

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT SIN? (PART 1)

By Keith Greer

"For the wages of sin is **DEATH**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 3:23)

Since I began working as an evangelist, I have often been asked this question: "What is the most misunderstood subject that you have found to give Christians, as well as non-Christians, the most difficulty?" Without reservation, I would have to answer that people, for the most part, fail to fully understand the consequences of sin!

The problem that I see is two-fold. If men and women truly had the proper understanding of the "terribleness" of sin, we would convert many more. Likewise, if brethren understood these same principles, we could be better examples to those in the world, thereby leading more to Christ rather than away from Him!

We cannot run or hide from God, but those who are in the world tend to either not believe or not understand what God has said about sin. "For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: For our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them." (Isaiah 59:12) "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

Man needs God to help him along life's pathway, but sin separates man from God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2) Sooner or later, we must all face up to the consequences of our actions. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Sadly, many brethren have also failed to recognize the deadly consequences of sin. "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (1 Peter 4:17-18) When Jesus spoke, in what we commonly refer to as the sermon on the mount, He said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7: 13-14)

Do you remember the "consequences" experienced by some examples in the Scriptures?

Adam and Eve. "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:24)

Moses. "Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." (Numbers 20:12)

Uzzah. "And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God." (2 Samuel 6:6,7)

We could examine many other examples from the Old Testament, but these will suffice to prove our point. Sin is a very dangerous thing and we must see it in all of the evil and difficulty it brings into our lives. Truth is, if one fails to see the destructive nature of sin, they will be more likely to commit it over and over again. God's word has given us plenty of plain teaching concerning the terrible consequences resulting from sin. Brethren, what is YOUR attitude towards sin? ***