

Dealing With Sin

- *Proverbs 5:21-22*

- Let's talk for just a second about one of the great freedoms that God gives to us, the freedom of choice. Freedom to choose is a privilege of God, but He instructs us and urges us to use that freedom wisely. The laws of God have been put in place to help lead throughout the path of life, and He watches the decisions that we make and the roads we take.
 - Proverbs 15:3 – “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
- As long as we use our freedom wisely, we will mature in Christian character, and God can trust us with more freedom. But if we abuse our freedom and deliberately disobey His Word, our freedom will gradually become bondage, the kind of bondage that can't easily be broken.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- As I read this passage, I am reminded that it's impossible to sin without being bound. One of the deceitful things about sin is that it promises freedom but only brings slavery.
 - Jesus said this in John 8:34 – “Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”
- The cords of sin get stronger the more we sin; yet sin deceives us into thinking we're free and can quit sinning whenever we please. As the invisible chains of habit are forged in our minds and in our hearts, we discover to our horror that we don't have the strength to break them on our own. Many people in our world today are in one kind of bondage or another and are seeking for deliverance, but the only One who can set them free is Jesus Christ.
 - John 8:36 – “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”
- So the question arises this morning, “What will I do with my sin? How do I deal with sin?” What are you going to do with the sin in your life this morning? “Preacher, are you talking about me?”
 - The scriptures are very clear about 2 things.
 - We all have sinned.
 - We believe what the Bible says about man's total depravity.
 - Romans 3:10, 23
 - Isaiah 53:6 - *All we* like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—*every one*—to his own way.
 - Only Christ can redeem us from our sins. Not alcohol, not drugs, not our job, not relationships ... only Christ.
 - Matthew 26:28 – “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
 - Ephesians 1:6-7 – “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
 - Perhaps there is one here this morning that would be honest enough to admit that they have never asked Christ to forgive them of their sins. They have never been born-again as a Christian. You have to deal with the issue of your sin this morning.
 - Now if you are saved this morning & you have asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart & life, you have been forgiven of your sins, Amen? But that doesn't mean that you quit sinning unfortunately. We fail God daily & there are sins that need to be dealt with even in the life of the Christian today. This brings us to our topic today.
- The text this morning brings before you a picture, a picture of a man bound with chains. Nevertheless the chains are invisible. They are the chains of his passions, his habits, his evil deeds.
 - This is how sin gets you & me. This is how sin takes us further than we ever anticipated going. Sin enslaves us & we don't even see it many times.

- Often times the backslidden life begins with even the smallest of sins, something we would see as insignificant; but allow that sin to get a foothold in our lives & eventually that sin entangles us & binds us in its grips.
- When men drift away from God, their consciences become seared and they lose their sensitivity to sin. This is exactly where the church is today folks.
 - The altars are barren today b/c we are not convinced or convicted that we are sinners or that we need forgiveness.
 - There was a time where you didn't have to convince people that they were sinners, but now they commit it with no thought at all. So it comes to pass that men are "holden with the cords of their sins."

➤ **So let's look this morning at what men do with their sins:**

1. Some Try To Ignore Sin

- In Genesis 4, we read about Cain and Abel in the field. When Cain struck the blow that killed his brother, God asked the murderer: "Where is Abel thy brother?" he tried to evade the question by asking another question: "Am I my brother's keeper?"
- There are many people today just like Cain.
 - They know that "the wages of sin is death";
 - They know in Galatians that "God is not to be mocked"; that "whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."
 - But they think that they are so clever that they will be an exception to the rule. They think that at some point they will turn away from their sin and that God's law will forget all about it. But folks, you can ignore sin if you choose, but God will never ignore it.

