

CONNECTION: UNDERSTANDING WHAT SIN IS

Connection is where science meets scripture!

By Richard P. Beobide, Pastor

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Phone: 860-946-7095

Prayer Of Salvation

How do I ask Jesus into my life?

Here is a prayer to help you! Please call me if you pray or have any questions. I'll be glad to talk to you.

860-946-7095

Pastor Richard P. Beobide

Father sometimes I offend you.

I know Jesus died because we have all offended you.

I believe God You raised Jesus from the dead.

Save me from my desires that offend you.

Jesus of Nazareth
I confess that you are Savior & Lord.

Forgive me for offending you in Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Here is your job description from now on!

Do no more evil

Tell about Jesus

Be baptized, Learn about Him in your Bible.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT SINNING IS

There is a blackened shroud of mystery and misunderstanding that covers over the topic of sin like a cloak; destroying lives and reeking havoc everywhere. Mistakenly, most people think they understand it. However, this misunderstood condition of humanity is a true and formidable enemy of mankind that extends all the way back to the beginning of our existence. Today you will understand it as never before.

Other than Jesus (who is the Christ according to historic standard), sin is the only thing in the entire universe that has an everlasting grip on the soul of mankind. Why? Because sin is what separates man from God! Therefore, since people prefer not to learn about it, sin works its troubles in societies everywhere.

When talking about sin most people view it as doing something wrong, and rightly so! For instance, you did something you shouldn't have; or you didn't do something you should have. However, those are only a manifestation or an outward sign of what sin is. When a sin is committed; that is known as the act of sin. However, there is more to sin than just the act of it as we will soon see.

On more than a few occasions, I have heard Christians say, they actually reached a sinless state in their lives. Meaning that for a time they did not commit a sin. Likewise there are devout Jews who keep count of which sins they had committed in the hope of reaching perfection, as if to say they can live a sinless life. Mistakenly, devout believers think if they control their sinful, lustful desires and emotions they can reach a sinless

life. However, this is a fantasy.

While there is no doubt, the act of committing a sin displeases God; there is something far more alarming at work in the underbelly of our lives; that is this: a condition exists within the genetic makeup of every person to lust. Lusting is actually a chain of events that works like this: we observe something, and then desire that thing so badly that we ache (Lust) for it. Finally, we perform the act, which brings fulfillment and satisfaction that ends the aching. The person performs the act regardless of how it offends others, and they continue until the outcome is accomplished, and there you have the fulfillment of a person's lustful desire! The events leading up to the act is called desire. Desire that is Godly and inoffensive is good or acceptable behavior. However, ungodly desire is lusting and offensive toward God. Both lusting and desire inspires people to commit themselves to action. In the case of lusting: Once actions begin offenses and hostilities mount often toward our neighbors and always against God. Finally, once the offense occurs, God's anger toward us is sparked and now we are at odds with our neighbor and God, continually damaging our relationship with God.

It's important to realize that God is *not only* displeased with the act of sin: rather he is far more displeased with the condition of man's nature that allows us to accept a lustful thought or desire to take root in our mind that causes us to sin. In fact, this condition is truly the root of the problem, while the committed sin is only a symptom of the condi-

tion. For instance, while my finger may be in pain (sin) the broken bone is what's causing pain and worse makes the finger non-functional until it heals (the continual condition).

Therefore, in our present state (a state that allows ungodly thoughts and desires to root in our minds) there is nothing we can do to please God except do what he requires of us. The problem is God requires us to be in a state of perfection. (A state that is impossible for us to achieve). However, if that's true (and it is), then how can we please him? The truth is we can't! Fortunately, God understood this! Unfortunately, humanity doesn't. God knew there would be some people who would want to please him even though this condition is in us. So, in God's planning, he made a way for us to enter into a loving, working relationship with him, even in our broken condition. Since God demands a state of perfection that we cannot achieve; he sent us someone who would rescue us from our imperfect state (if we wanted to be rescued, that is). A savior! He would live a perfect life. He was, is, and always will be perfect! Any temptation that the world could muster to cause a lustful (ungodly) desire in the savior never took root in his thought. Why? Simple! The mechanism to accept lustful ungodly desire was not in him. In other words, it can be said that while stimulating temptations of the world were seen, smelled, tasted, touched and heard by him, the mechanism that would allow the stimulus to connect his consciousness where the stimulus can take root was not effective. Why? Because the savior sees what we see as something that is repulsive,

