

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

When We Downplay Sin

By: Brian A. Yeager

How would you feel about yourself if you were to sin by telling a lie (Proverbs 6:16-19, Ephesians 4:25, and Revelation 21:8)? How would you feel about yourself if you were to sin by stealing something (Matthew 15:19-20 and Ephesians 4:28)? How would you feel about yourself if you were to sin by worshipping God incorrectly (Leviticus 10:1-2, John 4:23-24, and Colossians 2:20-23)? How would you feel about yourself if you were to sin by committing fornication (I Corinthians 6:18 and I Corinthians 10:8), murder (Galatians 5:19-21), slander (Proverbs 19:5), etc.? People have learned to call the above sins, and most other sins, "mistakes" or "slip ups". They're not "slip ups"!

When Simon (a babe in Christ who had been a sorcerer) sinned, it was not downplayed as a slip up or excused as an "error of a babe in Christ which we should expect". Notice what occurs: *"Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, **Thy money perish with thee**, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. **Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent** therefore of this **thy wickedness**, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, **Pray ye to the Lord for me**, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me"* (Acts 8:13-24).

We Need To Detest [Lothe] Ourselves When We Sin

When Israel committed sins God was not a softy with them. He exacted punishment instantly in many cases (Leviticus 10:1-2, Numbers 16:1-32, II Samuel 6:6-7, and I Kings 14:1-12). Consider this, we will find ourselves in greater punishment now than those who died at the vengeful hand of God then (Hebrews 10:28-31). What does this have to do with detesting one's self when sin is committed? Well, I am going to use some Old Testament examples now. What we need to realize is that God expects more out of us than He did out of those whom He instructed to lothe themselves. Therefore, let's make the greater application.

What does God tell the apostate children of Israel? Notice: *“Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places. And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. In all your dwellingplaces the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries. And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and **they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.** And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them... And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and **ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed...** 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. 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. Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and **shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.** Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: **be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel**” (Ezekiel 6:2-10; 20:43; 36:29-32).*

The above Old Testament points serve as a great tool of learning for us (Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:1-12). Again, we need to remember that the greater expectation is upon us who have the full revelation of our Lord (II Timothy 3:15-17). Therefore, how could any of us commit a sin and not lothe ourselves? If we find ourselves crucifying afresh our Savior Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:6) or trampling Him (Hebrews 10:29), how can we play that down? How could we excuse ourselves when the man that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 28:9). Sin is not just a “slip up”, it is a transgression against our loving Lord (Romans 5:6-10) and His word (I John 3:4). Instead of making excuses for sin, we need to focus on overcoming temptation (Matthew 26:41).

Conclusion

When we commit sin we identify ourselves as children of the devil (John 8:44 and I John 3:8-10), which is a change to our spiritual birth certificates (cf. I John 3:9). The Psalmist said: *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Psalms 119:11). We must take the inspired advice of the Psalmist rather than the uninspired advice of many failing Christians who have excused sin over the years. If repentance is in order, it's time to lothe ourselves so that we do not repeat our errors. The old man should have died in conversion (Romans 6:1-18), but if he (or she) is still alive, it's time for a death now (Colossians 3:1-15)!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).