

The Gospel Truth

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE
MISSION FIELD WORLDWIDE.

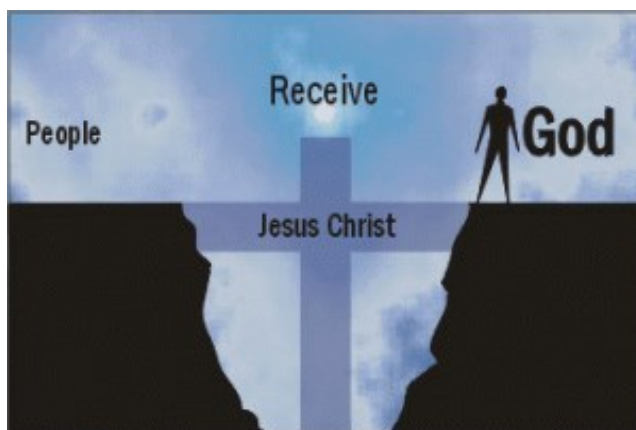
NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER

TEARS STREAMED DOWN THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE AS HE BEAT HIMSELF with a whip because of his own sin. In another part of the world, an old, wrinkled lady knelt before an image and offered all of the money she possessed. Meanwhile, an elderly man walked down a long, dusty road on a pilgrimage to the sacred city before he died.

AT THE SAME TIME, a young lady knelt before the holy statue and prayed for mercy before her confession to a black-robed priest. In an adjoining country, prayers resounded across the city as hundreds prostrated themselves on the ground.

ON A CONTINENT across the world, a well-dressed man and woman and their two young children passed out soup to the poor. Across the street an unmarried couple consumed alcohol and fed lustful appetites of the flesh.

THE BEATING OF DRUMS grew louder and louder as blood and water were thrown on a young boy possessed with demons. In a room in a distant land, a father crossed his legs and sought for peace and tranquility in meditation.



IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, smoke rose from the burning of the sacrifices offered to appease the gods and bring peace. Thousands of miles away a girl walked down the aisle of a church to shake the hand of the preacher. While these people are in different countries and have

a diversity of beliefs and practices, they have one thing in common. They are seeking peace, happiness, fulfillment, and eternal life.

PEOPLE ARE LOOKING to themselves, to good works, to fleshly pleasure, to priests, to prophets, to preachers, to sacrifices, to mass, to church, to creeds, etc. in an attempt to fill the void that is in their spirit. They seek salvation and many don't even know that for which their hearts long.

SALVATION IS FOUND in no other save in Jesus and Him crucified. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given

among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

PEOPLE CAN SEARCH the world over and sacrifice many things, but all of the searching for fulfillment will be in vain until they call on the name of Jesus Christ - the Son of the Living God.

-mws

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WHAT THE BIBLE Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

II Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15



Editorial

My heart is full of thankfulness to be saved from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. It is not of any goodness of my own but by God's mercy that I am saved today. More important than the right interpretation of scripture and the theology of salvation is the personal, divine experience of salvation. It brings such peace to be able to go to bed at night and know that my sins have been forgiven and that I am a child of God. There is such assurance in resting, not in my own ability, but in the saving, keeping power of our Saviour. My desire and burden is that the study this quarter on salvation and sin will illuminate hearts and minds to the reality of the experience and expose the false teachings on this subject so prominent in our world.

I am thankful that this publication is currently being translated into Spanish and Swahili. We are looking to the Lord to provide translators for Chichewa and other languages. Lord willing, I will be making a missionary trip to Pakistan from October 23 – November 9. I would appreciate your prayers for every gospel endeavor. I encourage my fellow labors in the gospel to fight the good fight of faith. The battle is hot, but the victory is ours through Jesus Christ.

-Michael W Smith

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

The Gospel Truth periodical is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. This publication teaches and promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

The Word of God is the singular, acceptable rule of faith. It teaches salvation and deliverance from sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ; a subsequent infilling of the Holy Spirit to lead, direct and empower; practical holiness in every area of life; and the unity and oneness of God's people. Acceptable service to God is through a personal relationship of love founded in truth.

