

Lesson 1 and 2

The problem of sin

The biggest problem that anyone has today is the problem of sin. Sin may be defined as breaking God's moral law as contained in the ten commandments or simply as doing wrong in the sight of God by a willful act or attitude of rebellion against him. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This means all of us have the problem of sin. Why is sin a problem? It is a problem because it brings spiritual decay and ruination to our personality and being. Just as God made our bodies to be healthy, so he made our inner self or souls to be healthy. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 1:2

But our souls are healthy only as we live in him and are morally upright in our character by being holy as he is holy in deeds and character. "Be ye holy; for I am holy. I Peter 1:16

When man willfully breaks God's moral laws and sins, he brings a spiritual sickness into his soul that causes him great misery and sorrow. Just as the body experiences pain when it is sick, so likewise does the soul when we sin. Also our sin cuts us off from God, who is the only source of life and being cut off from him, we wither and die like a branch that has been cut off from the tree. "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15: 6

All of the feelings of emptiness, guilt, apathy and other miseries we experience are symptoms of the sickness of sin. Jesus said in Mark 7:20-23 that sin comes from the heart which is man's center of being. The main reason anyone lives in sin is because he is self centered rather than God centered. Man's whole being is healthy and well only as he lets God rule his life. When he chooses to rule his own life in rebellion, he brings spiritual sickness and decay and eventually death upon himself. The fruits and examples of the suffering decay and ruination of human personality are easily seen in this life and will continue after death with eternal suffering.

Here are some of the elements of ruination that are caused by sin:

- 1) alienation from God
- 2) alienation from your neighbors
- 3) alienation from your loved ones
- 4) many physical diseases
- 5) inner conflicts causing nervous and mental breakdowns
- 6) destruction of personality and emotions
- 7) destruction of potential talents and abilities
- 8) confusion and corruption of minds
- 9) spiritual sickness and death
- 10) everlasting judgement in hell

But there is hope even for the problem of sin. Listen to what the Lord says in Isaiah 1:18. "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white like snow; though they red like crimson, they shall be as wool." The Lord God almighty has a solution for the problem of sin. We shall study it in the next lesson.

DISCUSSION AND STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) List the sins given in Mark 7:21,22 and Romans 1:29-32 and Galatians 5:19-21 and make sure you understand their meaning. _____

- 2) What gift has God given us to make us aware of sin? Romans 2:14 and 15 _____

- 3) How does the answer to number 2 make us aware of sin? Romans 3:19 _____

- 4) What is necessary for the pardon of sin? Hebrews 9:22 _____

5) Why does man sin? James 1:13-15 _____

6) Why can't man solve the problem of sin? John 8:33,34
Romans 7:14,23 _____

7) How does God feel about our sin? Ezekiel 18:29-32

