

WISDOM for the FATHERLESS

Volume 2

What is Sin?

The Bible defines sin in a direct and simple statement. It is very clear.

In the New Testament:

John 3:4 Whosoever commits sin transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Definition of Sin – Transgression of the law.

This was written after the resurrection. Many claim that the law was done away with. The law was never done away with, but the curse of the law was, i.e., the letter of the law was done away, but not any detail of the spirit of the law. We are no longer under the law of sin and death. In other words, we have grace to repent when we sin, but we are not to practice sin. Stating that the law was done away contradicts Jesus'/'Y'shua's own words in Matthew 5:18: ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Heaven and earth are still here and all things are not yet fulfilled. Here is a related Bible verse sharing that all is not yet fulfilled and that sin remains. Only those who humbly ask for His salvation by accepting His sacrifice of shedding the blood of His son on the cross for our sin and truly living for Him will be saved. Those who continue to willfully practice sin without repentance will not be saved, unless another provision is made. We do see some verses, such as

Jeremiah 33: ⁷ And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

⁸ And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

Also,

Ezekiel 36: ²⁴ For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

²⁵ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

²⁸ And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

²⁹ I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

³⁰ And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

³¹ Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe (hate) yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities (sins) and for your abominations.

³² Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded (ashamed) for your own ways, O house of Israel.

³³ Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

³⁴ And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

³⁵ And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

Here, we see The Lord allowing for a cleansing of sin (only by Him) in what is obviously the re-establishment of the land of Israel and return of His chosen people. This occurrence officially began in 1948. The fire and brimstone church preachers might be offended at these Bible verses or at the following information, yet we will look at all scripture for truth in the light of God's incredible Love in not wanting any to perish. There are those who never heard the gospel; what about them?

Romans 2: ¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God.

¹² For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

¹³ (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Here we see, after the resurrection, that the doers of the law will be justified and also those who never heard, but followed in love (love is the aim of the law) will be justified. We also see the importance of our conscience and thoughts concerning others.

1 Peter 3: ¹⁸ 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:

¹⁹ By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Some might think that all those who perished in the flood went to hell. If that was the case, why did Jesus/Y'shua go and preach to them while he was in the grave? Because our Heavenly Father is righteous to make sure all have the hope/opportunity of His good news.

Luke 10: ¹² But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14: But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

What does this mean? We might assume that all who died in Sodom and Gomorrah went to or are destined for hell, whatever people want to debate what hell is. It seems that when people are shown miracles and incredible reasons to believe, they are more responsible to repent from their sin. People who had much less of a chance of understanding will be given more tolerance. God is righteous in His ways and judgements.

There is one denomination that loves to preach that all sins are the same. They are not. God will deal with the light versus the heavy sins righteously.

John 19:11 Jesus/Y'shua answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has *the **greater*** sin."

There are greater and lesser sins, according to the Word of God. Of course, pre-meditated (something planned out in advance) murder is worse than a child stealing a piece of candy from the store or taking his/her siblings toy and hiding it for themselves. Is it wrong/sin for that child to do so? Yes! Should it be treated like pre-meditated murder? Of course not.

Some say the age of accountability is about 12 or 13 years old. We do not seem to have much biblical instruction on this, but it seems likely that once we have come to a maturity level of understanding, accountability would begin there. Special needs people will also be given great grace. The God of the Bible is a loving, forgiving and righteous God. He is also a God of

requirement who has full emotions and righteous wrath that any reasonable person would be seriously afraid of. To fear God is a combination of true fear/understanding of His great power and a true reverence/love for His character. God is love, 1 John 4:8. He instructs us to follow His instructions. If we do not, that is sin. Pretty simple.

Revelation 21:6-8 ...To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

The following verses in Galatians were written to believers:

Gal 5:19-21 ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

These verses in 1 Corinthians were written to believers:

1Cor 6:9-10 Do not be deceived: neither the fornicators (those who have sex outside of marriage), nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

These are very clear instructions that may not line up with political correctness, but they are true nonetheless.

