



Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
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"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Dealing with the 'S' Word

The "S" word doesn't appear too often in the newspapers, nor does it feature much on radio or TV - yet the media are full of it! Indeed very little human behavior would today be classified in the media or by psychologists - even in church - as "s..!"

by James McBride

But the Bible has much to say about "sin". It's the one obstacle between you and fulfilling the purpose for which you were created. Fail to deal with it and your life, no matter what you have accomplished, will have been an empty shell. Futile. You may as well wave goodbye to unending life beyond the grave.

Call it what you will, *sin* is part and parcel of our nature.

Ignorance Of Sin

Sin is largely ignored today. Powerful preaching at one time wrought in many minds a fear of judgment to come, a desire to get right with God. Not any more.

No matter how explicit a contemporary preacher may be about sin and its awful consequences - there is little response. Rarely is there a deep conviction of having offended against God or against man. No crying out to a righteous but merciful God for forgiveness.

The very concept of sin has been blunted and blurred in decades of psychological conditioning by atheistic and humanist educationalists of every kind. Teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors - and (perhaps especially) ministers of the Gospel - have all calloused the minds of our generation to sin.

Around the world Bible-based morality is ignored and sneered at by so-called intellectuals. Parliament daily opens with prayer - but immediately shuts God out of its law-making and its deliberations. We are beginning to reap the sad and painful reward for that

folly.

What is "sin"? It doesn't exist says a generation of hedonists. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die". There is no sin, no external morality, no God and no fearsome judgment to come. As Isaiah prophesied we "*call evil good and good evil*". But there is a God - only the fool denies it - and He has clearly defined sin for us.

Sin goes deep. Every ill that assaults mankind results from it. And unless that sin is dealt with in God's prescribed way the end result is a waiting for fiery judgment.

The Bible clearly defines sin: "*Sin is transgression of the Law*", the apostle John tells us (I John 3:4). Not only the Law of the "Ten Commandments" - but the very attitudes of mind which lead to the breaking of the whole Law of God. So - not just the act of adultery, but the imagery, the thoughts, the preparations which lead to the act. Not just murder but the plotting, the hatred that precedes it (Matthew 5-7). And not just idol worship, bowing before an image, but worshipping God at a time and in a place and in a manner He has not prescribed, and making Him play second fiddle to anything.

Notice some closing words of the Bible: "*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates of the city [the new Jerusalem]. For outside are dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters and whoever loves and makes*

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[practises] a lie" (Revelation 22:14-15).

Who, then, has not sinned? Whether or not you see yourself as a sinner doesn't affect the result. All of us have sinned and all sin leads to death. If not dealt with it leads to endless oblivion in an inescapable global conflagration. None of life's suffering will have been of any value. The future is a black hole - in contrast to the never-ending excitement and power and joy of those who have dealt with it in God's way.

Turn From Sin!

Man was created perfect, but free to choose. His choice was rebellion against his Creator. Immediately, a merciful God provided a pre-planned way to neutralize sin and get rid of guilt. That way was through a promised Messiah and through the shedding of blood.

God requires each of us to turn from our sin. To quit. To repent. And He has provided a way to deal with our past and future sin. Through the shed blood of His own Son, Jesus the Christ (Messiah), we can have our sin purged, washed away, forgiven. No other religion on earth holds this secure promise! When we come to sorrow for our sin, sorrow to the point of wanting to stop sinning, sorrow that works a transformation in our life - then we can simply ask God's forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. And He will give it.

Believe this! Believe God's promise! When we do, all the burden of our sin and guilt is removed as far as the east is from the west. Ask God to give you an open mind, a fear for the consequence of unforgiven sin - and a vision of what God has in store for those who come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

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