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*"Ye shall be My Witnesses"*

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## SIN: IS IT SERIOUS?

People born since 1960 have been deprived of one of the foundation blocks that provide stability and guidance in life: a community conscience regarding sin.

This can be illustrated by comparing today's moral tone with that during the great depression of the 30's. Businesses failed, unemployment lines stretched for blocks, and people were without work, with no welfare assistance. People wore old clothing and often were hungry, with little or nothing to eat. It was a real struggle to survive.

But in spite of this, we lived in peace and safety. Few people bothered to lock their doors, and you could leave the car unlocked with the keys in it. Teenage pregnancy was rare. Robbery and violence were so uncommon that when they did occur they made the headlines.

Why such a difference between then and now?

From the days of Karl Marx, Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud, there has been a concentrated effort to eliminate the Christian basis of Western civilization. Under the influence of John Dewey and other elite educators, this malevolent effort grew until it produced the "new morality" of the 60's, and the change of attitude became increasingly conspicuous by various forms of deviant behavior. God can no longer be recognized in the public schools, leaving the children to establish their own values, based upon the opinions of their peers (other students) and their own experiences. This program has succeeded in destroying the conscience of millions and producing a generation that embraces obscenity, pornography, violence and excessive immoral conduct as normal and acceptable.

The concept of sin has been ridiculed out of education and the media. Young people are taught that pre-marital sex might result in disease or pregnancy, but no one dares mention the "S" word. The immoral escapades of politicians are shrugged off by their supporters, as having nothing to do with their character and qualifications for office. The modern rule is that nothing is considered wrong as long as it doesn't break any state or federal laws, and the only sin is to believe in sin.

**ROOTED IN UNBELIEF.** This denial, however, goes much deeper than the denial of sin itself. It derives from a denial of God. It is rooted in unbelief, as this is the original sin and the root of all sin.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve, which we usually think of as the first sin, was the product of their believing a lie rather than believing God. "You will not die," said the serpent, "for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil."<sup>1</sup> Their disbelief of God was the primary sin, resulting in eating the forbidden fruit. **The sin of disobedience is born of a greater sin, that of unbelief.**

There has been sufficient evidence of God and His righteousness, Pauls writes, that the ungodly are without excuse. "Because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks, but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened."<sup>2</sup> Unbelief is not only the

primary sin, but it blazes the trail farther and farther from the Creator down into a cesspool of evil.

"And even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up unto a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, faithless, without natural affection, unmerciful."<sup>3</sup> This catalogue of sins describes much of modern society which is all adrift in unbelief.

For anyone who wants to resist the temptation to sin, one thing is essential: **to believe that the will of God is better than the pleasure of sin.**

**FROM THE HEART.** To violate God's law is sin, but if we think of sin only in terms of law-breaking, we are missing the heart of the matter. The problem is not merely that one of God's rules is broken, but that His very purpose and design are rejected. We were created in the image of God.<sup>4</sup> We are not eternal or omnipotent or immortal, as God is, but we are created with mental powers, to think and reason as God does. We are to think pure and good thoughts.<sup>5</sup> Jesus said that even if we do not commit murder, we become murderous when we harbor the thought, and though we may not commit adultery, we become adulterous when we have the desire for it.<sup>6</sup>

The idea is now extant that a wrong has not been committed unless someone is harmed. Sin is thought of as some heinous act which inflicts suffering on others, and the real sinner is the mobster boss, the drug pusher, the rapist and murderer. But Jesus declared that evil thoughts and desires are also sinful. He said that it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man but that which comes out. "But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings."<sup>7</sup> The "heart" refers to the center of one's desire. So it is not just the man on death row who has sinned, but everyone who has evil desires. God wants not only clean hands, but clean hearts. For this reason scripture states that "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;"<sup>8</sup> and David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."<sup>9</sup>

**ALL SIN IS AGAINST GOD.** When King David was made to realize his guilt, he cried out to God, "Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight."<sup>10</sup> Had he not seduced Bathsheba and had her husband killed? He knew that very well, but he also knew that the acts were committed because God and His purpose had been shoved aside. It is God who created order, and the violation of that order is sin against Him who designed it, whether or not anyone else is hurt.

