

2nd Corinthians 2:5-11

Dealing With Sin

Additional Notes on Sin and God's Provision for His People

(From Paul Enns, The Moody Handbook of Theology, pp.310, 314)

Sin is a transgression of the law of God. The Greek word *parabasis* means "overstepping, transgression"...A lie was seen to be what it is: an overstepping or transgression of the law of God. (cf. Rom 2:23; 5:14; Gal 3:19)

Sin is a failure to conform to the standard of God. The Greek word *harmartia* means "miss the mark," ... It means that all people have missed the mark of God's standard and continue to fall short of that standard (Rom. 3:23). This involves both sins of commission as well as omission. Failure to do what is right is also sin (Rom 14:23).

Sin is a principle within man. Sin is not only an act but also a principle that dwells in man. Paul refers to the struggle with the sin principle within (Rom 7:14,17-25); all people have this sin nature (Gal 3:22) Hebrews 3:13 refers to it "as the power that deceives men and leads them to destruction." Jesus also refers to sin as a "condition or characteristic quality" (John 9:41; 15:24; 19:11).

Sin is rebellion against God. Another Greek word for sin is *anomia*, which means "lawlessness"(1 John 3:4) and can be described as a "frame of mind." It denotes lawless deeds (Titus 2:14) and is a sign of the last days, meaning "without law or restraint"(Matt 24:12).

Sin is wrongful acts toward God and man. Romans 1:18 refers to "ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." Ungodliness refers to man's failure to obey God and keep the commandments related to him (Ex 20:1-11); unrighteousness is seen in man's failure to live righteously toward his fellow man (Ex 20:12-17).

God has given his people provision to keep them from the path of sin:

The Word of God...is profitable for "training in righteousness" that the believer may be "equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17). It is this Word that can keep the believer from a life of sin (Ps 119:9-16); it is this Word that cleanses the believer (Eph 5:26), sanctifies the believer (John 17:17), and aids in answer to prayer (John 15:7).

The intercession of Christ. Christ is the believer's advocate or defense attorney when the believer commits sin (1 John 2:1). Because Christ continually lives His intercession is effective (Heb 7:25). John 17 reveals the nature of Christ's intercession for Christians: He prays for their security (vs. 11), their joy (vs. 13), their protection from Satan (vs. 15), their being set apart in the truth (vs. 17) and that they might ultimately be with Him (vs. 25).

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's ministry in the believers' life is crucial regarding a life of separation from sin. The Spirit's ministry involves indwelling (Rom 8:9) anointing (1 John 2:20; 4:4) sealing (Eph 1:13; 4:30), empowering (Acts 1:8), filling (Eph 5:18), and enabling the believer to live constantly by the Spirit (Gal 5:16).

Additional verses on the importance of confession and the promise of God's blessing

Proverbs 28:13-He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Psalm 66:18-If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

1 John 1:5- This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

6-If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

7-But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8-If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9-If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 32:1-Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2- Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3-When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4-For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah

5-Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

6-Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

7-You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah