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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

WHAT SIN DOES TO YOU

In our modern world sin is viewed by some as nothing more than the figment of some human's imagination. Sin is often made fun of, laughed at and, often ignored. Yet, the majority of those who live in this world are sinners. The Bible teaches that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

What is sin? The Bible tells us that sin is the violation or transgression of the spiritual law of God (1 John 3:4). Sin is also described as "all unrighteousness" and the failure of one to do the good one knows to do (1 John 5:17; James 4:17).

What are the consequences of sin? Sin separates one from God (Isiah 59:1-2). Sin brings death to the sinner. The Bible tells us that "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). What one earns by participating in sin is described as "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This is not a reference to physical death, which is something common to every human being (Hebrews 9:27), but spiritual death. Again, this is spiritual separation from God. If one's sins are unforgiven then this separation from God becomes permanent in eternity (See Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

Is there pleasure in sin? Yes, some sin brings physical pleasure, but it does not last and ultimately brings much more sorrow than pleasure. Perhaps an example would help us to understand what sin does to the sinner. If one is married and engages in a sexual relationship with one other than his or her spouse, then that person has committed sin. Why? Because he or she has violated the spiritual law of God which identifies adultery as a sin (Galatians 5:19-21). The consequence of such sin is potentially tremendous. Aside from the experience of guilt and regret that often accompanies such sin, the marriage may end, and the spouse and children may be negatively impacted for a very long time. It is certainly true that God is willing to forgive the penitent adulterer, yet there may continue to be consequences in this life even though one is forgiven. If the adulterer refuses to repent and obey God, the consequences for sin continue beyond this life with eternal separation from God in "everlasting punishment."

Sin is a spiritual terminal disease. The only cure for this terrible disease is the blood of Christ. Jesus shed His precious blood to provide the means of receiving the forgiveness of sin. Revelation 1:5 reads, "...Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." There is no sin that is too great for the Great Physician to cure. But each sinner must recognize what sin does to him or her and follow the prescription for salvation given by the Lord. Remember, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).