

PULPIT NOTES

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IT IS HARD TO LIVE IN SIN

- I. IN ONE SENSE IT CAN BE TRUTHFULLY SAID THAT MEN ARE NOT LIVING IN SIN, THEY ARE DYING IN SIN. SIN IS CERTAIN TO PRODUCE DEADLY EFFECTS IN LIFE. NO MAN CAN SIN WITH IMPUNITY. THERE ARE MANY CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.
- A. **Abasement of soul / no joy**, Psalm 51:12 – “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy free spirit.*”
 - B. **Lacerations of conscience**, Psalm 51:3 – “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is ever before me.*”
 - C. Ultimately there will be a **cry for a drop of cool water**, Luke 16:24.
 - D. **Eternal death.**
 - 1. Rom 6:23 (KJV) “For the **wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God *is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”
 - 2. James 1:13-15 (KJV) “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: **14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, **bringeth forth death.**”
 - E. It has been accepted even among the non-Jews of the Old Testament that men **suffer** because of their own wrong doing. **Job**, a non-Israelite, faces accusations from his friends supporting this belief.
 - F. Even after the wound had healed, **Adam** and **Eve** could daily still see the scars (Gen. 3).
 - G. The **prodigal son** brought on all his afflictions himself (Luke 15).
 - 1. **“Spent all”** (v. 14) — You spend all with this kind of life. You reach the end. With Christianity you are ever replenished, built up, never spent from spending all. It is like a well that never runs dry, a barrel of oil that is never diminished. Without Christ you cannot dig deeper for more. No energy or strength to be had. No reason to get up in the morning. No hope.
 - 2. **“Mighty famine”** (v. 14)— Without reserves, it cannot be weathered. Is it true that famine often follows plenty, sickness health, weakness strength? The famine is not only a loss of internal resources, but where are your friends, your good time buddies? There is a shortage of desire, motivation, feeling of always in want. It hits hard. Shortages abound: hope, peace, happiness, love, what you think of yourself. Seeing you cannot buy them at any price. “Mighty” – lasts a long time, effects a vast amount.
 - 3. **“In want”** (v. 14) — Deprived of necessities (love, peace of mind) you are in want. What does hunger of the soul feel like? Famine leads to want. It does not happen over night. It becomes worse and worse day by day. WITHOUT THE BREAD OF LIFE, WE ENTER INTO FAMINE. God is not mocked; sin always brings on famine and destitution. A sinful life is the most expensive thing possible. It results in the ravaging of one’s material resources, frazzling one’s physical frame, impoverishing the intellect, putrefying one’s principles, weakening the will, cauterizing the conscience, and hardening the heart. [Heb.

3:13; Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 1:28]

4. **“I perish with hunger”** – Eating from the devil’s table will leave you hungry. Sin cannot satisfy. It is more than hunger that we feel, it is a hunger that leads to perishing. It is a misnomer to say that we are living in sin, actually, we are dying in sin – perishing.
- H. **Achan** was the cause of both his and his family’s downfall (Joshua 6-7).
- I. There is enough that happens to us without bringing it on ourselves. We can tell the difference between who is causing the problem. That is, we know when we are suffering unjustly and when we are suffering **because of our own sin**.
- J. Sometimes we say, “I do not know why this is happening.”
 1. But, many times **we know why it is happening**.
 2. We just do not want to “own up” to the fact that we brought on our own woes and are now responsible.
- K. We know that there is a difference between suffering because we are Christians and suffering because we are sinners.
- L. Some are in prison for the cause of Christ (Matthew 25:36ff; Luke 22:33), others are in prison for their evil deeds, and others still are in their own prison.
- M. God has said, “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself” (Hosea 13:9).
- N. The children of Israel learned this lesson. “And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. 34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise” (Numbers 14:33-34).

