

What Is Sin – Lesson 2: A World of Sin

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 1 (Original Sin)

1. According to Psalm 19:7, how is God's law defined?

Answer: Perfect (the law of God represents God's perfect will – therefore, it is perfect)

2. According to 1 John 3:4, what is the definition of sin?

Answer: Transgression of the law.

3. According to Genesis 2:15, what responsibility was man given in the Garden of Eden?

Answer: To dress it and to keep it.

4. According to Genesis 2:15, what is the consequence of transgressing God's law?

Answer: Death

5. Complete the following scripture:

Romans 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

True / False

False Man was created in sin (GEN 1:26 – Man was created in innocence, not accountable to any law)

True The sin of Adam is in me now (my flesh is condemned) (ROM 5:12 – My flesh is the flesh of Adam)

False Man was created into a world of rules. (GEN 1)

True Man's sin brought shame (GEN 3:10)

Lesson 2: A World of Sin

"Wrong is wrong – Even if everyone is doing it" - On-line posting by the Harris Family

"Right is right – Even if only you are doing it"

It is easy to confuse right and wrong if you are using the world (and the behavior of others) to determine if you are pleasing God or not.

Many good people attempt to justify bad behavior based on:

- Not as bad as others
- They do the same thing and people are OK with it
- I followed my instincts
- I had a decision between bad and worse

No excuses are valid when the definition of right and wrong is aligned with the commandment of God.

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect

- To have the perfection of God (to be right / righteous in all), you must be perfect in all
- This is not to cause humanity to be hopeless (we are far from perfect) – On the contrary, it is to establish a truth and confirm that the only path to God's perfection is through God (not in the activities of humanity), and establish the purpose of the Christ: To provide a path of reconciliation between man and God.

Matthew 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Some Ground Rules

The World

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

- Although God created the world and all its content (GEN 1), God gave dominion to another - Satan

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it

- Satan has been granted liberty and power / authority over the earth

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- Satan, as ruler of this world, seeks to separate man from God, to eliminate reconciliation

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

- Two foundational truths:
 1. The people of this world are under the influence of Satan
 2. Satan is the master and originator of deceit – To seek to cause error

God and Humanity

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD *is* a God of judgment: blessed *are* all they that wait for him.

- Although humanity has sinned and is condemned, God extends the opportunity for reconciliation with longsuffering and patience
- Also see **John 3:16** and **2 Peter 3:9**
This brings us to:

The Law

Exodus 19:5-6 – God establishes a new relationship with the children of Israel

(5) Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine:

- As God pronounces His plan, God establishes the boundary of Satan:
- Although Satan was given dominion, the earth is God's, and if the children of Israel are in obedience, they belong to God and Satan has no power over them.

(6) And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- God defines the role of the children of Israel in this dispensation – To serve God.

The children of Israel were given the LAW – A set of standards issued by God to align the behavior to the will of God (see **Exodus 19 – 20**: Issue of the 10 Commandments)

- Under the direction of God, Moses continues to expound on the requirements with additional 603 restrictions and conditions (noted primarily in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), to ensure

compliance, and the assessment of compliance will be discernable by the children of Israel (earthly judgement) – A total of 613 commandments.

- This method established the ability of humanity to reconcile with God by adhering to a set of atonement process, where the blood of animals could provide payment of sins committed.
 - The sacrificial process did not eliminate past sin

A couple terms: Atone – Payment (the sin debt is settled)
Remit – Forgiveness (the sin is eliminated)

- While in a relationship with God under His law – Sin is defined as the violation / transgression of any aspect of the law

Sin

As we noted in the first lesson, sin is transgression against God's perfect law (**1 John 3:4 / Psalm 19:7**)

Romans 1:28-32 - The behavioral traits of sin are identified:

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

- As humanity resists God, humanity is left to condemn themselves in submission to their sin nature and the will of Satan as children of disobedience.
- Reprobate – Unprincipled (as unrepentant, God withdraws and leaves them to their choices)

(29) Being filled with

All unrighteousness	Maliciousness	Deceit
Fornication	Full of envy	Malignity
Wickedness	Murder	Whisperers
Covetousness	Debate	

(30) Backbiters Proud disobedient to parents
Haters of God Boasters
Despiteful Inventors of evil things

(31) Without understanding Without natural affection unmerciful
Covenantbreakers implacable

(32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

- As God pronounces His plan, God establishes the boundary of Satan:
- Although Satan was given dominion, the earth is God's, and if the children of Israel are in obedience, they belong to God and Satan has no power over them.

Romans 7:18-19 – The struggle

(18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

(19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

(20) Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me

- As worldly creations, descended of Adam, our nature is to yield to the world, and it's current master.
- Even if our desire is to do 'right', on our own, we will choose wrong.
- This brings us to the curse of the flesh, and the hope of reconciliation, as we look at...

Next Lesson: Unpardonable Sin

What Is Sin – Lesson 1: A World of Sin

Study Questions

1. According to Ephesians 2:2, who does the prince of the power of the air work in?

2. According to Job 1:7, what liberty is given to Satan?

3. According to Isaiah 30:18, what characteristic of God facilitates reconciliation?

4. According to Exodus 19:5, what is the reward of obedience to God's law?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the _____ cannot _____ God.

True / False

- T F In addition to the 10 Commandments there are many other laws.
- T F The children of Israel were to be a kingdom of priests.
- T F God gives the unrepentant a reprobate mind.
- T F All flesh seeks to sin.