of Adam's original sin. The ground that once bore only beautiful, wonderful plants. Now produces both bad and good alike. Man who walked in the garden and reached out his hand for food, who had no need for clothes for shelter, must now toil all the days of his life, to provide

the necessities himself, and for his family. Woman who was once a careful creature, now burdened with sorrow and pain. And both man and woman as you review it - are under spiritual and physical death. Sin entered the human race through Adam. It is that God warned Adam before he sinned. That if he ate of the tree of knowledge, he would surely die. After the fall, Adam and Eve gave birth to children. And after their own likeness and image, they were infected. And sin was there. They inherited it from their parents. And they have passed it on to every generation since. People don't like to be told they are sinners. Even as their parents and grandparents were sinners before them. Yet, the Bible says here - there is no difference. All have sinned and all have come short of the glory of God. That every person on this earth is a sinner.

One day an officer of the church came to talk to a minister. He said, preacher, we of the congregation wish you wouldn't talk quite so much or so plainly about sin. We feel that if our boys and girls hear you discuss the subject, so much, they will all the more so easily become sinners. Why don't you call it a mistake or say that our young people are often guilty of using poor judgement. But please don't talk openly about sin.

The preacher walked over and took down a bottle of poison from a high shelf and showed it to his visitor. The bottle was plainly marked with big red letters. Poison. Do not touch. Now what would you say, or have me to do - asked the minister. Do you feel it would be wise to take and remove the plain label and put on here peppermint. And see that the milder you make the label the more dangerous you make the poison.

Yes, sin and plain old fashioned sin - the self same kind of sin that causes

Adam's downfall is what this generation is suffering from today. And it would do far more harm than it would good, for us to dress it up and make it attractive. We don't need any new words for it. For sin, the worst thing, we need to find out what the word we already have means. That is why we want to review this. Now we are not wholly ignorant or misguided, or short sighted as to our view of sin. Or lack of real understanding of sin. I think sometimes we keep people and Christians from living the kind of life they ought to live for Christ.

The old spiritual says - everybody is talking about Heaven. Ain't goin' there. And there must be something to that. Now when we come to talk about sin, we can use all kind of terms and refer to it as human weakness. Or we can call it just a trifle. God calls it a tragedy. Now sometimes we pass it off as a little accident. But you know what God says about it - he says it is an abomination. Man seeks to excuse himself of sin. And man tries to justify himself. But God seeks to convict him of it. And to save him from it.

Now we need to understand that sin is no little toy just to play with, or just to amuse yourself with. If we could get just a review of it and see that sin is rebellion against the will of God.

The point of emphasis here is -

First, it is the willfulness that is in sin. To be capable of obedience. Man has the power of choice. And he has the freedom to obey or disobey. He was singled out above all the other animals. Man is not just a machine - he is a person and God entreats him from the time of Moses - on and after. Man entered a

covenant relationship - or rather God entered a covenant relationship to his people.

The record is one long story of back-sliding, unfaithfulness, and of the long-suffering and faithfulness of Jehovah. Now Jesus weeps over Jerusalem as he sees the impending doom of the city. The reason is - the desolation of the inhabitants. Luke 13:34.

A second thing is - it implies (against knowledge.) Man's sin is willful in that it is a sin against light. There is no knowledge of moral truth - then there can be no sin. That is in the full sense of the term. But knowledge of sin as Paul describes it, is a state in which he says - at one time he was alive without the law. Rom. 7. In Rom. 4:15. But knowledge of moral and spiritual things, and of God's will is that he has given us a revelation.

Now the function of the law is to reveal to sin, was not to justify or to save from sin, in its relation - but was rather to awaken one to a consciousness of sin - to a helplessness in sin of the need of a redeemer. And thus serve as a teacher to lead the sinner to Christ.

The climax of relation is that God's grace in Christ, which saves from sin.

A third thing in the review of sin is that (unbelief is the essence) of sin. When one rejects the moral and the spiritual light - the light that is embodied in Jesus Christ. It is the rejection of God's final revelation of himself, as made in Christ. Then it becomes sin. I John 5:13, 17. It is treading under foot the

son of God and his blood covenant. It becomes moral suicide. Heb. 10:29.

It is deliberately calling white black. The sin that men were committing which led Jesus to warn them is the sin that he gives light that they might recognize God.

④ Another thing, this is willful (rebellion) - when Adam clothes himself with fig leaves and hid himself from his maker - he tried to shift the blame to his wife. And Eve shifted it to the serpent.

Notice here that this sin, there was guilt, but it was conscious guilt. In fact, the attempt to cover up the guilt is evidence of it. So the greater one's guilt - he is conscious of his sin. And the (closer) one gets to God, the more conscious he is of his sin. The Pharisees had a goodness, and they looked down upon the Publicans. Because they were self-righteous. And this was the group that Jesus denounced. Paul in old age said, I was the chief of sinners. I Tim. 1:15.

In the Old Testament there were sins of ignorance and sins of presumption. And sins that could be atoned for and sins that put one outside the covenant relationship. Jesus recognized this principle. He said, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will not have as heavy a condemnation as the cities which have been the benefit of his ministry and teaching. Matt. 11:20.

⑤ Another thing that you note in the review of sin is the (depravity) the term

which means moral weakness and a tendency toward evil. That you find universally in man. Certainly since Adam's time, and on account of Adam's sin - men have been born of such a moral tendency toward sin. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Jer. 17:9.

It means that a man is totally unable to deliver himself from the power of sin. He is totally unable - he is helpless. And without divine help, man becomes worse and worse. That's because we are talking about the worst thing. It means without the redeeming power of God's grace, men will forever sink deeper and deeper into sin. This depravity does not mean that all men are as bad as some men. But it does mean that all the means in the worst man - has its germ and nature in the soul of the best man.

Sin kills because it is sin. The very nature of sin dethrones God. No sin can be tolerated in man. It is a poison.

Another thing, there is the matter of becoming a servant of sin. Jesus said that men who commit sin become servants. John 8:34. In one place, he said they would be in bondage. John 8:32, 36. And Paul says, Rom. 6, that the man is either a servant of sin or a servant of God and righteousness.

Here is something else that we ought not to over look - it is universal. It is taught clearly in the Bible that the whole race was corrupt, and God sent a flood to destroy the race. It is made clear that no man in Bible history was sinless except

Jesus. The very best man in the Old and the New Testament. You could search the earth and you could not find one without sin. So it was a universal thing.

And sin is hereditary - sins is passed on, from one generation to another.

And we say it is universal no man may escape sins guilt. All we like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned everyone unto his own way. There is no difference, for all have sinned.

Sin is no respecter of age. David explains - behold I was shapen in iniquity and even in my birth, I was a sinner. The aged can look back across the years and marvel that God has spared them inspite of the hardness of their hearts. Sin has embraced each person. Because it embraces all. That means, it includes you and it includes me. Should we refuse to acknowledge its presence, or explain it away, condone it, or should we confess it, forsake it, and plead for mercy - for the Lord's pardon and cleansing.

You have a choice.

Now let me, as we review sin - give you three or four words that we have in the Bible and it will help us to understand the nature of sin as we review it.

One of the first words is lawlessness. The transgression of the law of God.

God has established a boundary line between the good and the evil. And whenever we step over that boundary, whenever we go in that forbidden area of evil, we fail to live up to The Ten Commandments, or fail to be obedient to the Sermon on the Mount, we transgress the law of God as James made it plain.

But every man is tempted and he is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. And before it is finished, it bringeth forth death. James 1:14-15.

Another word is iniquity. This means to be deviate from the right. It means to go into some area that is expressly forbidden. This means to go into the inner motivations of the heart. This has to do often with trying to hide something from the eyes of men and the eye of God. Jesus described it from within, out of the heart, perceive evil thoughts. Adultery, fornication, murder, thief, covetousness, wickedness, evil eye, blasphemy, pride. All of these evil things defile the man. Mark 7:21-23.

Missing the mark. Falling short of the goal it means. Or failing to attain the prize that has been set. God's great goal is Jesus. And he came to show us what it was possible for a man to achieve here on this earth. If you miss that mark, you have sinned.

Trespass - this means self-will, and sin is not merely a negative thing. And it is not just merely the absence of love. It is making a positive choice and thinking in terms of self rather than in terms of God. Hence, we regard our own interests and our own rights. So what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his soul. Mark 8:36.

Unbelief. This is an insult to truth. He that believeth on the son of God, hath the witness within him. He that believeth not God hath made him a liar. Because he believeth not the record that God gave his son.

So as we review sin, we will not need the Bible to tell us that it exists. But in honest examination of ourselves, and observation of our fellow man, and the picture of our first parents is a record of sin against God. The first baby ever born into the world became a murderer. And his brother Abel was a sinner and needed the blood offering. Gen. 4:4. And every imagination of the thought of man, was evil, and the flood came as judgement. The prophet declared that we are all as unclean things. And all our righteousness as filthy rags. And will all fade as a leaf. And our iniquities as the wind, have taken us away. Isa. 64:6.

Now as we think of the record of sin and what sin is -

There are 10 Hebrew and 11 Greek terms that denote that sin is in itself. The Bible renders sin as a missing of the mark. Of turning from the right course. Of transgression, of revolting from authority. Of distorting the right of departure from God. Of a want of justice. Of guilt before God. Of disobedience. Hence, sin becomes a conscious alienation from God.

Now let us lead the review of sin.

II. THE RECORD OF SIN

Let's note just a few results. We have not time to get them all in. The results of sin.

