



Understanding Sin before Salt

BY: Chris Harper

Before our language, behavior and thoughts can be wrestled into submission we must come to an understanding of who, or what, we are fighting against. The Bible tells us that, as believers, the "flesh is at battle with the spirit" and the "spirit wages war against the flesh." (Romans 7) The Christian life is a fight, an internal battle brought about by our external choices, desires and shortcuts; a grueling battle that daily brings us face-to-face with the ultimate opponent, sin.

If our desire is to grow in, and be, salt for those in the world around us, it would behoove us to remember that holiness, and the pursuit of, begins with a proper understanding of sin. Historically, when man and the church misunderstood holiness, error grew where there was a fundamental misunderstanding of sin. Today, the battle is no longer waged on the front line of good and evil, rather, today we fight in the ring of truth versus error... and regarding sin, error is winning the rounds.

Believer, to fight your enemy is to know your enemy. What is our greatest foe? What is it that we must "turn from and flee?" From what do we "guard our hearts against?" What must we take "captive, extinguish and put to death?" The answer is sin.

The ninth article of the Church of England declares that sin is,

"The fault and corruption of the very nature of every man that is naturally engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone [quam longissime] from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lust away against the spirit; and, therefore, in every person born into the world, it deserves God's wrath and damnation"

In other words, sin is a disease, a disease that infects us ALL no matter rank, class, status or standing. It is a disease from birth which permeates and desires control

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in every aspect of our living. A disease that manifests itself when we think, do, say or imagine ANYTHING that is not in perfect conformity with the mind and law of God. In short, as John said, "sin is the transgression of the law." - 1John 3:4

And we all have transgressed the law. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." -Romans 3:23

Each of us, daily and intentionally, move ourselves out from under the reign of King Jesus and into the valley of self, a place where our wants, desires and ambitions trump the rule of God's word. In the Garden, Satan deceived Eve and led her to believe that her way could somehow add value to Gods instruction. Unfortunately, that train of thought burdens every one of us today as we consistently place self-will before God's

will, often to the detriment and danger of becoming fools. For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead their thinking became nonsense and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals and reptiles." -Romans 1:21-25

Thank God for his faithfulness. Thank God for his light. When God reaches out his mighty hand of grace, his hand of salvation, and draws us "in Christ" God sends the light of the world into our lives. "The first thing, therefore, that God does when He makes anyone a new creature in Christ is to send light into the heart and show him that he is a guilty sinner. The material creation in Genesis began with "light," and so also does the spiritual

creation. "God 'shines into our hearts' by the work of the Holy Ghost, and then spiritual life begins." (2 Cor. 4:6) - JC Ryle

Before our light can shine before man we must ask, has His light shone within us? Has God's illuminating righteousness spread into the crevices of our heart, mind and soul bringing to light our desperate need for Him?

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine... Let it shine... Let it shine... Let it shine..."

Shine bright King Jesus...for the sake of the world, for my sake, shine bright.

Be well,

C. Harper, AD