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a *Grace Notes* course

## **Ephesians**

by Warren Doud, Director  
Grace Notes

Lesson 5

Ephesians 2:1-7

Sin

Salvation Doctrines

The Heavens

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*Grace Notes*

1705 Aggie Lane, Austin, Texas 78757

Email: [wdoud@bga.com](mailto:wdoud@bga.com)

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# Ephesians

## Lesson 5: Ephesians 2:1-7

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## Instructions for Completing the Lessons

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Read the whole book of Ephesians often. It is a short book, and reading it many times will help you understand the story much better.

### **Instructions**

1. Read the introduction to the study of Ephesians
  2. Study the Ephesians passage for this lesson, by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.
  3. **Review** all of the notes in the Ephesians lesson.
  4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
  5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to *SAVE* your file. If your quiz file is lost, and that can happen at *Grace Notes* as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.
  6. To send the Quiz back to *Grace Notes*, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.
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## Ephesians 2:1

**And you (hath he quickened) who were dead in trespasses and sins."**

**and you** reference to Paul's addressees, believers in Asia Minor, and ultimately, all believers in Christ.

**(hath he quickened)** this phrase does not appear in the Greek. It has been added by the KJV translators because the verb appears a few verses down and is put in here by reference, for clarity.

**were dead (eimi + nekros)**, "were dead".

TOPIC: DEATH (esp. spiritual death)

Rom. 6:23; Prov. 21:16; Rom. 8:11

**in trespasses and sins (paraptwma + hamartia):** "a stumbling aside; fault; offense; transgression" plus "sin, offense"

The locative case implies location, hence, "in the sphere of..." Every human being is spiritually dead because of sin.

Rom. 4:25; 2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 1:7

## Ephesians 2:2

**Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:**

**wherein in time past** "formerly, in the sphere of".

This verse is a reference to the Christian's manner of life before his salvation.

**you walked (peripatew)**, "walk; lifestyle".

Eph. 4:22; Col. 1:21; 3:7; 1 John 5:19

References to a sinful manner of life: Jer. 7:23-26; Phil. 3:16-19

Contrast this "walk" with "walking worthy of the vocation with which you are called" of Ephesians 4:1.

The Greek word (**anastrephw**) is used in Eph. 2:3 for "a pattern of social life", and is translated "conversation" or "walk" in other passages.

The word (**stoikew**) means "to follow a definite course of action"; used for the procedure followed in a military drill. Rom. 4:12; Phil. 3:16; Gal. 6:16

**according to the course of this world: (kata + aiwn + kosmos).** Thus, "according to the age of this world system"

This is a reference to the universe under the control of Satan and his forces. The concept includes the idea of Satan's thoughts, his viewpoint, his doctrines, his plans and strategies, his religions, his solutions, etc.

Living as part of the world system is described in these passages: Matt. 13:22; 16:26; Rom. 12:1,2; Col. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:4; Titus 2:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:5-17; 1 Sam. 8:19; 2 Kings 17:15.

**according to the prince (kata + archon),** "according to the highest ruler".

The archon was the chief ruler of the Greek city-state. Historians do not refer to these individuals and "kings", because this type of ruler did not obtain his position through inheritance. He took over by coup d'etat or by conquering.

This highest ruler of the world system is Satan. He is in the picture in the previous chapter and in chapter 6.

**of the power (exousia)**, "delegated power; the ability and authority to perform an action".

Satan is the chief ruler of all the subordinate demonic powers.

**of the air (aeros)**, the lower or dense part of the atmosphere. In classical Greek, this word was used to refer to the dwelling place of evil spirits.

**the spirit (pneuma)**, "breath, spirit, being"; also refers to "state of mind".

We use the word spirit for state of mind: "He was mean-spirited. She had a kind spirit."

In this context, spirit speaks of the state of mind that originates with Satan and is characteristic of those who are disobedient to the will of God.

This state of mind has been fostered by the "prince of the power of the air", Satan, whose kosmos (worldly) doctrines lead people into disobedience.

**that now works**, pres. act. part. of (**energew**), "now operational; now working; now effective"

Satan is presently working in the world to promote his own state of mind, his own teachings and doctrines.

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**in the sons of disobedience (huios + apeitheia).**  
"the sons of obstinacy.

Heb. 4:1-6. In Heb. 4:6, unbelief is **apeitheia**.

Both believers and unbelievers can be obstinate, unbelieving. In Eph. 4:17-19, Paul warns Christians that their manner of life must not parallel that of the unbelievers in that they fail to grow in Christ and be renewed in their minds.

This obstinacy leads to 'vanity' or 'futility', an emptiness in the soul into which Satanic doctrines can penetrate. A believer influenced in this way can have a daily walk that is indistinguishable from his former manner of life before he became a Christian.

Titus 1:15,16

SEE: Notes on Titus 1:15,16.

### Ephesians 2:3

**Among whom also we all had our conversation in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

**among who also we** - reference to the environment of a person as an unbeliever. The relative pronoun "whom" refers to the "sons of disobedience". We were all there when God's Grace found us. We were all under the control of Satan and the Sin Nature.

Titus 3:3-7

**had our conversation: (anastrephw)** "formerly lived", "manner of life in social living; the practicing of certain principles." Hence, the pattern of behavior or conduct of the unbeliever.

Rom. 6:1-14; Col. 3:1-10; 2 Peter 1:1-9; Jer. 7:21-28; Romans 3:1-23

**in the lusts of our flesh (epithumias teis sarkos),** lust patterns in the sin nature.

Prov. 16:25,26

Rom. 6:12, "Let not sin reign...!" How?

Rom. 7:5ff; Rom. 8:1-7; Rom. 13:14; 1 Cor. 10:1-12; Gal. 5:16-26

Topic: SIN (see esp. the discussion of the Sin Nature)

**fulfilling (poiew), "doing".**

The only emphasis of this verb is simple "doing." Both KJV "fulfilling" and NAS "indulging" are attempts to add meaning to the word. The person who is controlled by his sin nature "does" what the desires of his mind dictate.

**the desires (theleima), "desires".**

People do what they want to do; but they don't always want to absorb the consequences of their actions. The lifestyle of the sin nature is a frantic search for happiness through the details of life.

But this search leads to misery long before happiness is realized.

**of the flesh (sarkos), "flesh".**

The production of the sin nature, whether moral or immoral! The sin nature produces both sin and human good. This is an important distinction. Not everyone is a wanton, dissolute unbeliever. There are many upright unbelievers who have personal integrity, good character, and high ethical standards.

But a good person is still doing what he wants to do, apart from divine guidance. It's just that his areas of weakness are not as noticeable as some other people's.

After salvation, a believer tends to continue in the same pattern of living, until he begins to "walk worthy of the vocation" with which he is called (Eph. 5:1).

Christian growth (edification) leads a Christian into producing "good works", divine good.

**of the mind (dianoia),** a compound which means to "think through" something, to plan.

The unbeliever plans his deeds in advance, good or evil, and carries them out.

**and were by nature (fusus), "natural condition; inherited endowment".**

The sin nature is inherited from Adam.

1 Cor. 11:14; Gal. 2:15; 4:8; James 3:7; 2 Pet. 1:4

**the children of wrath (teknon + orgei),** "those who will experience the wrath of God."

John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Rom. 2:5-8

**even as others**

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Rom. 8:7,8; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; 1 Pet. 2:11,12

### Ephesians 2:4

**But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.**

**But God** - the contrast is between what we were like when God found us and what God is like.

**who is rich** "who, being rich..." "Rich" is (**plousios**), "wealthy" [English cognate: "plutocrat"]

We share through all eternity everything that God has in abundance: love, mercy, justice, holiness, will always be available to us.