II. SIN HAS A FAR REACHING EFFECT ON MAN.

- A. Unhappy and vicious lives, sordid society, agony of soul, wailing cry of sickness, stillness of death, decomposition of the body in the grave, “and the thousand natural shocks to which flesh is heir.” Every problem that affects us today can be traced, directly or indirectly, to sin – individual problems, social, industrial, international, and any other. If the problem of sin were settled, all would be harmony, concord, justice, and good will.
- B. **SIN HURTS PHYSICALLY.**
 1. “What did I do to deserve this happening to me?” John 5:1-14; 9:1-3; Job.
 2. Some known examples of sin hurting physically:
 - a. **Alcoholism** – one of every eight families is plagued with this problem.
 - b. **Immorality** – 1 Corinthians 6:18 – The American Medical Association is concerned about diseases caused by immorality.
 - c. **Drug abuse** –
 3. You do not have to be a Doctor to see how sin hurts. Many times we can see the hardened, weakened, and weathered physical condition of those living in sin. It is true that not all physical infirmities or calamities are brought upon us by sin, but it is also true that many **are** hurt physically because of committing sin.
 4. Just because sin can cause us to hurt physically, we are not to emphasize the physical ailment while neglecting the sin which brought it on. Sometimes we can be found to be weeping more over the physical harm incurred than over the sin which caused the harm.
 5. Laying all accusations of being calloused aside, oftentimes **we get exactly what we deserve**.
- C. **SIN HURTS MENTALLY.**
 1. Many feel that they can blatantly live in disobedience to God’s will and never be affected mentally.
 2. Sin can pervert a person’s logical processes. Sin often interferes with an individual’s ability

to reason.

- a. Have you ever tried to reason with someone who was **drunk** – you are wasting your time.
- b. Have you ever tried to reason with someone who was embittered with **prejudice** – you are beating your head against a wall.
- c. Have you ever tried to talk to someone with an **embittered negative spirit** – talk about wayside soil.

D. SIN HURTS THE CONSCIENCE/EMOTIONALLY.

1. Think of **Saul of Tarsus** when he realized that persecuting the church was actually going against the will of God. For three days he neither ate nor drank (Acts 9; 22; 23:1).
2. Sin will cause either our conscience to torment us, or it will become hardened and calloused and often cause us to hurt others (Matthew 13:15; 1 Timothy 4:1-2).
 - a. Why did John the Baptizer lose his head?
 - b. Consider **King David's** condition after his sin with Bathsheba – Psalm 32:3 “When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.”
3. Think of the things that we do that hurt the conscience.
 - a. **Harsh words** – When we know we have been cruel with our vicious words it hurts the conscience.
 - b. **Lying** – Lying weighs on the conscience as heavy as any sin.
 - c. **Stealing** – When you steal you cannot “enjoy” what you have stolen because of conscience.

E. SIN HURTS SPIRITUALLY.

1. Living in sin will interfere with **prayer** (Luke 18; Colossians 3:17).
2. Living in sin will keep one from **Bible study** – “Son, this little book will keep you away from sin, and sin will keep you away from this book” (Psalm 37:31; 40:8; 119:11; James 1:23-25).
3. Living in sin will take one away from **being faithful** to the Lord.
4. Living in sin will eventually cause one to be **eternally lost**.
5. Living in sin will cause us to **stop living in the Spirit** (1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30).

F. THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCE OF SIN.

1. Sin can cause others to desire to not be around us..
2. Sin can hurt the marriage and family.
 - a. When parents sin, the children are devastated – their security is gone.
 - b. When children sin, the parents are devastated – their heart is broken.
 - c. When the husband or wife sins the marriage begins to shake.

III. THE CURE FOR SIN.

- A. Sin hurts us and it hurts others. You have not heard anything in this lesson that deep down inside you did not already know. You have heard everything in this lesson from your youth up. For some, this lesson may awake them to righteousness, but sadly for others, it will fall upon deaf ears. Sadly, as with many things in life, we know the consequences of our actions, but it does not change our behavior.
- B. Though man suffers in this life because of sin, **Jesus makes it possible to wipe out the effects of sin in eternity**. Rev 21:4 (KJV) “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”
- C. Man does not bear the damage that is done by sin for eternity when Jesus lifts the heavy load. Let us not underestimate what happened on the cross when we are told that Jesus bore our sins.