

THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF SIN

By Keith Greer

What is the first point that you must make when studying the Bible with one outside of Christ? Simple, they are lost and need what God has to offer. No problem, right? Experience has shown me this is a grave problem. Why?

Many answers could be given, but one quickly comes to mind. Man does not understand the nature of sin. Those outside of Christ do not see sin as one inside does. How does the world view sin? Fun, pleasure and enjoyable--if not, would it be so difficult to get them out of it?

One in the world does not see themselves the way that God sees them. A good moral person, by the world's standards, is honest, hard working, good family man and an all around good person. What's the problem? From their position nothing is wrong. How do we change their understanding? Show them what sin is and the nature of it.

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. " {1 John 3:4}

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. "
{James 2:10}

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"
{Romans 6: 16}

Man is either a slave to sin or of righteousness. This choice he makes. If one is not obeying the law of God he is a servant of sin. What can he hope to gain from this way of life?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"
{Romans 6:23}

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord, , shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "{Matthew 7: 21}

Spiritual death, eternal separation from God, is all one can look forward to if he serves sin. Does this sound appealing? We must show how unappealing this choice is!

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, "{2 Thessalonians 1:8,9}

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. "{Revelation 21:8}

Sin has a high and terrible price. According to passages, such as Romans 3: 23, all have sinned. Yes, all need the blood of Christ.

We must show that sin is a progressive course. It takes hold of you and does not easily allow you to escape--without a struggle!

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." {James 1:13-15}

Once it has you in its clutches it will do anything to keep you there. Sin does not remain in one area. It will always seek to take you farther and farther. It will cost you more than you can pay and keep you deceived along the way. It cannot deliver on its promises.

Yes, not a very pretty picture is it? Sin looks harmless and sadly so many do not see the heartache, destruction, unhappiness that awaits all who walk down her path. Mankind needs to see sin in all of its ugliness and never forget the terrible price it will cost in the end – their souls if they die in their sins. May we never forget this vital truth. In the sinner's mind – for a certainty the devil never will! ***