

Course DC105: Man and the Problem of Sin

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:8-9



... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ... Rom. 3:23
... your iniquities have separated you from your God ... Isa. 59:2
"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18
... we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:20-21

... the Just for the unjust,
that He might bring you
to God... 1 Peter 3:18

Intro: The story of salvation is the account of how sinful mankind may be redeemed and delivered from sin through the Substitutionary Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The entire race of mankind has inherited a sinful fallen nature through the fall of our first father (Adam) into sin. This inherited nature is manifested in the race that came from him through multitudes of sinful acts, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." The problem of sin for man is that it requires both a separation and a just accounting from God. God is both holy and just, and thus He can have neither union/fellowship with sinners, nor allow sin to go unpunished. Through Jesus Christ, God has provided for mankind both a just accounting for sin, and deliverance from it.

I.) All Have Sinned

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An Inherited Sinful Nature from Adam:

- A Sinful Nature from Birth: "... among whom *also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*" Eph. 2:3
- Inherited Nature from Adam: "¹² Therefore, *just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*—... ^{16b} For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation... ^{17b} by the *one man's offense death reigned through the one*... ¹⁸ Therefore, *as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation* ... ¹⁹ For as by *one man's disobedience many were made sinners* ... ²¹ so that as *sin reigned in death* ..." (Selected portions from Romans 5:12-21 which reveal that sin and death are linked to Adam's fall. However, *the entire passage* also sets forth in contrast *the greater abounding grace of God through the One Man Jesus Christ*. See all of Romans 5:12-21.)
- Sinful from Conception: Behold, *I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.* Ps. 51:5
- Ps. 58:3 The wicked *are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.*
- Rom. 3:9-10 ⁹ What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged *both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin*. ¹⁰ As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one.*"
- Jer. 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*

"It being true that humanity is sinful by birth and even from conception, it follows conclusively that the elements that germinate depravity lay in the germ of human life, thus being transmitted down through the entire human family. Therefore, this degenerate nature must have started in him through whom the human family fell." —H. M. Riggle, *Bible Readings* Moundsville, WV: Gospel Trumpet, 1902), 186

Guilty of Actual Acts of Sin:

- **From Age of Accountability:** ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. . . . ⁷ I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. . . . ¹³ sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is good*. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. . . . ²³ law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Selected portions from Romans 7:5-24. In Romans 7 Paul reveals that the law of God serves to manifest/revive/bring-to-our-conscience the fallen nature. Through such we are confronted with the enormity of our sin problem, and the need to be delivered from the wretched curse. Paul is not describing what is to be the Christian's lot in life (as some have sadly taught from this chapter), but life before Christ under the law. Paul answers his own question in verse 24 ("Who will deliver me from this body of death?") in verse 25, "I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
- **By Sins of Commission:** ". . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . ." Rom. 3:23
- Isa. 59:2 ". . . your iniquities have separated you from your God . . ."
- **By Sins of Omission:** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17

The Soul Who Sins Shall Die:

- **Sin Merits Wages / Has a Cost:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:23
- **Death's Consequence:** ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. James 1:12-15
- Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die. Ezek. 18:4 When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. Ezek. 33:18
- **The Dreadful Manifestation:** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. 1 John 3:8

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- Isa. 53:5-6, 10-12 ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. . . . ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
- 1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.
- 1 Pet. 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.
- Rom. 5:6-8 ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Christ, Freed Us:

- **Free From the Law of Sin and Death:** ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. . . . ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Rom. 8:1-4, 31-34
- Gal. 3:13-14 ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- Rom. 6:18, 22-23 ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. . . . ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Col. 2:13-15 ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

III.) Atonement Made

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. Lev. 17:11

The Doctrine of Atonement is at the heart of man's reconciliation to God, a subject so awesome that mankind does well to approach it very humbly. Christ's Blood has provided atonement for sinful man, enabling God to be gracious to man without compromising His infinite holiness and justice. Atonement being provided for sin is staggering and truly wonderful. 10,000 lifetimes would not be long enough to worshipfully consider what God has accomplished through Christ for us! Atonement has to do with covering over a wrong, but not in the sense of merely hiding it from view, but in satisfying the offended justice of the offense – removing it. Atonement speaks of satisfaction being made, righteousness exonerated, upheld and uncompromised. Atonement speaks of propitiation for sin being accomplished, a satisfying sacrifice which enables the one who was wronged to look favorably upon the one for whom it was made. Atonement not only allows mercy to be extended to the offender, but prepares the way so that grace may be poured out without compromising God's justice. There is nothing "shady" in the reconciliation made through the atonement Christ has made. Concerning His work at the cross, we can apply the psalmist's words: "Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed" (Ps. 85:10).

Atonement in the Blood:

- Lev. 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.
- Heb. 10:1-5 ¹ For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.
- Heb. 9:12-14 ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, *but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all*, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- 1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

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Power of the Blood of Atonement:

- Rom. 3:24-26 ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously

committed,²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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- Rom. 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
- Eph. 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace . . .
- Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- Col. 1:14 . . . in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- Col. 1:19-20 ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.
- Heb. 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- Rev. 1:5 . . . and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood . . .
- Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation . . .

The Result of Atonement, Reconciliation:

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- Rom. 5:9-11 ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
- 2 Cor. 5:17-21 ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Eph. 2:14-18 ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

- Col. 1:19-23 ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,* ²⁰ *and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself,* by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And *you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled* ²² *in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight*—²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- Heb. 2:14-15 ¹⁴ Inasmuch then *as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,* ¹⁵ *and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*
- Heb. 10:19-22 ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, *having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,* ²⁰ *by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,* ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us *draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,* having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- Heb. 13:20-21 ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, *through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be glory forever and ever. Amen.*
- Rev. 7:13-17 ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*" ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
- Rev. 12:11 And *they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb* and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

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⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10