

# The Awfulness of Sin

Intro: The Bible speaks a great deal concerning sin. Sin is basically the transgression of the law; 1 John 3:4 “<sup>4</sup> Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Sometimes we classify these sins into sins of omission or commission. They can also be classified as inward sins (hate, lust, covetousness, etc.) or outward sins (murder, fornication, theft, etc.). However we might classify sin, it is something that is awful in nature.

## I. SIN IS AWFUL BECAUSE IT SEPARATES MAN FROM GOD.

### A. We must understand God’s Nature of Holiness.

1. Psa. 111:9 “<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his name.”
2. Isa. 6:3 “<sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the Lord of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”
3. Being holy, God has no sin.
  - a. Jam. 1:17 “<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
  - b. 1 John 1:5 “<sup>5</sup> This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

### B. God cannot be associated with sin.

1. Psa. 5:4 “<sup>4</sup> For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.”
2. Hab. 1:13 “<sup>13</sup> *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?”
3. Isa. 59:1-2 “<sup>1</sup> Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”
4. 1 Pet. 3:12 “<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.”

### C. The result is enmity between God and man.

1. Psa. 5:5-6 “<sup>5</sup> The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. <sup>6</sup> Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the Lord will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”
2. Jam. 4:4 “<sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

## II. SIN IS AWFUL WHEN ONE VIEWS GOD’S REACTION TO IT.

### A. It separates man from God.

1. Isa. 59:1-2 “<sup>1</sup> Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”
2. Rom. 6:23 “<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

3. Jam. 1:15 <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

**B. Sin brings certain consequences.**

1. Gal. 6:7-8 <sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”
2. Often sin brings physical death.
  - a. The flood; Gen. 6-8.
  - b. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Gen. 18-19.
  - c. Nadab and Abihu; Lev. 10.
  - d. Man gathering sticks on Sabbath, stoned; Num. 15.
  - e. Achan, stoned and burned; Joshua 7.
3. Uzzah; 2 Sam. 6. Often sin brings heartache and disease, etc.

### III. SIN IS AWFUL WHEN ONE VIEWS THE PUNISHMENT OF HELL.

**A. Those who sin will be cast into hell.**

1. Psa. 1:6 <sup>6</sup> For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”
2. Psa. 9:17 <sup>17</sup> The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.”

**B. A description of hell.**

1. A punishment; Mat. 25:46 <sup>46</sup> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
2. Pain or Torment; Luke 16:23-24 <sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”
3. Everlasting Fire; Mat. 25:41 <sup>41</sup> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”
4. God taking vengeance, tribulation, fire, punishment, separation from God; 2 The. 1:6-9 <sup>6</sup> Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; <sup>7</sup> And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>9</sup> Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
5. Corruption; Gal. 6:8 <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”
6. Outer Darkness; Mat. 25:30 <sup>30</sup> And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
7. No Rest; Rev. 14:10-11 <sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

#### IV. SIN IS AWFUL BECAUSE IT CAUSED THE CRUCIFIXION.

##### A. Man sinned, thus deserving death.

1. Rom. 3:23 <sup>“23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. Rom. 6:23 <sup>“23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

##### B. The only way man could be saved is by the death of a sinless sacrifice taking the place of man. That sacrifice was Jesus death on the cross.

1. Isa. 53:1-12 <sup>“1</sup> Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. <sup>9</sup> And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
2. 2 Cor. 5:21 <sup>“21</sup> For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
3. 1 Pet. 1:18-19 <sup>“18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”
4. 1 Pet. 3:18 <sup>“18</sup> For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:”
5. Heb. 9:28 <sup>“28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
6. Rev. 1:5 <sup>“5</sup> And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood;”

**Conclusion:** If you are presently in sin, you can choose to remain in that awful state, or you can in humble submission come to Christ for the cleansing of your sins.