Considering these things, the details of life can be enjoyed to their fullest if they are made secondary to occupation with Christ, that is if our permanent happiness is derived from the inner life. But God is able to share His happiness, His wealth, with us even when we have lost details of life. Circumstances change, but the wealth of God is unchangeable.

**in mercy (eleos)**, "kindness, mercy", a benefit which results from compassion.

2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Tim. 6:17; Ex. 33:19; Rom. 2:4.

**for His great love** "because of His great love" **wherewith He loved us (agapao)**.

God's love for us does not depend on us.

We were not worth loving when God loved us. We were completely under Satan's influence. We were totally obnoxious to God. Even our good works were, to say the least, unacceptable.

Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:10-18

The theological term for this condition is "Total Depravity".

However, God loves us unequivocally. His love depends on His character, not on ours. He is an initiator of love, not a responder.

We, on the other hand, sell our love. If we don't get immediate dividends or long term benefits from our loving, we stop giving it out. As soon as our love is unrequited, we begin to lose interest. In fact, we often turn to hatred of the same person. We are love dispensers; put in a coin and out comes love.

From Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, "...I want to be paid at once. I want to be praised, to be paid for love with love. Otherwise, I'm quite incapable of loving."

Because we are this way, we think that God's love has to be purchased. We think that He will respond to us. So we try to bribe God with our love by offering Him good works.

But God loved us with maximum love even when we were His enemies; and He loves us now as His children, even while He is chastening us.

### Ephesians 2:5

**Even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace ye are saved),**

**even when** "at the time". That is, at the time that God loved us...

**we were dead (nekros)**, "dead". We were totally alienated from God, totally unattractive to God, spiritually death.

READ Eph. 2:11 to the end of the chapter.

**in sins (parapiptw)**, "sin, transgression, fault, a defection"

READ Rom. 5:6-10

**has made us alive together with Christ (sudswpoiew)**. This is sun + zw + poiew, or, "with + life + to make"

Note: in this notation for the Greek, the "w" is used for the Greek letter omega.

Hence, "to make alive along with Christ"

**1 John 5:11-13 And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**

**for by grace** - instrumental singular of (**charis**). The instrumental case indicates that the noun is the means by which an action occurs. Therefore, "by means of grace you are saved".

Topic: GRACE

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**you are saved** - perfect passive participle of (swdzw), "you are brought to a place of safety; you are delivered from danger"

Note: the verb is in the passive voice, which means that the subject of the verb "you" receives the action of the verb, i.e., we do not save ourselves!

Topic: SALVATION DOCTRINES

### Ephesians 2:6

**And has raised up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus;**

**and has raised up together** (sunegeirw), "to raise up with someone".

Verse 6 is a continuation of a sentence begun in verse 4. This phrase speaks of the reality of our union with Christ.

**Col. 2:9-14, "For in Him all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;**

**"and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;**

**"having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

**"And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**

**"having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."**

READ Rom. 6:1-23

Application:

**Col. 3:1-4, "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

**"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

**"For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**"When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

**and made us sit together** (sunkathidzw), "to sit together with someone".

### in heavenly places

The "heavenly places" is the location of divine blessing, including all the blessings of Christian maturity

**Eph. 1:3; 1:19-23**

This is the locale of the Lord's success in spiritual warfare against Satan, Psalm 103:19.

Heaven is the location of the believer's position in Christ. Thus, the believer shares the victory of Christ. The result is daily victory in the believer's life. Eph. 2:6.

The "heavenly places" is the sphere of angelic activity, Eph. 3:10.

The "heavenly places" is the battlefield for spiritual warfare during the present age, Eph. 6:12 ff.

in Christ

### Ephesians 2:7

**That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

There is a reason for our having been raised up to the throne of God.

**that** - a Greek preposition here introduces a purpose clause.

**in the ages to come** (en + aion + eperchomai). "In the approaching ages". This is a reference to the future, beginning now and extending into eternity.

**he might show** (endeiknumai), "to demonstrate, to manifest".

Believers will be part of a demonstration of God's grace throughout all eternity. This has particular consequences in the resolution of the angelic

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warfare, as God's fairness and grace are demonstrated to Satan and his "principalities and powers."

**the exceeding (huperballw)**, "to throw beyond; to surpass"

This word is used as a participle modifying the word "riches". God's riches are superabundant.

**riches** - again, (**ploutos**), "riches". See verse 4.

**of His grace** - genitive of (**charis**)

**in His kindness: (chreistoteis)**, "goodness, kindness, gentleness"

God's goodness is a combination of His grace thinking and merciful actions. Because God loves us, He shows us His goodness; but always through Jesus Christ.

**toward us through Christ Jesus.**

Because we are believers in Christ, we are in Christ, and we are members of His body. God judged His Son, Jesus Christ, for us. He was our substitute on the Cross. Therefore, God can be good to us without compromising His perfect justice or righteousness.

## Sin

### DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES

The Bible uses the word "sin" to refer to any activity or pattern of thinking that is independent of God's standards or of His provisions for human life. God loves you, and He has your best interests in mind all the time. Because He has always known what is best for any individual, and for our communities and nation, He has laid out standards by which people can have lives of great happiness and productivity. These standards are known as the Plan of God, or the Christian Way of Life.

Because it is so important that people adjust themselves to the Plan of God, the subject of sin is found in most Bible passages in some form. These authoritative declarations of the Word of God are in stark contrast to the relativism and permissiveness of modern society.

This study deals categorically with many of the specific sin areas which are dealt with in the Bible.

The problem of personal sin is discussed in detail with the objective of providing the Christian believer with information about how to have personal victory over sin in the life.

You may want to read this paper through fairly quickly, at first, in order to get an overview of the subject matter. But to get the most out of a study like this, you should read and meditate upon each Bible passage cited in this paper, using the comments as study aids. By studying as much as possible about God's standards, and His plan for living the Christian life, you can learn how to profit as much as possible from a close walk with the Lord, while being hindered as little as possible by the consequences of acts of personal sin.

You can gain victory over the dominating influence of sin by becoming skilled in the mechanics of Christian living. Victorious Christian living requires the regular intake of Bible truth and the constant filling and control of the Holy Spirit. As you grow in grace, you become an "edified" believer, and your life begins to "conform to the image of Christ". This spiritual growth is the basis for victory over sin.

### THE SEQUENCE OF SIN

In the Bible, sin is discussed under three types. The first type of sin is called Imputed Sin. This is the concept that, when Adam sinned, the whole human race sinned. Thus, when Adam was counted guilty, every human being shares his guilt. These things are mentioned in 1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12; and Rom. 3:23.

The second part of the sin "package" is known as Inherited Sin. Adam acquired a Sin Nature when he sinned. Since then, every human being has inherited a Sin Nature at the time of birth -- we are born sinners. Rom. 5:12; Psalm 51:5. The Sin Nature is described in detail in Section 2.0.

Third, the result of having a Sin Nature is that each person leads a life in which he commits Personal Sins, both before and after being born again. These personal sins are the result and manifestation of the Sin Nature and occur whenever a person decides to think or act independently of the will of the Father.



### CHRIST'S WORK REGARDING SIN

The Lord Jesus Christ bore the penalty for all the sin of the human race, including each aspect of sin mentioned in the previous section.

As far as Imputed Sin is concerned, although in Adam we are counted "guilty" and spiritually dead, in Jesus Christ we are counted "not guilty" and spiritually alive. 1 Cor. 15:22; Eph 2:1,5,6.

The problem of Inherited Sin was also dealt with at the Cross, as Jesus died to provide for the Sin Nature. 1 John 1:7. Human good, which is a product of the Sin Nature, was rejected at the Cross, making salvation and all other spiritual benefits to be total products of the Grace of God, "not of works lest any man should boast". Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 4:4; 6:10.