Man's rebellion against God is not just that he refuses to do God's will, but that he rebels against being what God designed him to be. How far people can go in desecrating the image of



God is described by Paul: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due"<sup>11</sup> Those who argue that homosexual relationships harm no one ignore the fact that such actions are diametrically opposed to the Creator's design and purpose for sex. Therefore they sin against God as well as the whole human race.

**SIN'S EFFECTS.** The results of sin are seen in all the evils that plague mankind. Sin brought the curse of death to the race,<sup>12</sup> accompanied with disease, suffering and sorrow. Sin destroys peace<sup>13</sup> and extracts a high price from the sinner. "The way of the transgressor is hard."<sup>14</sup> Sin has fatally damaged the entire creation, so that it "groans and travails in pain until now."<sup>15</sup>

Sin separates man from fellowship with His Creator<sup>16</sup> and blinds him to the right course of life.<sup>17</sup> But the ultimate effect of sin will be realized in the final judgment, "in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."<sup>18</sup> The wages of sin is death,<sup>19</sup> which is portrayed as destruction by fire. "This is the second death, even the lake of fire."<sup>20</sup>

Seldom do we hear anything of God's wrath against sin. The experts in "Church Growth" advise against such a negative message. So we think of God only in terms of love, mercy and grace. Churches prefer a reputation as entertainment centers rather than a fellowship of people

redeemed from sin and its penalty. Richard Niebuhur describes what has happened: "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministration of a Christ without a cross."<sup>21</sup>

But sin is real, and it is serious, serious enough to be worthy of death. Final death. Total death. The only way of escape is through Jesus, who died to pay that penalty for us.<sup>22</sup> This is God's message, for "He has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead."<sup>23</sup>

The first requirement is that we believe it. "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieves shall be condemned."<sup>24</sup>

—C. D.

## References

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Genesis 3:1-6                 | 15. Romans 8:22   |
| 2. Romans 1:21                   | 16. Isaiah 59:2   |
| 3. Romans 1:28-31                | 17. 2 Corinthians 4:4   |
| 4. Genesis 1:27                  | 18. Romans 2:5  |
| 5. Philippians 4:8               | 19. Romans 6:23   |
| 6. Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28        | 20. Revelation 20:14; Matthew 3:12; 25:46; 2 Peter 3:7                                |
| 7. Matthew 15:18-19              | 21. Richard Niebuhur, <i>The Kingdom of God in America</i> , Harper Row, 1959, p. 193 |
| 8. Romans 3:23                   | 22. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6  |
| 9. Psalm 51:10                   | 23. Acts 17:30-31   |
| 10. Psalm 51:4                   | 24. Mark 16:16  |
| 11. Romans 1:26-27               |   |
| 12. Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12 |   |
| 13. Isaiah 57:21                 |   |
| 14. Proverbs 13:15               |   |

## PANORAMA

• **DEATHSTYLE.** Seventy-three percent of all straight males live to age 65 or older. Of gays, only one percent survives to age 65. Homosexuality "is an alternate death style, not an alternate 'life' style," says Dr. George Faull, president of Summit Theological Seminary. "The homosexual population is only 2%. They say it is up to 10% of the population. 66% of the mass murders done in the last 17 years were done by homosexuals. . . 2% of the population." (*The Christian Contender*, 2/92)

• **THE TEN BILLION ISSUE.** The 49th Annual Religious Broadcasters Convention held in Washington, D.C., January 25-28 was used by Zionist fanatics to promote the \$10,000,000,000 "loan" to Israel. This was admitted by Richard Hellman, head of the Christians' Israel Public Action Campaign, when he said, "We thank the NRB for giving us this time, reaching the cream of America's religious broadcasters, so that we can mobilize them to work for Israel." Arguing for support, they claimed: "Israel is the only country in the Middle East that protects human rights." (Thousands of Palestinians have been tortured or killed by the Israelis. Ed.); and "The Persian Gulf War proved that Israel is morally better than the U.S. because Israel held back when attacked. . . the U.S. would not have held back." (See "Most Cruel War" below.) At one point the lights went out, and when they came back on, the American flag had fallen to the floor. Cheers went up at the sight of only the Israeli flag with the occult symbol, the six-pointed star. Nobody bothered to re-hang the U.S. flag. (*Christian News*, 2/10/92)

• **TWO ADS.** *The Washington Times* of January 27 carried a full-page advertisement with an open letter to President Bush, which says, "Seventy million Bible-believing Christians across America—including tens of millions of your supporters in 1988—urge you to approve the loan guarantees, unconditionally, for Israel." Among the signers of this outrageous and deceptive ad are Rev. Louis P. Sheldon, Rev. Jerry Falwell, Mr. Pat Boone, Dr. Jack Hayford, Dr. Hal Lindsey, Mr. Paul Crouch, Dr. David Clark, Dr. Jerry Rose, Rev. Jamie Buckingham, and Mr. Ed McAteer. (Note: Are there 70 million Christians in the U.S.? What of the millions who oppose Zionism? There is no way these men could fail to know the ad was false.)