Revelation 21:8... the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers (those who practice witchcraft), and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Disney has been a very successful promoter of witchcraft. Harry Potter is the first book to ever out sell the Bible. One might think it would be a book similar to the Bible, but the truth is that it is almost the opposite. The Bible says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1Sam 15:23).

Whether someone chooses to spend their time reading Harry Potter for entertainment or telling their children that Santa Clause is real, they are choosing to rebel against God's instructions. Yes, telling children that Santa Clause is real is a lie. It's pretty simple; don't lie. This hurts children when they find out that he is not real. He is made into a God figure to them. He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you are awake, he knows when you are bad and good. He will judge you. This sounds like God. In fact, this lie is telling children that Santa is God, in a sense. We know that Satan wants to be like God. That is why he was cast from heaven. If we cannot accept the simplest of things, how can we learn the deeper things? Repent from the sin and follow His instructions; they are not too burdensome.

1 John 5: 2... By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

The word “law” should have been translated as “instructions”:

We need to understand what the English word “law” means to better understand what transgresses it. The word “law” would have first been used in the Hebrew language prior to being written in the New Testament Aramaic or Greek. We know that the original word for law as written in Hebrew is pronounced “Torah”; meaning “instructions”, i.e., G-d’s instructions. Because Hebrew many times has deeper contextual meanings, a word picture for the original Hebrew is a hand or an arrow. A hand pointing in a direction is an example of Torah; an arrow shooting at a target is an example of Torah. Both meanings are a path to follow, a direction to choose, something to aim at. We have free will, therefore we have a choice in which direction to go. This direction starts with our free-will, in our mind. Our body follows what our mind tells it to.

Torah (law) is instruction. The word “law” has a different meaning in English. The Biblical word “instruction” has more feeling, as it has an intent that if you follow the instruction, the end result will be good. A person practicing law would be called a lawyer. A person instructing would be an instructor. A lawyer states the facts by the letter, whereby an instructor is trying to teach you something. One (the lawyer) is like the letter and the other (the teacher) is like the spirit. The Bible states that the letter kills, but the spirit brings life. When Y’shua/Jesus shed his blood for us, it took away the letter, which was considered a curse to us. The law was not bad, but very good, so why would the letter be considered a curse to us? It was a curse because none of us were/are good enough to keep the letter perfectly. By the letter, we are all guilty and fall short of His holiness. The Bible says that the letter/His Law is holy.

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Y’shua (Jesus) did not shed his blood to take away the meaning/purpose of the law, he shed his blood out of mercy for us. For those who accept and believe on Him and His shed blood for us, we will no longer be judged by the letter of the law. The Bible says that the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. Because He did this for us, we should love Him and want to follow Him in spirit.

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law (*letter*), that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Spirit of the law vs. letter of the law. In other words, we need to understand what the difference is in following the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. The spirit is intent. An example of this is shown in many areas of the Old Testament. People actually broke commandments, but it was good in G-d’s eyes because they did it out of love. Egyptian nurses saved Hebrew babies by lying to Pharaoh about the births. In the Bible book of Joshua, chapter 2, a woman who was a sinner lied to authorities in her country to save the lives of Hebrew men while hiding them on her roof. G-d was pleased with her. These are rare circumstances that teach us that following the spirit of love and supporting G-d’s people are greater than the letter. We

should not lie. These two rare examples were both to save people's lives. Having real communication with The Lord requires a relationship and all circumstances are different. Sin is being outside of His will. Going in the direction He is pointing and hitting the target are important.

There are two great laws/commandments, the greatest being Love G-d and the next greatest is to love our neighbor as our self. Some might argue that the 10 commandments (law) that Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai are no longer valid. Which of these 10 laws should we no longer keep? It makes no sense to say that we can now have other gods, idols, curse, disobey our parents, murder, commit adultery, etc.. That would be ridiculous, but it is the logic, or lack of logic rather, that many use today. Some say that all other commands (other than the 10) are done away. The additional commands are mostly details of how to obey those 10. An example is men liking men in a marriage kind of way. The law commands us not to do that. The New Testament agrees with the Old in this and many other areas.