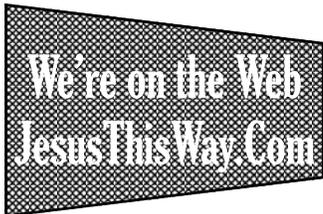
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Knowing What Sin Is!

repugnant, and unacceptable: where we see it as pleasant and enjoyable. So the mechanism that is very alive in us is dead in him. The savior was completely responsive yet impervious to all ungodly temptation. His response was; it disgusted him! He was unable to allow himself to do anything that was against his nature. He simply doesn't lust after the things of this world.

If you haven't guessed by now, Jesus The Christ is the savior.

One job Jesus had was to demonstrate for humanity how to live a life that pleases God. This is revealed when scripture informs us that Jesus met with a religious teacher whose name was Nicodemus. Jesus explained that in order for a man to see God he must be born again. The word "again" is translated to mean "from above." Although Jesus was born into the world through a virgin birth, he clearly taught that he came from above and that he, his ways nor his teachings are of this world. He explains to Nicodemus to not be amazed by what Jesus was telling him. Jesus further explains how that which is born of flesh is flesh and craves the things of the flesh. But that which is born of spirit is spirit and craves the things of the spirit. Jesus points out how people must experience a new birth in their spirit (or their mind) with a spiritual birth *from above*. Nicodemus (who unlike the disciples of Jesus) was not aware of the spiritual condition of the very people he was supposed to be teaching. In other words, the spiritual condition of man was one that only cared for

the things of this life and self-advancement. The reason for this was simple: it's all they knew. Most people were not and today are not interested in the things of God. However, another job of Jesus was to create an awareness of the things of God. In fact his disciples were in training to bring this message from above to the rest of the world for anyone who would receive it. In other words, Jesus would reveal a doctrine that explains that there is more to life than the cares of this life. Such as loving God with all your heart, mind and strength and loving your neighbor as your own flesh. This doctrine would bring eternal life and destroy death. Once revealed to the world, this doctrine, would be heard by all, but evaluated by only a few in comparison. These few would be brought to a new spiritual life from above. They will be born again (*born from above*).

Now, he (Jesus) also had another job to do: that was to perform the following: 1. To live a life that would reveal to the world that he was the savior of man. If a person desired, one could evaluate the writings of people inspired by God (the prophets), who, wrote that a savior would come and do many great things. This evaluation of the work of Jesus and the prophets was intended by God as an indicator to the world as dependable proof for mankind to put their confidence in Jesus. Specifically: He (the savior) would be born of a virgin, do miracles, he would not sin, he would be bruised and killed for man, die on a tree (the cross), raise from the dead and repair man's condition

with God. Jesus not only did all this, but it is the most documented fact of history. 2. He would repair (reconcile) our differences with God continually if we asked him to, and accepted his teachings and work in our lives. Jesus demonstrated to the entire world, that he was in fact the savior of the world making Jesus *the only* acceptable agent to go before God on our behalf. Therefore, anyone who accepted Jesus would be regarded as the children of God through what the apostle Paul called the spirit of adoption. Now by being adopted we are children and as children we are inheritors, and as inheritors we share in the inheritance of God's kingdom, which includes eternal life.

Earlier I mentioned those trying to control their sinful desires in the hope of being sinless. My hope is you understand why while you may not be sinning at the moment your tendency toward sin (or your nature that desires sin) is a sin itself (an offence to God) because we have been corrupted from the original intent of God! Truly, a far better understanding is: to know that in our current condition we are displeasing to God. Thank God for his mercy on us because he sent Jesus the Christ who taught us that we must be born again (born from above), to learn his teachings, putting in us, the mind that is in Him, and providing forgiveness of the condition as we work to glorify him in love. Please, Give your life to God. The Prayer of Salvation is on Page 1 Column 1 of this newsletter. Please call me at 860-210-0030. See you next time on Mystery & Logic!

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Hear

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