

Friday, July 10, 2015 - Does Sin Own You?

The past few weeks have been filled with articles discussing the sin called homosexuality. If you believe in God and the infallibility of His Word, there is no denying homosexuals will NOT inherit the kingdom of heaven (Rom. 1:24-33; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rev 21:8). But homosexuality is no worse than any other sin! The principle discussed involves separation from God. Homosexuality is a sin. But the texts I referenced above tells us that ALL sin will separate us from God and from an eternal home in heaven.

We ALL sin. We don't have to sin and we aren't born in sin, but, as James tell us, "...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-15). It isn't a matter of "if we sin" for Romans 3:23 tells us "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." The question becomes, "what do I do when I understand I have sinned?" Do we acknowledge the weakness we have and turn to God or do we deny accountability?

Denying accountability for our actions has become a national pastime: The smoker claims he "can't" quit, the gambler claims he is "addicted," the adulterer claims he was "driven" to it, the homosexual claims he was "born" that way, the murderer claims he was temporarily "insane." The need for repentance is often obscured by the notion that we can't change without therapeutic "help."

Satan would like us to believe we are helpless, but that is a lie! In James 4:7 we are told, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." We do not have to be the passive victims of sin! Our behavior ought to be the result of our decisions, not our conditions.

We never have to sin! Paul writes, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). In James 1:12-13 we are told, "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. 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."

People look in all sorts of places when they struggle with sin in their life, but what we really need is the Great Physician who says to us, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body" (Rom. 6:12). Christ warns, in Matthew 7:13, "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby." Those who enter the wide gate are living a life of sin and will be FOREVER separated from God. Paul reminds us, "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). This is not a physical death. This is a spiritual death that eternally separates us from God. Sin, any sin will lead to this desperate and permanent circumstance.

The love of God has provided our pardon, the blood of Jesus Christ, which can wash us clean of sin in our lives. Matthew 7:14 tells us "For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it." This wonderful promise, the gift of eternal life is given to those who will live obedient to God, putting him first in their lives. Peter reminds us, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, a not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God is willing to forgive ALL SIN.

God will not wait forever. The following verse warns, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

The choice is ours. What will we decide? Each of us must ask, "Where is my life today? If I passed from this earth today, do I know where I will spend eternity?" God's Word tells us we CAN know!