Romans 1: 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is indecent, and receiving in themselves that punishment of their error which was appropriate.

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

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness (*evil*); full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity (*mischievousness/bad character*); whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable (*cannot trust*), unmerciful:

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.

There is good news:

John 3:16 For G-d so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, so that whosoever would believe on him would not perish, but have eternal life.

The Bible states that even the demons believe, and tremble. We should not take just one Bible verse and try to make a doctrine out of it. The demons will not be saved, even though they believe, so there is more than just believing, unless there are different judgement rules for them. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation, but we are expected to do our reasonable best to follow Him and His instructions. If we sin, we need to ask Him for forgiveness and try not to do it again. When we accept His blood to cover our sin, we enter into a covenant with Him. It is a marriage covenant. We are betrothed to Him until the wedding day. We read about the wedding in the book of Revelation. If we are betrothed to Him, we should desire to know Him and have a relationship. Can you imagine a woman engaged to a man saying that she loves him, but continually betrays him and continually does things that he hates, refusing to change? Would he still marry her? We know what pleases G-d and what does not. Sin is doing things against His instructions. We have a measure of grace. We have an assurance of salvation if we earnestly follow Him and endure to the end. If we continuously rebel against Him, we do not have this assurance. This is free will. Free will is why sin is in the world. If everyone in the world right now would truly choose to follow the instructions in the Bible there would be world peace. If humans would choose to love G-d and love their neighbor as themselves, evil acts would not occur. They would be a thing of the past. It does not matter if someone goes to a church, synagogue or any other building claiming to follow G-d; what matters is whether we are truly trying to follow Him.

Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.

We see that Abraham obeyed G-d's laws and he lived about 400 years before Moses. This is important because many will say that the law came with Moses and Moses' law was done away with when Jesus (Y'shua) shed his blood.

This is a repeat of the beginning words in this volume, "What is Sin?" with a little more detail before we finish:

Y'shua's (Jesus') own words:

Y'shua's (Jesus') words in the Bible → Matthew 5:18-20 ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Heaven and Earth are still here and all things have not yet been accomplished. The third temple has not been built yet in Jerusalem, the one world government has not yet occurred, the devil has not yet been bound up and removed, the messiah has not yet physically ruled on the earth for 1,000 years. There are many more things that have not yet happened, so the law is still in existence. However, because He shed His precious blood, we are no longer under the curse of striving to be perfect. We can rest in what He has done. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. He will not share His glory with another. He is the reason we get to go to heaven. Because of that we should do all we reasonably can to be good and faithful servants. If He chooses to call us a son, daughter, brother, sister, bride, inward Jew, faithful servant or door

keeper, we owe it all to Him for whatever we are. Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, wrote, by the grace of G-d, I am what I am... 1Cor 15:10.

What Y'shua's/Jesus' shed blood did for us was that it removed the letter of the law. We now have mercy. An example of what it was like before the messiah came to shed his blood; if someone sinned certain sins, they could be put to death (by stoning).

Now, we are under grace. He wants us to follow the law in our heart and our physical actions follow. He wants us to lean on him for His Holy Spirit to give us strength to overcome sin. He wants us to follow His voice, His Word, His instructions. If we continually choose to rebel against His instructions, we may be headed for damnation, i.e., dying in our continual willful sins. People can argue over what happens after that, but we know that those who love Him and follow His commands have incredible good waiting for them and those who continually rebel may have serious judgement coming.

Finishing the way we began, and in accordance with the New Testament definition of sin, we know that sin is transgression of the law. If we have His Holy Spirit, we will be convicted of sin in our hearts if we are outside of His will. We need to be sensitive to what His Spirit is leading us to do.

For more detailed information on this subject, you can ask for the booklet called "Instructions in the New Testament", provided by Fatherless and Widows ministry.