Editors: Michael & René Smith

SUBSCRIPTION

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CONTACT

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SALVATION

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Primary Steps

I. BELIEVE - *to have faith or trust in; to accept something as true, genuine, honest, or real*

Acts 16:30-31 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

II. CALL - *to request; to ask for*

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

III. CONFESS - *to tell or make known, to acknowledge*

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

IV. REPENT - *to turn away from; to change one's mind; to feel regret, sorrow or contrition*

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Isaiah 66:2 ... but to this *man* will I look, even to *him* that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

V. RECEIVE - *to accept; to permit to enter*

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

A Sinner's Prayer

Dear Jesus, I believe you are the son of God and that you died on the cross for my sins. I am sorry for all of my transgressions. Please forgive me and make me clean through the power of your shed blood. I accept you as my personal Saviour and I invite you into my heart. I repent and forsake my sinful life. Thank you for hearing my prayer and for saving me through faith in your name. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. I honor and worship you as the Lord of my life.



-Amen

Secondary Steps

I. BE BAPTIZED - *the ordinance of immersing someone fully in water as a symbol of the washing away of sins and a rebirth in Jesus Christ*

Acts 2:37-38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you.

Matthew 28:19 Teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

II. RESTITUTION - *the act of restoring to the rightful owner something that has been taken away, lost, or surrendered*

Luke 19:8-9 And Zacchaeus said, "If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

III. FORGIVE - *to pardon; to give up resentment as a result of a perceived offense; to cease to demand punishment*

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive.



Scripture Reading:

Romans 6:13-18

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SUBJECT: SIN

I. Origin of Sin

- A. Romans 5:12 By one man sin entered the world.
- B. Romans 5:19 By one man's disobedience many were made sinners.

II. The Sinful Nature of Man

- A. Gen 8:21 The imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth.
- B. Eph 2:2-3 Man is by nature sinful.
- C. Romans 7:14-15 Unredeemed man is carnal under sin.
- D. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart without God is deceitful and wicked.

III. Location of Sin

- A. Mark 7:20-23 That which defiles comes from within.
- B. Matthew 15:18 Sin comes from within the heart.

IV. All Have Sinned

- A. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
- B. Romans 3:9 Both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin.
- C. 1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.

V. All Who Commit Sin are of the Devil

- A. 1 John 3:8a He that committeth sin is of the devil.

VI. Sin Involves a Willful Rejection of Light

- A. John 15:22-24 Imputed sin is a result of knowledge.
- B. John 9:41 There is no imputed sin where there is no light.
- C. Romans 5:13 Sin is not imputed when there is no law.

VII. Temptation Is Not Sin

- A. Matthew 4:1 Jesus was tempted of the devil.
- B. Hebrews 4:15 Christ was tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
- C. James 1:14-15 When lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin

VIII. Power of Sin

- A. Romans 7:14-15 In the flesh, there is no power to overcome sin.
- B. Romans 7:23 The natural man is under the captivity of the law of sin.

DEFINITIONS OF SIN

(NEW TESTAMENT)



1. SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.
1 JOHN 3:4
2. ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN. 1 JOHN 5:17
3. TO HIM THAT KNOWETH TO DO GOOD, AND DOETH IT NOT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.
JAMES 4:17
4. WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN.
ROMANS 14:23

IX. Effects of Sin

- A. Isaiah 59:2 Sin separates from God.
- B. James 1:15 Sin brings forth death.
- C. John 8:34 Sin brings bondage.

X. Consequences of Sin

- A. John 8:21-24 Those who die in their sins can not be with Christ.
- B. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death.
- C. Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell.
- D. Matthew 25:46 Everlasting punishment.
- E. Revelation 21:8 Sentenced to the lake of fire.

XI. Sacrifices of the Law Did Not Take Away Sins

- A. Hebrews 10:1-4 The blood of bulls and of goats did not take away sins.
- B. 1 Kings 8:46 No one lived without sin under the Mosaic law. (Eccl 7:20)
- C. Rom 8:3 The law was weak through the flesh.
- D. 1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin.