2. Some Encourage Sin

- There is no more striking illustration of this than Judas Iscariot.
 - When the ointment had been poured on Jesus in John 12, Judas said: "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" From that time, we see Judas start on a downward path.
 - John 12:6 – "This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief,"
- This was his first step, and he continued to get further and further away from Jesus until at last he made his way into the presence of the enemies of Jesus and agreed to sell our Lord.
- In those last hours, when they sat all together in the upper room, Jesus turned to him and said: "What thou doest, do quickly." Judas rose and passed out of the room.
- When we begin to separate ourselves from this precious Book, there is a law of moral gravitation, which pulls us down.
 - Some men encourage sin by failing to resist it. Burdened with his sin, he passed the rope around his neck and took his own life. "The wages of sin is death."

3. Some Try To Cover It Up

- Do you remember the Old Testament story of Achan? God's people had moved up against the city of Jericho, and for seven days they had been marching around the city. On the seventh day they shouted, and the walls of the city fell down, and the city was taken.
- Then the same people went up to a little town called Ai, and there they met defeat, because there was one man who was guilty of sin. That man had seen a Babylonish garment and a wedge of gold, and he had taken them to his tent and hid them. Because Achan sinned, the people suffered defeat.
- What a tragedy & yet a vivid reminder today that our sin affects others.
 - There are people today attempting to cover their sins. Sadly, there may even be some this morning who are under the sound of my voice that are attempting to cover their sins.
 - You might tell your closest friend, you can tell your mate, or you can even tell a complete stranger. But the greatest thing you can do with your sin is confess it to God.

- If you have been struggling to cover up some sin in your life, you can stop today b/c God sees & knows it already. Often times we try to cover up our sins when we should be giving them to God so that He can cover them once and for all with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. There is a hymn that we sing quite often that goes like this:
 - "There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains."

4. **God Calls Us To Repentance**

- This morning, I urge you to repent of your sin to God and ask Him to help you to turn away from your sin.
 - In Psalm 51:3 David said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."
- As you go throughout the Bible & you see the sins & failures of some of the followers of God, we would rank David's sin as was one of the worst in the Bible, but David didn't just ignore it. He acknowledged his sin. Listen to me, men. Listen to me, women, and young people. When we talk about acknowledging sin, it doesn't just mean the wicked sins or the public sins, it means all sin.
 - I John 1:8-9 – "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- The need for repentance is real today & God has given you this opportunity this morning to repent of our sins & turn to Him. Let me be clear on this subject of repentance:
 - It is an intentional change or turning away from sin and turning to God; from wanting to sin to not wanting to sin.
 - Repentance is a heart change about sin & choosing to resist the desire to sin & instead choose to obey God.
 - It is not remorse or guilt because we were caught in sin. That is sorrow & that's important, but sorrow alone is not enough.
 - II Corinthians 7:10 – "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
 - It is not just turning from sin, but more "changing one's mind" which is brought about by the Holy Spirit (Matt 16:17).
- **If you have sin in your life today, listen, He still loves you. Don't go on sinning against His love. It does not make any difference what your sin is this morning. Turn away from it, right now, and God will make your heart white as snow.**
- **Romans 2:5 "But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."**
 - There were unsaved people in the church in Paul's day just as there are today and even Jesus understood that there would be tares growing up alongside the wheat (Mat 13:30). Paul seems to be warning those who have not yet repented due to their stubbornness to acknowledge their sin and their need for the Savior. For those who have this unrepentant heart, all they are doing is "storing up wrath for the day of God's wrath" at the time "when his righteous judgment will be revealed" and at which time, it will be too late to repent.
- **Jeremiah 31:19 "After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth."**
 - Although Jeremiah used repentance in a slightly different way than most of the other authors in the Bible, he does show that there is shame, humiliation, and disgrace that come after repentance. Notice Isaiah said "after I strayed, I repented" and "after I came to understand"

meaning that repentance comes before this remorse, disgrace, humiliation, and shame. When He said “I beat my breast” he is showing that he knew he was in trouble and that he needed to humble himself before God. He “bore the disgrace of [his] youth” meaning that he owned his sins and didn’t try to make excuses.