

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”



Galatians 6:9, NIV

SIN'S EFFECT UPON HOLINESS

Scripture Texts: 1 Peter 4:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; Galatians 6:7-8; James 1:14-15; John 5:28-29

Sin is a hideous picture. It is black, and it is a reality, and it should be taught that way. Yet, we cannot picture it as black as it is. Many today speak little or nothing of sin and hell. They prefer to teach good living and shy away from unpleasant and repulsive subjects. This is a sad condition because these dear souls are facing eternal judgment, at which they will face a real hell as well as a real Heaven. Jesus and His Apostles taught the blackness of sin, that there was a Heaven to gain and a hell to shun.

Sin is the opposite of holiness. A study of sin reveals what holiness is not and demonstrates our need of holiness. Sin brings increased sorrows and eternal death. Christ is the perfect and only release from sin.

MEMORY VERSE: *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.—1 John 3:8*

Sin Destroys Peace

1 Peter 4:18 No one can be too holy. We are told to be perfect **even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect**, and pure **even as he is pure** (**Matthew 5:48; 1 John 3:3**). Neither is there such a thing as a surplus of merit laid up with God, as some teach. This being true, those with no righteousness will not pass the judgment of God. Our own righteousness will not do (**Isaiah 64:6**). It must be His in us.

The ungodly and the sinner – these are those without God's righteousness, who live in sin. These are the same people, for without God, one does sin, and one who sins is without God, even though appearing good. People often mistakenly think there is a wide difference between an ungodly, moral person and a wicked, outcast sinner. But both come to the same end. **If the righteous scarcely be saved**. This being the case with the righteous, there is no hope at all for the unrighteous who are without God in this world and will stand alone as a sinner on the Judgment Day.

In **Isaiah 57:21** it is written, **No peace ... to the wicked**, no peace with God. There can be no peace between people or nations until there is peace with God in the individual heart. It is the assurance of acceptance with God (**John 14:27; Philippians 4:7**). It is impossible for one who has not God to have peace.

Sin Separates from God

Isaiah 59:1-2 **Your iniquities have separated between you and your God**. There is nothing else we need as much as God. To be separated from Him is the greatest tragedy. That one is cut off from His companionship, His blessings and His help. Sin does not change God or His power or His love. It changes us. It closes our hearts from receiving. The only way to open our hearts is to repent before God.

Sin Deceives

Galatians 6:7-8 **Be not deceived**. Do not deceive yourselves with the idea that you can fool God. **God is not mocked**. You may deceive your friends and neighbors, but you will not fool God. When people think they are fooling others, they are usually fooling only themselves.

For he that soweth to the flesh. To sow to the flesh is to follow the leadership of our natural, unsaved, selfish, earthly nature. However good it seems, this nature is sinful and cannot reach above the earth. It is called

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sowing **to the flesh**. Sowing brings harvest. To sow or live to the flesh is to **reap corruption**, rottenness, death, and the loss of all good. The law of sowing and reaping is both a natural and a spiritual law. You can neither fool God nor nature. The one who tries to do so is the fool. The law is that we can expect to reap more than we sow. The harvest begins in this world and continues in the next. The only way to escape this sad harvest that sin brings is to change the seed we sow. Yield to the Spirit of God, crucify the **flesh with its affections and reap life everlasting (Galatians 5:24)**.

Sin Brings Spiritual Death

James 1:14-15 Tempted ... lust ... sin ... death – this is the horrible sequence in which it is brought about. Enter the first and come out the last. Sinners are already dead, separated from God (**Ephesians 2:1**). Death is separation.

It is human nature to follow the crowd, to go from one extreme to the other. We do not like to be different in dress, thinking, customs, or actions. One who is living after the Spirit will not follow present trends. These are after the flesh. The Word of God draws a clear line as to how far we can rightly conform to popular customs. The present trend is to cast away past standards and abandon oneself to what the world calls a new “freedom”. Is it? What will be the end of it?

Sin Brings Eternal Damnation

John 5:28-29 A judgment is coming to all of us, one judgment in one hour. Two classes of people will be there – just two – **they that have done good, and they that have done evil**. These are God’s children and Satan’s children. Because they are different kinds of people, they have different destinies. Each will **receive the things done in his body** – while he lived in it here (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). He will reap that which he sowed. The life he lived here will come back to him – multiplied – to enjoy or suffer eternally. To God’s children, it will be **life**. To Satan’s, it will be **damnation**.

The Memory Verse states, **He that committeth sin is of the devil**. Why is this Scripture so difficult to understand? Sinners have the devil’s nature, belong to his kingdom. They partake of him and belong to him. How can they feel there is any escape other than living a holy life? The only answer is that they are deceived. Is there hope of escape? Praise God! There is an escape. Jesus came to **destroy the works of the devil**, to break his power over us.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Sin is the destroyer of hope;
Christ is the destroyer of sin.**