A little boy was amusing himself by splashing small drops of ink on his father's blotting pad. I say father, he explained, if you drop a few splotches of ink on here, they grow and grow into big circles. And "ruin my blotting pad" adds his father. That is exactly like the action of sin in our lives. A few small faults are never corrected, and are allowed to get the upper hand until our lives are spoiled by one huge blot. Why will you and your crooked ways of sin and folly go, in pain you travel all your days to reap eternal woe.

Sin alienates from God. This is one of the most serious things about sin. It cuts a man off from whom all blessings flow. Here is the curse of the ages. To be lost and have your mind hostile against God.

Second, sin brings spiritual blindness. It not only cuts a man off from God but it plunges him into darkness. Rom. 1:18. God gave them up to religious and moral destruction. Sin, thus, becomes its own punishment. Man cannot escape punishment. Without being delivered from sin. Here is the lesson that we need. The tower of Babel will tumble down on its builders.

Third, it is the root and cause of all social disorder. Here, we find the mal-adjusted things in society. It grows out of sin. Social justice. Sin is the source of hatred among men.

Sin produces (suffering.) We know that much of human suffering is due to man's sin. The man who sins and others, as well, suffers because of his sin. This is not always easy to trace but many times this is part of the penalty and results of sin.

In Genesis, labor was part of the penalty. The fact that man was to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow indicates that there was an element of burden and labor because of sin. And the fact that the earth was to bear thorns also indicates that there was some penalty attached to it.

Sin produces (death.) There are places in the Bible where it is summed up in the word death. God said to Adam, in the day that thou eatest, thou shalt surely die. Gen. 2:12. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23. The penalty here spoken of is spiritual death. There are places in the Bible where death clearly means spiritual. He that liveth and believeth on me shall never die. John 11:16.

The chief thing in the penalty of sin is (spiritual death.) The primary thing that comes as part of the record of sin.

There is (condemnation) that comes. Every man is guilty and his conscience speaks to him. Can two men walk together accept they be agreed. Amos. 3:3. Sin's pleasure leads to the loss of peace. It holds true of every evil man who commits sin. Every crime, mistake, or thing that you buy is not worth the price that you pay for it. When you lose peace with God.

Sin (blinds) men to their real friends.

Record

And sin lays up terrible retribution for them.

Story of old rail road which ran from Tripple Creek to Colorado Springs - 40 miles long had drop of 4,000 ft in distance 40 mi.

Derailing switches along way - if a car got loose started down the tracks, might

destroy whole train. When happened trainmen, wire ahead a switchman would

Throw the derailing switch & the car would be thrown off the track.

Happens when men forget God, He is derailed, own destruction.

the worst thing

III. REMEDY FOR SIN

How to conquer sin and find a remedy.

As we think of a remedy for sin, I think of the story of an Indian boy who said to a missionary, you talk of the burden of sin - how heavy is it. I never felt it. The missionary said, put any weight on a dead person, will he feel it. The answer was nothing. For he is dead.

So the penalty of sin is eternal death. We are dead and laden with iniquity. A seed of evil doers. Children that are corrupted. Forsaken the Lord. And the complete penalty will be a second death. Rev. 2:11, 26. They will be banished - their souls from the presence of God forever.

Now the remedy is going to be found, he says - a provision must be made for the sins of mankind. And in God's justice, his love and mercy will forgive sin, and by God's grace we can be saved through faith.

Heb. 9:22 - without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

If man is to be saved from sin, the only way in which he can be saved is through Jesus Christ. Thank God for the Son of God who is able to save to the utmost. Heb. 7:25.

Before Calvary, sin was covered as it were by the burnt offerings and sacrifices of blood, bulls, and goats - which could not take away sin. But God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Sin, there is sin - and you are guilty as a sinner. And that by nature and practice, let us thank God that there is a remedy. That Jesus Christ, who did no sin - bore out sins in his own body upon the cross.

Let me read you a verse of Scripture -

// As far as the East is from the West, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. // Psalm 103:12. Now the worst thing can be removed as far as East is from the West.

// Dr. Chapman was using this text in a Bible class. A university professor of mathematics was there, who had ruined his life by sin. He asked him, can you tell us - how far that is, East from West? Well, he got out his pencil and his notebook. He was about to make some calculations. And suddenly he grasp the sweep of the statement. He put his pencil and notebook away, and said to the Bible class. Men you cannot measure it. The distance is immeasurable. And thank God, he added with great emotion - that is where my sins have gone. //

It was like an electric thrill that went through that crowd of men.
Because the professor sat there sobbing as though his heart would break. He
had caught the truth. God had dealt with his sins. As far as the East is
away from the West. (My sins are remembered no more. My soul is at perfect rest.
My sins are remembered no more. They are forgiven, forgotten, buried and gone.
My sins are remembered no more. They are atoned for ~~the~~ covered by God's dear
son. My sins are remembered no more.)

*Trojan picture
- Mother & Baby in Casket -*

only hope for Dumbass Dicks is Jesus -