

Sin Is A Very Bad Thing

by Bryan Gibson

We have all sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8), but that doesn't mean we all have to be lost. The path to salvation begins with the right attitude toward sin.

First, we should be willing to admit that we've sinned. Don't try to get by with saying, "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). That is certainly true, but sometimes we may say that without feeling any personal accountability. It is better to say, "I have sinned"—just like the prodigal son did (Luke 15:17-19, 21), and just like King David did (2 Samuel 12:13).

We should be deeply sorry for our sins, again like the prodigal son, who said to his father, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (Luke 15:19); like the sinful woman, who wiped the feet of Jesus with her tears of sorrow (Luke 7:36-38); like the tax collector in the parable, who was so ashamed that he couldn't even lift his eyes up to heaven (Luke 18:9-14). Don't forget, we were the ones who crucified Jesus. It was for our sins that He was nailed to the cross.

We should realize how much trouble we're in because of our sins. Jesus warned people that they would perish, or die in their sins (Luke 13:3, 5; John 8:21, 24), that they would be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched (Mark 9:43, 46, 48). The penalty for sin is death, or separation from God (Romans 6:23), a separation that will last throughout eternity (2 Thessalonians 1:9)—unless we take the proper measures.

We should be determined to sin no more. John 5 tells of a man Jesus healed, a man who had an infirmity for 38 years. After He healed him, Jesus told him very plainly, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (John 5:14). To the woman caught in adultery, Jesus said, "Go and sin no more" (John 8:11). This is what the Bible calls repentance, and we should have no trouble with it, if we are truly ashamed, and if we realize just how much danger our soul is in.

We should want to be made well. Let's go back to the man in John 5, who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6). Can you imagine the man saying, "No, I'd like to stay this way a little longer"? Of course, not. This man wanted to be healed—not tomorrow, or the next day, but right then and there. That's exactly how we should we feel about being healed of sin, because after all, sin sickness (Mark 2:17) is the worst sickness of all.

To be made well, we should be willing to do whatever we're told to do. When Jesus put mud on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam (John 9:6-11), he didn't hesitate. He didn't try to come up with a better plan, like Naaman did (2 Kings 5). He did what He was told to do, and He was healed. Is there anything we must do to be healed of sin? There most certainly is, and you can read about it here.