And, Christ bore everyone's personal sins (1 John 2:2) because He was judged for the sins of the whole world. His spiritual death on the Cross was substituted for our spiritual death, making it possible for anyone to become spiritually alive. The sin issue is resolved for all of us by the work of Christ. So the issue for anyone is simply faith in Christ and in His finished work of salvation. John 3:18,36.

### THE SLAVE MARKET OF SIN

A person is born into the world spiritually dead because of the sin passed on through human procreation. Rom. 5:12. The sin of Adam is imputed to all mankind. 1 Cor. 15:22. There are three categories of people in the world, all of whom are born in sin and all of whom have sinful natures. They are: (1) the immoral person, Rom. 1:18-32; (2) the moral person, Rom. 2:1-6 and Isa. 64:6; and (3) the religious person, Rom. 2:17-29 and 4:4.

Every human being is born into the slave market of sin, according to John 8:34,35 and Gal. 3:31. The Law cannot free a person from the slave market of sin. Only a free man can free a slave. Jesus Christ was born free from sin, without a sin nature, and He never committed personal sin. 2 Cor. 5:21. He was therefore a free man and not in the slave market with us.

The Lord Jesus Christ purchased us from the slave market of sin and set us free. 1 Pet. 1:18,19; 1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 1:7. The gate to the slave market has been removed for all people; but actual freedom depends on whether the individual exercises his free will in accepting the offer of freedom. The only way out of the slave market of sin is through Jesus Christ. John 14:6; 8:36

### THE SIN NATURE

The Sin Nature is that part of the essence of the soul acquired at Adam's fall and subsequently passed on to every person at birth. The Sin Nature is the center of the soul's rebellion against God. The essence of the soul contains:

- Self-consciousness
- Mentality
- Volition
- Emotion
- The Sin Nature

### The Essence of the Sin Nature

The Sin Nature has an "area" of strengths in which human good is produced, that is, those good deeds and thoughts which are acceptable to man but which are unacceptable to God for purposes of salvation or spiritual growth. Isa. 64:6; Rom. 8:8. In the Bible, human good is contrasted with divine good which is the work produced by the Spirit of God in the life of a believer who is walking in daily fellowship with the Lord under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The Sin Nature also has an "area" of weakness which directs the production of all personal sin. Heb. 12:1. Three types of personal sin are produced here: mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, and open sinful activity.

The Sin Nature has patterns of lusts, or desires, the basic motivators of all the activities of human life. The basic drives include the desire for power, approbation, ego satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, material satisfaction, and so forth.

The Sin Nature has a system of trends, or inclinations, which vary among individuals. Some people have an inclination toward immorality or lasciviousness. Rom. 1. Others

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have trends toward morality or asceticism. Either trend is a product of Sin Nature activity.

### Bible Synonyms for the Sin Nature

There are several terms used in scripture to refer to what is known as the Sin Nature.

Sin (in the singular) -- Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12; 7:14; 1 John 1:8.

Flesh -- the emphasis here is on the location of the Sin Nature in the "flesh" or life of the individual. Rom. 8:8; 7:18; 13:14; Gal. 5:16-21; Eph. 2:3.

Old Man -- referring to the the believer's former manner of life as an unbeliever. Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:5-9.

Heart -- in some usages the word "heart" refers to a facet of the soul which is the source of sin. Jer. 17:9; Mt. 12:34; 15:19; Mark 7:21-23; Ps. 58:2-5.

Carnality -- derived from the Latin for "flesh". Rom. 7:14; 8:6-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-3.

### Principles Related to the Sin Nature

The Sin Nature is the source of spiritual death. Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1,5.

The Sin Nature is perpetuated in human beings through physical birth. Ps. 51:5; 1 Tim. 2:13,14. The believer continues to have his Sin Nature after salvation. 1 Cor. 3:1; 1 John 1:8. The believer under the control of the Sin Nature is called "carnal". Rom. 7:14; 1 Cor. 3:1ff

The Sin Nature frustrates the production of divine good. Rom. 7:15.

The Sin Nature is not found in the believer's resurrection body. 1 Cor. 15:56; Phil. 3:21; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 5:23.

### Solutions to the Problem of the Sin Nature

God has arranged to provide all that is needed to deal with the problems caused by the Sin Nature in a believer's life. The personal sins of the individual were borne by Jesus Christ on the Cross. 1 Pet. 2:24. These sins will never be mentioned again because they have already been judged in Christ. Rev. 20:12.

Furthermore, Jesus Christ rejected the human good produced by the Sin Nature in terms of its use as "currency" to purchase salvation, Eph. 2:8,9. This made the way clear for God to provide salvation by grace. The unbeliever will be at the Great White Throne judgment because of his rejection of this grace provision. Rev. 20:11-15.

The believer's sins were borne on the Cross by the Lord, as were those of all people. 2 Cor. 5:21. When a believer sins, Satan accuses him in heaven. Jesus Christ is our Advocate; He pleads our case, and the case is thrown out of court.

God has provided confession of sin as a means of restoring the broken fellowship with God caused by the believer's personal sin. The believer can repent and confess and be filled with the Spirit. 1 John 1:9; Prov. 1:23.

Human good, rejected by Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8,9), is never acceptable to God, and it does not produce blessing in the life of the believer. It is contrary to the principle of Grace, in which God does the work. In Christian growth, the Holy Spirit provides for the production of divine good in the believer's life, through His filling, control, and teaching functions. God does the giving; man does the receiving.

Legalism is human good production for the purpose of earning and receiving merit or blessing from God. In Legalism, man does the work and receives the credit. Therefore, Legalism is a product of the Sin Nature lust patterns. Under Grace, God does the work and receives the "credit" (glory). Human good production of the Sin Nature will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is called "wood, hay, and stubble" and will be burned. The "gold, silver, and precious stones", of divine good production of the Holy Spirit, will remain. 1 Cor. 3:10-15

### The Hazards of Negative Volition

The Apostle Paul issued a stern warning to mature Christian believers living at Ephesus when he told them to beware of falling into a state of indifference to, or antagonism to, the Word of God. He stated that if they were to become to become negative to the Lord's teachings, their lives would very quickly become

indistinguishable from those of unbelievers in terms of fruitfulness and Christian character.

**Ephesians 4:17-19, "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity (emptiness) of their minds, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."**

The "darkness" referred to in these verses begins with a negative disposition toward the Word of God. This volitional decision not to follow the Scriptures leads immediately to a breakdown in the faith system of understanding divine viewpoint. There is a cessation in the spiritual growth process; and there is actually a total reversal in progress in the Christian life (backsliding, or reversion).

As a result of the lack of divine viewpoint in the soul, the negative person begins to entertain human standards, human criteria, human doctrine, human programs -- these things, plus the full gamut of Satanic doctrine, are substituted for the plan of God. The further result is subjectivity, unhappiness, and deep frustration in trying to live by techniques which do not work.

These conditions lead to a frantic search for happiness through details of life such as riches, friendships, possessions, human approbation, personal influence and power, and so forth. The believer on this treadmill is a slave to these details of life rather than being a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. While the believer thus engaged is still "in Christ" positionally, he is actually no better off than an unbeliever as far as this life is concerned. In fact, he is destined to be far unhappier than the unbeliever, as will be shown in the following paragraphs.

The time, energy, and emotional commitments to this person's search for happiness lead to further isolation from the teachings of the Word of God. He is spending maximum effort to find happiness through other means. Thus, the very method for reversing the downward trend is ignored.

During this process, neuroses and psychoses are being developed, aggravated by the self-induced misery which accompanies chronic and unmitigated sins of the mind such as pride, jealousy, envy, vindictiveness, worry, fear, mental adultery, implacability, and the like, from which there is no relief outside of the plan of God.