Another full-page advertisement appeared in the *L. A. Weekly* January 24 and 30, paid for by The Jewish Committee on the Middle East, urging Congress to "Just Say 'NO' To Israel" and to "more killings, torture, repression, illegal settlements, confiscations," etc. This committee is supported by Jewish professors at over 160 universities and thousands of supporters nationwide. The Zionist controlled media doesn't want you to know that a great many American Jews are opposed to Zionism and support for Israel. (Ads reproduced in *Christian News*, 2/3/92 and 2/10/92)

• **MOST CRUEL WAR.** Neeim Giladi is a veteran Israeli reporter and chairman of the World Organization of Jews from Islamic Countries. After extensive research in Iraq, he says that instead of Operation Desert Storm being a clean, swift, high-tech campaign, "those of us who have examined this conflict closely call it the most cruel war mankind has ever known." Millions must subsist on contaminated water and go without medicine

or hospitalization. He says, "My own estimate is that the war's toll among Iraqis will reach or exceed 600,000 by the end of next year." But he does not blame the American military. "Numerous sources have confirmed combat jets of the Israeli Defense Forces, either unmarked or disguised with U.S. insignia, flew hundreds of bombing sorties during Operation Desert Storm. They inflicted savage punishment on the civilian population of this Arab country." (*Christian News*, 2/10/92, Rt. 1, Box 309A, New Haven, MO 63068)

• **CONTROL IS THE GOAL.** Dr. Margaret Maxey, engineering professor of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, reports that geophysicists have calculated carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide emissions from three volcanic eruptions (Krakatoa, 1883; Alaska, 1912; and Iceland, 1947) and concluded: "Just these three volcanic eruptions have put more particulates, more carbon dioxide and more sulphur dioxides into the atmosphere than all of the activities of industrial man." Humans contribute only five percent to carbon dioxide emissions, and nature contributes 95 percent. The 1985 cyclone in Bangladesh killed 10,000 people; Mexico's 1985 earthquake killed 25,000; the 1985 volcanic eruption in Colombia killed 25,000. "Since communism has lost all intellectual respectability, except on U.S. college campuses, it has been repackaged under the name of environmentalism," says columnist Walter Williams. "The goal of communism is to control our lives, and the goal of many environmentalists is to do the same." (*Amarillo Sunday News-Globe*, 12/8/91)

• **CONSPIRACY ADMITTED.** Various newsletters, including *The Witness*, have often mentioned the Bilderbergers as an international group conspiring to establish world government. The media has denied that such a conspiracy exists, but David Rockefeller admitted it at their meeting held in Sands, Germany, June 6-8, 1991. In Mr. Rockefeller's opening speech, he said, "We are grateful to *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. . . It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subject to the bright lights of publicity during these years. But the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. . ." (Hilaire Du Berrier in *Bulletin*, Committee to Restore the Constitution, 12/91, P. O. Box 986, Ft. Collins, CO 80522)

• **HIDDEN AGENDAS.** When the U.S. Department of Education analyzed 60 textbooks for grades one through six, they found that "most had hidden agendas, subtly undermining the authority of the family," according to *Insight* magazine (1/27/92). Rather than presenting the occupation of a mother or housewife as satisfying or important, the textbooks foster the notion of family without marriage. (*AFA Journal*, 2/92)

• **A STURDY VIRUS.** Dr. Lorraine Day, M.D., instructor at U.S. Medical School in San Francisco for 15 years, reports that the HIV (AIDS) virus survives: (1) in body fluids on a dry surface for seven days; (2) in water for 14 days; (3) in the lab for 26 days; (4) in the air for a distance of at least two feet from the source, and is infective at that distance.

• **WELCOME,** new readers. Don't forget to write. A big THANKS to all who make this ministry possible by contributions. —C. D.