XII. Deliverance Through the Atonement of Christ

- A. Zechariah 13:1 Prophecy of the cleansing for sin.
- B. Matthew 1:21 Jesus was born to save his people from their sins.
- C. Romans 5:10-12 Atonement of sin through Christ.
- D. 1 John 4:10 Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- E. Hebrews 9:26 Jesus put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- F. 1 John 3:5 Jesus came to take away our sins.

XIII. Instruction Not to Sin

- A. John 8:11 Go, and sin no more. (John 5:14)
- B. Romans 6:12 Sin should not reign in our body.
- C. I Corinthians 15:34 Sin not.

XIV. Power to Live Without Sin

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Old things are passed away.
- B. 1 John 5:18 Whosoever is born of God sinneth not.
- C. 1 John 1:7 Blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin.
- D. John 8:36 Ye shall be free indeed.
- E. Romans 6:13-18 Sin shall not have dominion.
- F. Titus 2:11-12 Mankind can live righteously.
- G. 1 Peter 2:21-22 Christians are to follow Christ's example in not sinning.



those sacrifices were imperfect and the blood of bulls and of goats did not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

THE LAW WAS IMPERFECT

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Romans 8:3). Jesus came to this earth, shed his blood, died, and was resurrected that mankind could be freed from the very power and dominion of sin. “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Jesus came to “destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). Jesus did for

sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid” (Romans 6:14-15). “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18). Clearly, when someone obeys the Word of God from the heart, he is not only forgiven from committed sin but is set free from the very power of sin. The essence of ‘salvation’ is in being saved from sin.

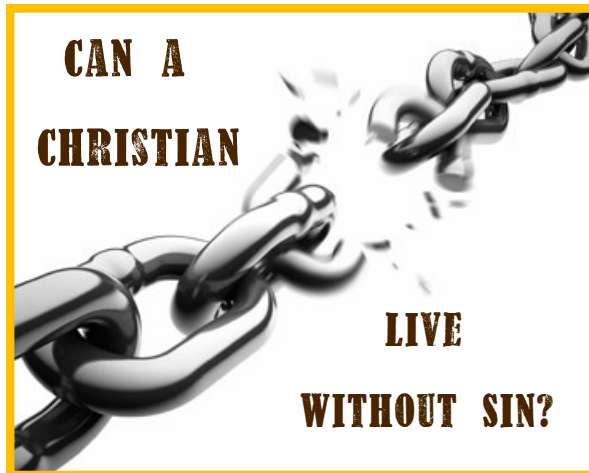
Question: Many professing Christians say that everybody sins “more or less” every day. Can a Christian live without sinning?

Answer:

Yes. True Christians not only should, but must live without sinning. This is not possible through one’s own strength or ability. It takes the divine power of God through Jesus Christ to enable an individual to live without sin. Sin is a word that is used in many ways and it is important to understand the differences between mistakes, areas of growth, and sin.

ALL HAVE SINNED

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Everyone has been a sinner, for no individual has the capacity within oneself to overcome the power of the sinful flesh. The law of Moses was given to reveal sin to mankind. Under the Mosaic law, God’s people still committed transgressions against God. They offered sacrifices, but



“GO AND SIN NO MORE.”

Jesus told the woman who was caught in adultery to “Go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). The scripture further teaches that “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin... (1 John 3:9). Mankind has been empowered through the blood and grace of Christ to live without sinning. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

There is a miraculous change when someone is truly saved through the power of Jesus Christ. A Christian - a disciple of Jesus Christ, can follow in His example and live without committing sin (1 Peter 2:21-22). Many in the religious world have watered down this simple doctrinal truth to excuse unrighteousness.

man what man was incapable of doing under the law. If man were to continue living in sin through Christ as it was under the law, what would be the necessity of the blood of Jesus?

JESUS SAVES FROM SIN’S POWER

Numerous scriptures make it clear that an individual that has been born again is delivered and saved from the very power of sin. “...He shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). “For

ARE MISTAKES SIN?