Because of these sin patterns, divine discipline is compounded daily. The believer has a horrible life composed of his own failures, doubled and redoubled chastisement, his self-induced unhappiness, and the fact that he has no defense against the attacks of Satan and his demons. His "righteousness" (-r) has replaced the righteousness (+R) of God. This whole miserable situation is avoidable, as you will see with further study.

### MENTAL ATTITUDE SINS

As a believer progresses in his Christian life, he experiences many profound changes in his thinking. His standards change gradually but radically; his frame of reference changes; his mental attitude soon becomes very different from what it once was. His previous way of thinking is replaced by the "mind of Christ", and God's viewpoint is becoming his own.

The greatest occupational hazard faced by a Christian is the failure to grow in Christ. Persistent personal sin carried on without repentance and confession keeps the Christian out of fellowship with the Lord and hinders the work of the Holy Spirit in the life.

The normal Christian life is a supernatural life. This life cannot be lived apart from the daily intake of spiritual food, the sustenance which comes with the study of the Bible accompanied by the continuous control and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Inattention to the teaching of the Word of God concerning the mechanics of daily Christian living results in failure to grow in Christ. The believer who will not overcome these problems will not be able to enjoy the benefits and blessings of the Christian life, and he will certainly not be productive as a child of God.

This section of the study of the topic of Sin reviews several factors relating to the subject of

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the believer's mental attitude. First, we note several categories of mental attitude sin which are the result of "not thinking Grace". Then we see the methods by which God arranges for human viewpoint thinking to be replaced with divine viewpoint thinking. This section will also show some of the important results in the life of the Christian who develops a godly mental attitude.

### The Sin of "Not Thinking Grace"

A Christian decides many times every day whether he will follow God's plan for his life. In decisions great or small he expresses either his dependence on the Lord or his desire to be independent of God's direction. A believer has access to the perfect plan of God for his life, a plan which has certain predetermined divine standards by which every situation can be measured, by which every decisive opportunity can be judged. Many promises and blessings are available for use by the person who orders his life according to the patterns laid out in the Bible.

The person who is not positive to the plan of God, and who would apply his own human standards to life situations, does not operate by divine standards. He becomes involved in a variety of mental attitude sin problems stemming from his original decision to be independent of God. His life takes on the characteristics of one who does not "think Grace".

The Grace of God is that characteristic of His which is an extension of His love for the human race and which causes Him to provide for every human need for time and eternity. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the Cross was the Work which made it possible for God to view every person as free from the guilt of sin and as an object of God's Grace provisions.

Failure to order one's thinking according to Grace involves several aspects of mental attitude sin, including the following :

A spirit of pride -- this is an exalted feeling based on personal success or position, or based on good training or education, on personal appearance, or on some natural gift or ability. Sinful pride is an inner feeling of self-importance which does not take into account God's provision of every

resource and quality which goes into one's human traits and capabilities.

Love of, or desire for, human approbation and praise -- this is a secret fondness for being noticed and recognized. It is a love of supremacy, or it is the drawing of attention to oneself by various types of exhibitionism or by spiritual one-upmanship.

Self will -- this is the concept of the stubborn or unteachable nature, or implacability. Self will is a disposition to be argumentative, harsh, bitter, which causes one to be a "nit picker" or critical in the extreme, or to mind the business of others, or to fail to recognize the rights and privacy of others.

Sinful reaction to social pressures -- these are the sins of anger, impatience, touchiness, or of having a sensitive nature. There is often resentment and retaliation when disapproved or contradicted. This area of sin generates jealousy, sour grapes, envy, and the accompanying bitterness, hatred, carrying of grudges, revenge tactics, and so forth.

Magnifying the faults and failings of others while emphasizing one's own virtues.

Negative disposition -- this is peevishness, a fretful disposition, one that loves to be coaxed and honored. It is a dishonest, deceitful attitude. It is a disposition that tends toward discouragement and despondency under pressure along with the attempt to solve one's problems by hysteria and tantrums.

Apathy -- this sin is that of indifference to doctrine and to the Word of God in general. It is indifference to the lost condition of unbelievers or to the carnal condition of other believers.

### Characteristics of the Believer's Mental Attitude

The true character of a believer in Jesus Christ is determined by his mental attitude. Prov. 23:7, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he". See also 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:1; Heb. 12:3; Col. 3:1,2; 1 Cor. 2:16; 2 Cor. 10:4,5.

A Christian's mental attitude is not always apparent in his actions, but God always knows perfectly what a person is thinking. Heb. 4:12,13;

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Prov. 21:2. The following are examples of mental attitude thinking.

Worldliness is a mental attitude. Worldliness is not the doing of something wrong; it is the thinking which takes place independently of God's viewpoint. The remedy to the problem of worldliness is not in turning over a new leaf. It is a change in thinking (repentance) rather than a change in activity. Divine viewpoint must replace human viewpoint before a change in character can be expected. One can have an outward life which appears good, yet be filled with mental attitude sins. Col. 3:2; James 4:4.

Toughness, strength, and determination are mental attitudes. One is not beaten until he gives up mentally.

True Christian inner peace is a mental attitude. It is the relaxed mental state which enables one to enjoy the Christian life regardless of people or outward circumstances. With a good mental attitude, the believer can be joyful, relaxed, and can even enjoy the battle.

Mental stability is the result of thinking from a proper frame of reference, that is, Biblical thinking. The Christian who has mental fear, who is a chronic worrier, who cannot think clearly under pressure, who blames others for his problems, who cannot make correct decisions -- that believer is unstable. His emotions interfere with his thinking. Since emotion always follows thinking, emotional instability will always follow from incorrect (HVP) thinking. But God's Plan of Grace leads to rock-solid mental and emotional stability.

### Human vs Divine Viewpoint

Thinking requires words - vocabulary. Divine thinking requires divine vocabulary. "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Under any kind of spiritual pressure, human vocabulary, or human thinking, is not adequate. Only God's words can give the ability to think correctly under pressure. The Christian's ability to think correctly is based on how much Bible teaching is resident (applied) in the soul of the believer.

The Christian is commanded to have a new mental attitude. Col. 3:1,2; 2 Cor. 10:4,5; 1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5.

The warfare between two viewpoints in the believer's soul must be fought from within, first by knowledge of doctrine, and then by the application of truth to the life. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 John 1:9.

Every believer has a mind which is capable of looking at life from God's point of view. Rom. 1:18 ff. Mental attitude divine viewpoint is obtained only through Bible study accompanied by the controlling ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Christian who habitually studies the Word learns to concentrate and to think from God's point of view, and thus he becomes stabilized. The "mind of Christ" (the source of God's viewpoint) is made clear in the Bible.

The Christian can be "transformed by the renewing of the mind" through study, knowledge, and application of Bible truth. By this means his decisions and actions are most likely to be in agreement with Bible principle. And this is the only sure sign of Christian maturity and victorious Christian living.

### The Human Conscience

The conscience is located in the mind and is the center for the operating standards of the human soul. Titus 1:15. The conscience convicts the Christian of evil or wrongdoing. John 8:9. The conscience establishes standards for both human and divine relationships. Acts 24:16.

The conscience functions on thinking; and the believer in fellowship has a conscience which functions from resident (applied) divine viewpoint. Rom. 2:15; 9:1, as related to applied Bible teaching. The conscience establishes standards for serving God. 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 9:14. But false operating standards in the conscience produce legalism. 1 Cor. 8:7.

The more the believer uses applied Bible doctrine, the stronger his conscience becomes in using such thinks as the Law of Liberty and the superseding laws of love and sacrifice. 1 Cor. 10:24-29. Conscience is the basis for enduring mistreatment and misunderstanding without defending oneself.

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1 Pet. 2:19; 3:16. The conscience can be damaged or destroyed with false doctrine and with a callused soul. 1 Tim. 4:1,2.

### The Mechanics of Replacing Human Thinking with Divine Viewpoint

The Christian life is a supernatural life and cannot be lived without the filling of the Holy Spirit and the daily function of applied Bible teaching.

Rom. 8:2; 7:6; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18. All changes must come from within, and the Holy Spirit must originate divine good by applying doctrine to the life.

We begin a change of viewpoint at the moment of salvation. At that time we changed our mental attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19. That was repentance and faith, and it resulted in our regeneration. John 3:16. At that moment many benefits were made available to us, blessings and promises from God which enable us to live in a manner which is both acceptable to the Lord and which also produces great happiness for us. We are given the ability to think those things which will bring honor to the Lord. Eph. 5:18; 4:23; Col. 3:2.

The choice of whether to make use of the divine operating assets is made by the believer every day. The power of our walk with the Lord depends on Bible teaching, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the believer's positive volition. Daily Bible teaching under the controlling ministry of the Holy Spirit builds up divine standards in the human soul and conscience. 1 Tim. 1:5,19; 3:9.

### The Benefits of Having a Proper Mental Attitude

With the proper mental attitude, the Christian will have victory, peace, power, and mental stability. Phil. 2:5; 2 Tim. 1:7. The Christian can experience perfect inner peace, ever during times of difficulty and suffering. Phil. 4:7. Inner peace comes from what we think. Isa. 26:3. Divine viewpoint brings mental stability and eliminates discouragement, anxiety, instability, fearfulness, and double-mindedness. Stability of mind and character is a mental attitude of strength.

The believer with divine viewpoint has a gracious attitude toward others. He is a mature believer characterized by mental attitude love who is a channel of the Grace of God. Deut. 6:5; 11:13. A mental attitude from DVP produces confidences based on absolute values and standards. 2 Cor. 5:1,6,8.

### Mental Attitude and the Believer's Ministry

The mature believer "thinks Grace", which is the "mind of Christ". Therefore, the Christian's life and personality are characterized by many of the qualities of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:29; Gal. 5:22 ff. In every one of these characteristics the Christian has one basic ingredient - correct thinking according to divine viewpoint. 1 Pet. 3:8

Therefore, the mature believer is gentle, compassionate, caring, and has a gracious attitude toward others. These are essential life qualities in any believer who is a good witness for Christ. With these qualities, and with the knowledge of the Word of God being acquired on the way to maturity, the believer cannot help but be an outstanding witness for Christ and a skilful practitioner in the use of his spiritual gifts.

### THE SINS THAT GOD HATES

In the Bible passage Proverbs 6:16-19 are listed seven things that God the Father despises. The paragraph cited uses the phrase "an abomination unto Him" to indicate God's attitude of repugnance toward the sins listed there. Four of the sins are sins of the tongue; two are mental attitude sins; and one sin, murder, is an open sin.

"A proud look" is a sin manifested in the features of the face. This sin reveals the mental attitude sin of pride, and it refers to arrogance which is revealed in expression, attitude, and bearing.

"A lying tongue" refers to inveterate, habitual lying.

"Hands that shed innocent blood" refers to murder. It does not refer to killing in battle, which is bona fide, but to the unlawful taking of a life.

"A heart that devises wicked imaginations" is a sin in which the mind is controlled by the emotions with the result that there is the mental attitude sin

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of jealousy or suspicion, which cause a person to think the worst.

"Feet that are swift in running to mischief" refers to sins of the tongue plus overt sins. It relates to the person who goes out of his way to make trouble through gossip, maligning, judging, vindictiveness, tactics of revenge, and any overt tactic which will make trouble for others.

"A false witness that spreads lies" refers to perjury, another form of lying. Or, it means to downgrade someone.

"He that soweth discord among the brethren" indicates maligning, carrying tales, backbiting, destructive criticism, and so forth.

### SINS OF THE TONGUE

READ Psalm 64:1-10.

Sins of the tongue have their origin in the Sin Nature. These sins are among the most devastating of all of the categories of sin. Of the seven sins mentioned in Proverbs 6:16-19 as being especially hated by God, three are sins of the tongue. As a Christian believer, you must learn as much as possible about this type of sin. And you must do everything possible to gain victory over this in order to be able to make progress in the Christian Way of Life.

PSALM 34:11-14.

Sins of the tongue are motivated by mental sins such as arrogance, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, mental adultery, pettiness, envy, guilt feelings, etc. All of these sins are focused at other people at one time or another. When someone reaches out to attack another person, the tongue is used to voice the inner mental sins which are already present. Such talk may be direct and scathing, even vulgar. Or the talk may be subtle, refined, intellectual, even couched in Christian terms. "There is a matter that I need to share with you as a prayer request; this is just between us spiritual believers..."

NOTE : If you know something bad about a person, or you suspect something, do not share it with anyone unless that person has a direct hand in the solution of the problem. If in doubt, don't talk about it!

Sins of the tongue are a sign of the believer's reverting to the old way of life, the condition of the carnal man. James 4:11; 5:9; 5:12, Romans 3:13,14. In fact, the believer who indulges in sins of the tongue cannot be distinguished from an unbeliever. The believer is warned in Ephesians 4 not to fall into the life patterns of the unbeliever.

EPH. 4:17-22, 25, 29-32.

Verbal sins can destroy a family or a congregation. Things like gossip, slander, maligning, judging, backbiting, and boasting are malicious, venal, and destructive. James 3:5,6. Troublemakers are always characterized by sins of the tongue. Psalm 52:2.

It is the duty of the pastor to warn against these things. 2 Tim. 2:14-17. And believers are commanded to separate themselves from such troublemakers. Rom. 16:17,18. This separation may be just a turning away or refusal to comment or to reply in a conversation. Separation does not mean ostracism or excommunication except in the worst cases. It means, at first, refusal to participate. Teaching on this topic may involve exhortation and rebuke, as in Titus 2:15. But such teaching, plus the refusal of believers to participated in sins of the tongue, will help the one who is having trouble with this to have victory.

TITUS 1:10,11.

Sins of the tongue produce compounded divine discipline. Ps. 64:8; Matt. 7:1,2. First, there is discipline for the mental attitude sin which motivates the verbal sin. Second, there is discipline for the verbal sin itself. Third, there is discipline for the sins which one assigns to another person in wrongly judging him - "with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again."

### Types of Sins of the Tongue

*Backbiting* - slander, defamation of character, evil speech, detraction. Found in several places in the Bible, including Rom. 1:30 as one of the sins of the immoral person who has rejected God. READ Psalm 15:3; 50:20; 101:5; Proverbs 25:23; Jer. 9:4; Rom. 1:30; 2 Cor. 12:20.

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*False Witness* - lying about people, especially while under oath. Prov. 25:28; Exo. 32:1; Prov. 19:9.

Examples of false witness:

- Against Stephen, Acts. 6:11
- Against Paul, Acts 25:7
- Against Christ, Matthew and Mark

*Perjury* - lying under oath. READ Lev. 6:3; 19:12; Zech. 5:4; Mal. 3:5; 1 Tim. 1:10

*Lying* - READ Prov. 12:22; 21:6; Col. 3:9; Lev. 19:11; Luke 20:20.

*Dissimulation* - Faking it, covering up, hypocrisy. Example: calling in sick when not sick. READ 1 Sam. 21:13; Acts 23:12-15; 2 Sam. 14:2; 2 Kings 10:19; Luke 20:20.

*Busybody* - self-appointed monitor, or one who tries to straighten others out. This word appears as a translation of several Greek originals.

From περιεργος (periergos), verb. (periergomai) "to do something useless or unnecessary". Literally, "to work around". Also used in Greek to mean "undue anxiety" over something which is not really a proper concern.

2 THESS. 3:11.

Also from αλλοτροεπισκοπος (allotroepiskopos), a combining form from αλλοτριος, "belonging to another", and επισκοπις, "bishop". Hence, the busybody is "another man's bishop".

1 PET. 4:15.

*Talebearing* - slandering, whispering behind backs. Prov. 11:13; 17:9; 18:8

*Evil Whispering* - Prov. 16:28.

*Slander* - Psalm 101:5; 50:20; Prov. 10:18; 11:9; 2 Sam. 10:3; Job 1:11; Luke 7:33.

*False Accusation* - READ 1 Sam. 1:14; Neh. 6:7; Job 2:5; 22:6; Jer. 33:17; Matt. 5:11; 27:12; Luke 6:7; 1 Peter 3:16.

*Evil Speaking* - READ Ps. 5:9; 10:7; 36:3; 55:21; Prov. 12:18; 24:2; Matt. 12:34; Rom. 3:13; James 3:6; 4:11.

God provides protection for the believer who is, himself, a victim of sins of the tongue. Job. 5:19-21.

Control of the tongue, the absence of verbal sins, is a sign of Christian edification in the believer,

and it is a sign of considerable growth in Grace. James 3:2; 4:11,12. By avoiding sins of the tongue, the Christian can lengthen his life and find great happiness. Ps. 34:12,13.

### How to Have Victory Over Sins of the Tongue

1. Grow daily in conformity with the Lord Jesus Christ
2. Ask God the Father for provision and protection in this area.
3. Confess this sin each time you are convicted of it.
4. Learn to recognize all of the verbal sins -- some are obvious, some are subtle.
5. Keep silent during discussion of a bad situation.
6. Keep silent during discussion of another person.
7. Keep silent.

RULE: Do not pass on derogatory or uncomplimentary information about anyone, unless the Word of God has given you the specific authority and responsibility to do so, and the person you are information likewise has responsibility in the situation and a need-to-know the information.

### THE SIN UNTO DEATH

The phrase "sin unto death" describes the final stage of divine discipline in which God removes from the earth the person who is totally alienated from God. The "sin unto death" is not a particular sin; but it is, rather, a mental attitude of total indifference to and rebellion against the will and purpose of God.

The spiritual condition of the person who comes under the "sin unto death" is characterized by continual and maximum carnality; and this punishment represents God's final step of chastisement to those who are in maximum alienation from God. Only God can discern the true nature of a person's mind, attitude, or volition; and only God knows whether a person is actually implacable and deserving of physical death.



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The "sin unto death" is described as a principle in 1 John 5:16; Psalm 118:17,18; and Ezek. 18:21-32.

It is important for the Christian to understand the circumstances under which sins are not "unto death".

First, sin which is confessed is not "unto death". 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:31; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 38.

Second, sin which is discontinued is not "unto death". Heb. 12:1; Eze. 18:21-32.

Finally, the person who responds positively to divine discipline is not involved in the "sin unto death". Heb. 12:6, cf. 12:11-15.

There are definite characteristics by which to recognize the conditions which lead to God's applying the "sin unto death". Persistent, unconfessed sin, sin which continues unchecked with no repentance, may bring a person under this category. Also, the person who persistently ignores Grace, warnings, and discipline may come under the "sin unto death". Lev. 26. Then, sin which has a maximum adverse effect on other people (causing stumbling) may lead a person into severe discipline.

Some case histories of the "sin unto death":

- The case of "lying to the Holy Spirit" (Ananias and Sapphira). Acts 5:1-10.
- The case of persistent carnality while sitting at the Lord's Table, 1 Cor. 11:30,31.
- The case of disobedience to the Word of God. 1 Chron. 10:13,14; 1 Sam. 13:9-14. King Saul did not kill Agag although directly ordered to do so by God; he insisted on personally offering sacrifices in the place of divinely appointed priests; and he consulted a witch, itself a capital offense.
- The case of self-righteousness and dependence on man which was perpetuated (case of Hezekiah). Isa. 38.
- The case of apostasy on the part of a believer. Num. 31:8; 1 Tim. 1:19,20.

### SIN'S VICIOUS CIRCLE

One sin leads to another. Sins are chained together and tend to reinforce each other. The

Christian must make a conscious effort to halt the progress of sin at the beginning.

Mental attitude sins are the worst sins. They touch off other mental sins, sins of the tongue, and the overt or open sins. And a Christian will experience great self-induced misery in his life unless he learns how to nip sin in the bud through confession and victory. Learning how to recognize certain sin patterns is very useful in helping the believer to be forearmed in the conflict.

The following are some examples of types of "chain sinning" which are to be avoided.

Bitterness is a sin that involves someone else and leads to a chain of sins. Any sin may lead to divine discipline. Even when a sin is confessed, suffering which was begun under discipline may continue (even though the cursing has been turned to blessing in the case of actual suffering). Bitterness may reappear as the hurt continues -- bitterness against God or against other people.

Bitterness has another person as an object. It leads to vindictiveness and implacability. These, in turn, lead to antagonism and revenge tactics. Revenge tactics can include sins of the tongue such as judging, maligning, gossip. Overt sin is possible, including social ostracism (snubbing, shunning, not speaking), harassment, even violence. Murder, for example, is the end result of a chain of sins stemming from bitterness. The Christian living in bitterness tries to sublimate in various ways, alcohol, drugs, emotional experiences, trying to maintain the rosy glow, but he is never satisfied.

Guilt Association is a guilt complex that involves various parts of the soul. The believer keeps bringing up sins of his past; his depression leads to guilt feelings. He begins to associate every trouble in the past with an 'unforgiven' sin of the past. He feels that God is permanently displeased with him. A guilt complex like this leads to blasphemy, that is, accusing God and maligning Him. This sin leads to a lack of faith, hatred toward God and toward others who might be thought responsible. Remember, when a sin is confessed, God forgets it; and the believer is wrong to remember it. God does not discipline us

ten years after the fact. David had 26 good years after the Bathsheba incident.

Public confession of sin is used by people to vent a guilt complex. But the one who confesses publicly is giving out gossip, about himself if no one else. He presents material for temptation to other believers, temptations to judge, to hate, to malign, to gossip. Public confession leads to chain sinning in one's own life and in the lives of others. This is a failure to preserve the privacy of the priesthood. A Christian may reveal sin problems privately to an intimate and confidential friend who is a believer and who is in a position to exhort or counsel from the Word of God. Otherwise, confession is made to God alone.

Intrusion upon divine prerogatives occurs when a believer tries to do the word of God in judging, condemning, disciplining other people. The Bible instructs each person to judge himself; and he may judge and discipline his own children. Otherwise, it's "live and let live".

Gossip, the discussion of problems with outside parties is similar to public confession. It makes problems for people and encourages mental attitude sins and sins of the tongue. It leads to cliques, divisions, mutual admiration societies. This activity is an attempt to build one's happiness on someone else's unhappiness.

Failure to maintain relaxed mental attitude toward others refers to the development of pseudo-love in the life. It does not allow for other peoples' areas of weakness, does not exhibit true love for others. It leads to a failure to forgive, which in turn makes it impossible for the Christian to be in a position to help through example or exhortation.

The solution to all sin problems of this type is edification, spiritual growth through a daily walking in fellowship and the intake of Bible teaching. Also required is a thorough knowledge of the doctrine of Grace, the application of God's gracious assets to the life, and the development thereby of a gracious mental attitude and outward disposition toward other people.

### THE PLACE OF CONFESSION IN SOLVING THE SIN PROBLEM

The presence of the Sin Nature in the soul guarantees that the Christian believer will have a problem with active personal sin for the rest of his life on earth. This personal sin causes a deep disturbance in the believer's personal relationship with the Lord. The Holy Spirit is said to be personally "grieved" by a Christian's sin, and His work "quenched" by a Christian's human good. While the believer does not lose his salvation each time he sins, his personal growth and effectiveness are stifled as long as there is a rift in his fellowship with God. This rift is healed by means of the act of personal confession to God of the sin which caused the breach.

Confession of sins is not the basis of salvation. Jesus Christ was judged once for our sins, on the Cross; and He does not need to be judged repeatedly for our sins. The basis of salvation is the individual's personal trust in Christ and His work, rather than confession or any other act which a person might perform to try to win the favor of God. Acts 16:31; John 1:12; Eph. 1:13,14; 2:8,9; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21.

A Christian is always "in Christ". Eph. 1:3,5,7. So confession of personal sin is extremely important to the personal spiritual relationship that he has with God. God requires confession of sin as the means of maintaining a close personal walk with Himself. He requires, that is, a continual acknowledgement of His rulership; and confession of sin is the means by which the believer expresses his yieldedness and surrender to the sovereign will of God on a moment by moment basis. The Lord wants the Christian to have a very useful and happy life, and part of His plan for providing this sort of life is confession of sin.

#### God Encourages the Believer to Confess Sin

A believer may not be aware, initially, that he can live out of fellowship and that he needs to confess sin. 1 John 1:6; 2:9,10; 2 Pet. 1:9. God both commands and pleads with us to judge ourselves, to confess, and then to forget sins. Isa. 43:26; 1 Cor. 11:28,31; 1 John 1:9; Phil. 3:13,14; Prov. 1:23.

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Any person who reads the Bible quickly becomes aware of God's intentions in this matter.

Some Christians willfully ignore the commands to confess, leading God to employ more persuasive measures to encourage compliance. These methods include (1) loss of inner peace, Phil. 4:6,7; (2) chastening (discipline), Heb. 12:6; (3) pricking of conscience, Heb. 13:18; and (4) sorrow for sin, Psalm 32. A few Christians manage to ignore even severe chastening for a long time, leading to God's administering the "sin unto death", described in a previous section. The alternative to confession is discipline. Heb. 12:1-5.

### The Mechanics of Confession of Sin

Confession does not provide the believer with a license to sin. The attitude that says "I can sin and confess repeatedly because God will always forgive" is sinful in itself because it indicates that the believer does not actually think the same about his sin that God does. That is, there is no real repentance or confession. Nor does confession of sin remove the buildup of callousness or hardness in the soul of the person who has lived apart from God for a long time. This removal of scar tissue is accomplished through edification, the Biblical system for understanding and applying the Word of God.

Confession of sin does not provide an emotional experience, nor is it accompanied by an emotional reaction. God's forgiveness is based on His promise to cleanse, not on how a person feels. And, confession does not always remove the pain or suffering which is the result of the sin itself or which came as a result of divine discipline. Although the cursing is turned to blessing, the suffering may continue; but the suffering may be endured to the glory of God instead.

Some Christians try to get on God's good side through some means other than the confession which is prescribed by God. Sometimes a person thinks that a demonstration of sorrowfulness is called for, or that weeping will impress God with one's contrition. Others "compensate" for their sin by increasing their religious activities.

Some will pray more often and longer and read their Bibles more. Some will try to bribe God with

additional tithes and offerings, or with acts of self-denial, sacrifice, or service. Some will present themselves in re-dedication services and attend church functions more often. But these things cannot be substituted for confession of sin. God is interested only in a person's mental attitude toward the sin.

The word "confession" in the New Testament is taken from the Greek word ὁμολογέω, meaning "to cite", "to name", "to classify in the same manner", "to agree with", "to say the same thing as". Confession acknowledges God's rulership in the matter and agrees with His judgment. This is a method of dealing with the disharmony caused by sins which causes no merit to accrue to the person who confesses.

Confession is strictly a Grace provision in which God makes a promise and carries out the function of cleansing. The Christian must (1) confess the sin, 1 John 1:9; (2) forget the sin, Phil. 3:13,14; and (3) isolate the sin, Heb. 12:15.

Since prayer is made only to God the Father (Mark. 2:7), confession is made only to God the Father. Upon the condition of confession, forgiveness is guaranteed and cleansing from all unrighteousness is administered (1 John 1:9). The word "cleanse" refers to the removal of the guilt of the sin. Therefore, the cleansed individual is removed from the condition of discipline, chastening is no longer being administered, and the hindrances to the ministry of the Holy Spirit are removed.

There are several synonyms in the Bible for the word "confess", as follows":

- To "yield" means to confess. Rom. 6:13.
- "Putting off the old man", is tantamount to confession. Eph. 5:14.
- Judging oneself is confession, or leads to it. 1 Cor. 11:31.
- Presenting one's body is analogous to confession. Rom. 12:1.

### Principles Derived from the Doctrine of Confession

Walking closer to God is, in reality, an activity in which the believer is more consistent in his

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relationship with the Lord, more consistent in his confession of sin. While confession does not, in itself, cause one to grow in Christ, there can be no growth in the Spirit as long as one is out of fellowship because of unconfessed sin.

Therefore, confession sets the stage for progress in the Christian life. The ministry of the Holy Spirit depends on uninterrupted fellowship. So Christian growth depends on the unhindered work of the Holy Spirit.

Confession takes the believer out of the sphere where he is producing callous and scar tissue on his soul, and it puts him back in the sphere of the Holy Spirit's control. He can thus produce "gold, silver, and precious stones" rather than "wood, hay, and stubble".

### Salvation Doctrines

The Christian life begins the moment a person believes the Gospel, putting his complete confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. At that moment, God provides the new believer with a great number of unique and permanent blessings. "...and hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph. 1:3) These blessings are a part of the inheritance of the believer, those useful doctrines and promises upon which the Christian may draw during the remainder of his lifetime on earth.

The following is a listing of Salvation Doctrines, a catalogue of the things God does for the believer at the moment of salvation. These basic ideas are the underlying principles for the mechanics of Christian living, the techniques such as Faith-Rest and Occupation with Christ. These doctrines are also foundation principles for all other Bible doctrine.

This listing can provide you with hours of quality study and meditation. You may well find other topics that could be added to the list. It is valuable and important that a Christian understand thoroughly his relationship with the Lord; and a good knowledge of these doctrines can be of great help in Christian living.

Use the items on this list with people who don't believe in eternal security. You see, in order for God to take salvation away from anyone, He

would have to reverse every one of these processes. Item #18, for example, shows that a Christian is a gift from God the Father to His Son. Loss of salvation would mean that God would take back His gift to His own Son. Or, in #35, we see that the believer receives a Human Spirit as part of the salvation package. Losing salvation would mean that the Human Spirit would have to be killed, or removed in some way. In a similar way you can argue in favor of eternal security from every one of these items.

You can also use these topics in your personal witness to novice Christians. Remember, these are "Day One" doctrines. So the new believer (or the "old baby" believer) cannot begin to mature until he begins to grasp the importance of these topics. Advanced believers are responsible to spoon feed basic teaching to untaught believers.

1. A believer is in the Eternal Plan of God, sharing the destiny of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such the believer is:  
Foreknown: Acts 2:23; Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:2  
Elect: Rom. 8:33; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2  
Predesigned: Rom. 8:29,30; Eph. 1:5,11  
Chosen in Christ: Matt. 22:14; 1 Pet. 2:4  
Called: 1 Thess. 5:24
2. The believer is Reconciled:  
By God, 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20  
To God, Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:20; Eph. 2:14f.
3. The believer is Redeemed (purchased from the slave market of sin): Rom. 3:24; Col. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18; Eph. 1:7.
4. The believer is Removed from Condemnation: John 3:18; 5:24; Rom. 8:1.
5. The believer is under Grace and not under Judgment (doctrine of Propitiation): Rom. 3:24-28; 1 John 2:2.
6. The believer's sins are judged by the spiritual death of Christ on the Cross: Rom. 4:25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24.
7. The believer is made dead to the old life and alive unto God. He is:

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- Crucified with Christ: Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20  
Dead with Christ: Rom. 6:8; Col. 3:3;  
1 Pet. 2:24  
Buried with Christ: Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12  
Risen with Christ: Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1
8. The believer is free from the law: Rom. 6:14;  
7:4,6; 2 Cor. 3:11; Gal. 3:25.
  9. The believer is adopted (placed as an adult  
heir in the family of God): Rom. 8:15; 8:23;  
Eph. 1:5.
  10. The believer is justified (declared righteous):  
Rom. 3:24; 5:1,9; 8:30; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:7.
  11. The believer is regenerated (born spiritually  
into the family of God): John 13:10; 1 Cor.  
6:11; Titus 3:5. In regeneration the believers  
are:  
Born Again: John 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:23  
Children of God: Gal. 3:26  
Sons of God: John 1:12; 2 Cor. 6:18; 1 John 3:2  
New Creations: 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph.  
2:10
  12. The believer is made acceptable to God: Eph.  
1:6; 1 Pet. 2:5. To make a believer acceptable  
to Himself, God sees to it that the believer is:  
Made righteous: Rom. 3:22; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor.  
5:21; Phil. 3:9  
Sanctified positionally: 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11  
Perfected forever: Heb. 10:14  
Made qualified: Col. 1:12
  13. The believer is forgiven all trespasses: Eph.  
1:7; 4:32; Col. 1:14; 2:13; 3:13
  14. The believer is made nigh (heavenly  
citizenship based on Reconciliation):  
Luke 10:20; Eph. 2:13,19; Phil. 3:20
  15. The believer is delivered from the kingdom of  
Satan: Col. 1:13; 2:15
  16. The believer is transferred into God's  
Kingdom: Col. 1:13
  17. The believer is placed on a secure foundation:  
1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4; Eph. 2:20
  18. The believer is a gift from God the Father to  
the Lord Jesus Christ: John 10:20;  
17:2,6,9,11,12,24
  19. The believer is delivered from the power of  
the Sin Nature; Rom. 2:29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11
  20. The believer is appointed as a priest unto God:  
1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6
  21. The believer is under the care of God as a  
chosen generation and a protected people:  
Tit. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9
  22. The believer is given access to God: Rom. 5:2;  
Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:14,16; 10:19,20
  23. The believer is within the much more care of  
God; as such we are:  
Objects of His love: Eph. 2:4; 5:2  
Objects of His Grace: for salvation, Eph. 2:8,9;  
for keeping, Rom. 5:2; 1 Pet. 1:5; for service,  
John 17:18; Eph. 4:7; for instruction, Titus 2:12  
Objects of His power: Eph. 1:19; Phil. 2:13  
Objects of His faithfulness: Phil. 1:6; Heb. 13:5  
Objects of His peace: John 14:27  
Objects of His consolation: 2 Th. 2:16  
Objects of His intercession: Rom. 8:34; 7:25;  
9:24
  24. The believer is part of Christ's inheritance:  
Eph. 1:18
  25. The believer is a beneficiary of the inheritance  
from God (an heir of God and a joint-heir  
with the Lord Jesus Christ): Rom. 8:17; Eph.  
1:14; Col. 3:24; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:4
  26. The believer has a new position in Christ:  
Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 1:9; 3:9; 2 Cor. 3:3,6;  
5:20; 6:1,4 (See the section on Positional Truth  
following this listing.)
  27. The believer is the recipient of eternal life:  
John 3:15; 10:28; 20:31; 1 John 5:11,12
  28. The believer is a member of the family of God:  
Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19
  29. The believer is Light in the Lord: Eph. 5:8; 1  
Thess. 5:4
  30. The believer is united with the Father:  
1 Thess. 1:1, cf. Eph. 4:6
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He is united with Christ: John 14:20, cf. Col. 1:27

A member of His Body: 1 Cor. 12:13

A Branch in the Vine: John 15:5

A Stone in the Building: Eph. 2:21,22

A Sheep in the Flock: Eph. 2:21,22

A part of His Bride: Eph. 5:25-27

A Priest in His Kingdom: 1 Pet. 2:9

A Saint of the new species: 2 Cor. 5:17

He is united with the Holy Spirit Rom. 8:9; 8:29

31. The believer is the recipient of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Born of the Spirit: John 3:6

Baptized by the Spirit: 1 Cor. 12:13

Indwelt by the Spirit: John 7:39; Rom. 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24

Sealed by the Spirit: 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30

Recipient of Spiritual Gifts: 1 Cor. 12:11; 12:27-31; 13:1,2

32. The believer is glorified in Christ: Rom. 3:20  
33. The believer is made complete in Christ: Col. 2:10

34. The believer is the possessor of every spiritual blessing: Eph. 1:3

35. The believer is the recipient of a human spirit: Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 2:12; 2 Cor. 7:13; 1 Thess. 5:23; Eph. 2:5

36. The believer has access to all Bible truth through the Grace system for Bible understanding and Christian growth: Col. 2 and Eph. 4

### The Heavens

The **heavens** (or, "heavenly places") is the location of divine blessing, including all the blessings of Christian maturity

Eph. 1:3; 1:19-23

The **heavens** is the locale of the Lord's success in spiritual warfare against Satan, Psalm 103:19.

The **heavens** is the location of the believer's position in Christ. Thus, the believer shares the victory of Christ. The result is daily victory in the believer's life. Eph. 2:6.

The **heavens** is the sphere of angelic activity, Eph. 3:10.

The **heavens** is the battlefield for spiritual warfare during the Church Age, Eph. 6:12 ff.

## Ephesians Lesson 5 Quiz

### Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

**Grace Notes**

**% Warren Doud**

**1705 Aggie Lane**

**Austin, Texas 78757 USA**

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

## Ephesians Lesson 5

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### Questions on Ephesians Lesson 5

1. Eph. 2:1 says "you were dead in trespasses and sins." Of whom is the verse speaking?

Answer:

2. The "prince of the power of the air" is [A. Jesus Christ; B. the Apostle Paul; C. Satan; D. the world-spirit].

Answer:

3. The chief ruler of a Greek city state was called an "archon." [True/False]

Answer:

4. It is impossible for a Christian to think or act as he did when he was an unbeliever. [True/False]

Answer:L

5. What does it mean to be one of the "children of wrath?"

Answer:

6. Details of life can be enjoyed to their fullest is they are made secondary to \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

7. God's love for you depends on how much you love Him. [True/False]

Answer:

8. Where is it that we sit together with Jesus Christ?

Answer:

9. Write out your definition of the word "sin."

Answer:

10. From whom did we inherit a sin nature?

Answer:

11. How was the problem of an inherited sin nature solved?

Answer:

12. A Christian believer can never perform any of the sinful activities which he did as an unbeliever. [True/False]

13. Give three examples of sins of the tongue.

Answer:



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14. When a believer is redeemed, what is the price that is paid?

Answer:

15. Write out a scripture verse that describes how a Christian has been removed from condemnation.

Answer:

16. What does it mean to be "adopted" as a believer?

Answer:

17. How do you know that you are born again?

Answer:

18. A believer is a "gift of God" to \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

19. A Christian will go to heaven, but he can never share any of the things that the Lord Jesus Christ will inherit from God the Father. [True/False]

Answer:

20. Essay Question: Write out, in two or three paragraphs, how you would explain to a new believer how God has dealt with the problem of the person's sins.

End of Quiz