

Are There Degrees of Sin?

Bob Prichard

There are different types of sin, and sins have varying earthly consequences, but there no degrees of sin. We sometimes think of "little white lies," which we think are not as bad as other "big lies," but the Bible simply says "all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 2:18). The eternal consequences for sin are the same for all sins, even if they are sins we think of "minor sins."

John wrote that "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). To transgress the law of the land is to commit a crime. To transgress the law of God is to commit sin. The literal meaning of the word sin is "to miss the mark." When we sin, we have missed the mark of following God's will.

While there are no degrees of sin, sins may still be classified in certain ways. Some sins are mortal sins, such as adultery and drunkenness, specifically condemned by the Bible. Other mortal sins, such as gambling, are condemned in principle by the Bible. John sums up these works of the flesh, saying, "All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17).

Sins of commission are sins of disobedience to God's will. When Lot and his family escaped from the wicked city of Sodom, God warned that they were not to look back. When Lot's wife looked back, she became a pillar of salt. Her sin was not a moral sin, but it was disobedience to God's command (Genesis 19:26).

Another type of sin is that of not doing right — sins of omission. It is not good enough just to refrain from doing those things God has condemned. We must also do what God has commanded. James wrote, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

The Bible warns, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23); and "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The foremost problem in the world today is a sin problem. Man is a sinner, and the consequences for sin must be paid. The wonderful news, however, is that even though man sins against the infinite God, He has provided a means of escape. Paul wrote, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). By obeying the commands of the gospel of Christ, we can have that eternal life through Jesus Christ. - *House to House Heart to Heart*

God is a donor no one can outdo.

News & Notes

WV CHRISTIAN: TODAY is the last day for new or renewal subscriptions. **\$8.00 for 12 issues** (group rate). Sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. Make check out to the church or give the money to one of the Elders or Rico.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Dec. 3rd, about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Saturday, Dec. 9th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ. The Chester brothers will host and cook.

PARENT/YOUTH MEETING: Sunday, Dec. 10th immediately following the morning worship. Please plan to attend.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: Friday, Dec. 15th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Food, fun, and fellowship. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

PANTRY: Canned peas and green beans.

MALAWI PROJECT: Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical Center: David McKittrick. **Trinity West, Steubenville - ICU:** Dean Spencer. **At Home:** Twila Adamson, Linda Parkes, Melissa Rosohac, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Linda LeMasters (wife of Larry LeMasters - McKinneyville). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

Running on Empty

Paul Marty

Most of us remember growing up to or hearing the song "Running on Empty." I want to apply that song title to a spiritual application. Let's visualize a person who has a car, wants to drive it, but never puts gas in it. You know that we will find that person somewhere stranded with the car out of gas.

We read in Matthew 25 about The Parable of the Ten Virgins, five who were wise and took their lamps also with extra oil. However, the other five were foolish in that they only took what oil was in their lamps. The bridegroom delayed, and so they all slept. When they awoke, their lamps were out. The five foolish were "running on empty" while the wise were able to go into the marriage feast.

There is a warning for us. Let's be prepared to serve God at any time. God gives us ways to refuel and recharge so that we do not have to run on empty.

- Study (2 Timothy 2:15).
- Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Assemble with the saints for worship, bible classes, etc. (Acts 10:23-25).
- Meditate on God's Word (Philippians 4:8).
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42).

Let's encourage one another so that we don't run out of spiritual gas.

- *Gospel Gazette* online