

HAMARTIOLOGY (37)

(Sin Preventative #1) - Believers have been given the Word of God. **Psalm 119:11; II Timothy 3:16-17; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:25-26**

The Bible is a tremendous prophylactic against sin. There is an old saying which is very true - "Sin will keep you from the Bible and the Bible will keep you from sin." One of the most important things a believer can do is to spend time daily in the Word of God. Cleansing, purity, godliness, and holiness exist in those who spend a great deal of time in the Word. One of the main reasons God gave His Word was so that His people could develop in holiness and righteousness and not be sinful. This enables God to love, develop, and bless His people at the highest possible level (**Deuteronomy 7:12-13**).

(Sin Preventative #2) - Believers have been given the church of God. **Ephesians 5:25-27; I Timothy 3:15**

God's church is critical to a life of holiness versus a life of sin. Those who wander away from God's church always deteriorate in their spiritual lives. There is no blossoming or development. God's Word, God's doctrines, God's people, in this Age, will be found in God's churches. This is the Church Age and part of the reason for its existence is to establish believers in the faith and lead them out of a life of sin.

(Sin Preventative #3) - Believers have been given the indwelling of the Spirit. **John 7:38-39; 14:17; Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 2:12; II Corinthians 5:5**

The believer always has God's Spirit within him. Even the sinning believer is still the subject of the Spirit's work (**I Corinthians 6:12-19***). The Spirit of God will always prompt the believer to move away from and out of sin and move into and toward righteousness. One who yields to the Spirit's promptings will develop into becoming very holy and very pleasing to God.

(Sin Preventative #4) - Believers have been given the intercession of Christ. **Hebrews 7:25; John 17:15; Luke 22:32; Romans 8:34**

The intercessory work of Jesus Christ not only prevents sin but guarantees security. It is hard to know how many serious sin situations have been stayed in our own lives by the intercessory ministry of our Lord. It is as Ryrie said: "... we will never know what has been involved until we arrive in heaven ..." (p. 233).

With the provisions of these preventatives, it needs to be stressed that God does empower a believer to have victory over sin. In fact, the Scriptures make it very clear that it is the responsibility of every believer to get victory over sin.

If a believer struggles with the same sin day in and day out, God cannot be blamed and something is clearly being neglected by the believer, for we know God has made it possible for the believer to live a victorious Christian life.

HAMARTIOLOGY (38)

One passage of Scripture which clearly teaches that God expects a believer to develop to the level that the believer is continually victorious over sin is **Romans 6:23**. The real issue that determines victorious living over sin is the issue of faith. The sin that “so easily entangles us” is unbelief (**Hebrews 12:1 / 11:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 39**).

In every sinful temptation and situation our faith is on the line. If we, by faith, choose to yield to the Holy Spirit, we will have victory over sin. Sin presents itself tangibly and immediately. It takes faith to walk away from the tangible and immediate in view of the spiritual and eternal. If a believer will remember that Christ has delivered one from sin positionally and that he has been made alive unto God, he will discover that faith in these realities will prompt him to walk away from the sinful lure. Victory over sin depends largely upon our minds thinking about all Christ has done for us. When by faith we think on these things, there is a true delivering power and victory.

Dr. Chafer’s words are helpful on this matter:

“In gaining a deliverance from the power of sin, the believer’s responsibility is stated in one word - faith (a faith which not only reckons one to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God - Romans 6:11 - and which yields one’s self unto God - Romans 6:13). Naught else remains for him to do since, as above stated, God has provided the righteous ground upon which the deliverance may be wrought by the Spirit has caused that same victorious Spirit to indwell the believer for this very purpose” (Vol. 2, p. 353).

W. H. Griffith Thomas has well-said:

“We must, therefore, be on our guard against two extremes: on the one hand we must insist that even in the regenerate the evil principle remains and will remain to the end of this life; on the other hand, we must be clear that this evil principle need not and ought not to produce evil results in practice, since the grace of God has been provided to meet and overcome it” (*Ibid.*, pp. 357-358).

God expects His people to live holy lives and He has provided all necessary ingredients to meet His expectations.

QUESTION #22 – What is the history of sin?

The Bible gives us a full panoramic view of sin’s beginning, development, and conclusion:

1. Sin first began with Satan in Heaven. **Ezekiel 28:15, 17; Isaiah 14:14**
2. Sin began in humans with Eve and Adam in Eden. **Genesis 3:6-7; Romans 5:12, 16, 17, 18, 19**
3. Sin exists in every person through his parents. **Psalms 51:5; Ephesians 2:3**
4. Sin exists in every person through imputation. **Romans 5:12-21**

HAMARTIOLOGY (39)

5. Sin is only remedied by the cross-work of Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14, 20, 22; Hebrews 9:11-22; 10:10-18**
6. Sin and all things that caused it will be abolished by Jesus Christ. **I Corinthians 15:24-25; Revelation 21:27**
7. Satan will be eternally judged and sentenced to burn forever in the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:10**
8. Unbelievers will be eternally judged and sentenced to burn forever in the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:13, 15; 21:8**
9. Death, which is the penalty for sin, will be completely abolished. **Revelation 20:14; I Corinthians 15:26**

QUESTION #23 – What happens to those who die who have not trusted Jesus Christ as Savior so that His shed blood takes away all of the person’s sin?

Although we live in a world in which many do not wish to think about judgment and accountability, the Bible is very clear and very specific that one who rejects Christ will suffer eternal condemnation and damnation and will literally go to hell.

There are several observations we want to make:

1. The doctrine of eternal punishment and damnation is a Biblical doctrine.
 - A. **Matthew 25:41**; B. **John 3:36**; C. **John 5:28-29**; D. **II Thessalonians 1:8-9**;
 - E. **Revelation 14:9-11**
2. The doctrine of eternal punishment and damnation is a needed doctrine.
 - A. It is needed to establish a proper concept of God. **Romans 9:22**
 - B. It is needed to justify the cross-work of Jesus Christ. **II Thessalonians 1:8-9**
 - C. It is needed to bring some to salvation. **Jude 23**
 - D. It is needed to right many wrongs. **Revelation 6:10-11**
 - E. It is needed to forever separate the godly from the godless. **Revelation 21:24-27**
3. The sentence of eternal punishment and damnation begins at death. **Luke 16:22-23**
At the precise moment of physical death, the unbeliever is instantly in hell.
 - A. A person goes to hell immediately at death. **Luke 16:22-23**
 - B. A person who goes to hell is in great torment. **Luke 16:23, 24, 28**
The word “torment” (**16:23, 28**) literally has to do with torture - torment by torture.
The word “agony” (**16:24**) is a different word that refers to excruciating pain.
 - C. A person who goes to hell is completely conscious.
 1. He is conscious of the environment he is missing. **Luke 16:23-25**
 2. He is conscious of the pain he is experiencing. **Luke 16:24**
 3. He conscious of the relief he is lacking. **Luke 16:24**
 4. He is conscious of the life he lived. **Luke 16:25**
 5. He is conscious of the inescapability of his existence. **Luke 16:26**
 6. He is conscious of the relatives he left behind on earth. **Luke 16:28**
 7. He is conscious of the burden he has for others. **Luke 16:28, 30**