The question then arises, “So you are saying that a Christian never sins, never makes a mistake?” This is where it is important to understand the definition of sin. A Christian has the ability to turn

away from the power of Christ and return to a life of sin; but then, he would no longer be a Christian. There is grace and power to live without sinning as demonstrated by the scripture.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Although Christians, we are still human. Hence, we will still make mistakes and have lacks in wisdom. We are on a journey of growth, seeking for greater power in the graces of Christ and in the fruit of His Spirit. The scripture teaches us to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...” (2 Peter 3:18). A Christian is on a journey of growth in the things of God -- growing and becoming more like Christ. There will be times a Christian isn't as patient or joyful as he should be. That isn't sin, but is an area that needs to be acknowledged and brought to the Lord for greater power and grace.

THE HEART IS FIXED

The heart of a true Christian has a singular desire to please God. A Christian will still be tempted, as was Jesus, yet without yielding to sin (Hebrews 4:1). Temptation is not sin as some have taught. A Christian can't help every thought that comes into the mind, but there is power through the grace of God to resist those things that are sinful in nature.

SIN BRINGS SEPARATION

Sin is what separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Mistakes do not separate man from God unless they are excused and justified by a proud heart. God's moral law was given through the commandments under Moses. That code of morality was upheld by Christ and the bar was raised even higher as Jesus addressed not only the act but the condition of the heart on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).



DEFINITIONS OF SIN

The New Testament gives four primary definitions of sin - those things which separate man from fellowship with God. “All unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17). “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). A true child of God lives without violating those scriptures.

POWER TO RESIST EVIL

There is power through Christ to live without violating the moral law of God as it was violated under the Mosaic Law. A Christian who lies, steals, cheats, kills, commits adultery etc. is no longer a Christian. Further, a true Christian will not even ‘want’ to do those things. That comes from a condition of a pure heart before God. Yes, there may be temptation to tell a lie or to steal, but there is power to bring that thought into obedience to God. So there is no transgression of the law and there is no unrighteousness committed by action or motivation of heart.

A Christian that knows what God's law requires and willfully chooses to disobey has sinned, because he knew what was right and didn't desire to be obedient. Further, that action was not of faith. A Christian has power to live according to faith, loving and conducting himself under the moral law of God.

SALVATION MAKES A CHANGE

Salvation makes the difference. It enables people to live without sinning because there is grace and power to say ‘no’ to those things that separate from God. Salvation enables people in their humanity to draw closer and closer to God and to bear more and more of the fruit of the Spirit. The human lacks are not sin but areas of growth that can and will be perfected as one's heart is kept pure and right before God.

God's grace is sufficient to sustain us and give us victory even in the midst of the trials and temptations of life. Thank the Lord for the power to live without sinning!

-mws



DID YOU KNOW?

THE WORD BIBLE COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD BIBLIA, MEANING; BOOKS.
THE BIBLE IS A COLLECTION OF 66 BOOKS CONTAINING 1189 CHAPTERS.
THE OLD TESTAMENT CONTAINS 39 BOOKS.
THE NEW TESTAMENT CONSISTS OF 27 BOOKS.
THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE 14 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN IN HEBREW.
THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN IN GREEK.
THE WORD 'TESTAMENT' MEANS 'CONTRACT' OR 'COVENANT'.



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A Word
In Season

Rest A While

“And he [Jesus] said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.” (Mark 6:31)

Jesus and His disciples had been busy spreading the gospel and working for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. They had just received news that John the Baptist had been beheaded. The disciples were sad, tired and worn out because of their spiritual labors and the stresses that come with it.

Jesus invited them to take some time away from the multitudes and from the active work of the Lord to rest and recuperate. “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” (Psalm 103:14). Jesus recognized the importance of getting away from the stresses of life and taking time to rest.



True ministers and gospel workers carry great burdens for the souls of people around them. At times the needs and burdens can almost become overwhelming. An elder minister in our congregation said that “sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is to take a nap.”

The work of God can actually be benefited when ministers take some time for rest and recuperation. Ministers are often driven and pressed because of the call of God and the weight of the work that needs to be done. Many ministers have had nervous breakdowns and their health broken. It is needful at times to get away for a few days or weeks to a ‘desert’ place, away from the normal activities of life, and be refreshed and renewed. It can be a time of gaining a fresh vision and perspective and an occasion to reprioritize the work of the Lord. When people are rested, their minds are clearer and they accomplish more. It is imperative for us to recognize, as did the Lord, that we need to take time to “come apart and rest a while.”

-mws

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HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD