

Hamartiology

Theology 2

Moody Bible Institute

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Sin - Definition

- Sin is the lack of conformity to the moral law of God, either in act, disposition, or state (Augustus Strong)
- Sin is a transgression of or want of conformity to the divine law (Hodge)
- Sin is anything that robs God of His glory and man of his good (Wilmington)

Sin - Definition

- Sin may be defined ultimately as anything in the creature which does not express or which is contrary to the holy character of the creator (Buswell)
- Sin is a restless unwillingness on the part of the creature to abide in the sphere in which the infinite creator by ultimate wisdom placed him (Chafer)

Sin - Definition

- Cosmic Treason (Sproul)
- Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God (Westminster Catechism answer 14)
- Sin is the exaltation of one's own will over that of the Will of God, or it is an exaltation of self over God and others (Schafer)

Two Major Words

- *Hamartia*

- To Miss the Mark - used to describe an arrow which has missed its target
- Romans 3:23

- *Parabasis*

- To overstep a forbidden line or go too far
- James 2:11, 1 John 3:4

Sin - Its Origin in the Universe

- In the Heart of Satan
 - Ezekiel 28:11-14
 - Isaiah 14:12-15
- It was NOT the actions of Satan which resulted in sin entering the universe, but rather the thoughts of Satan
- SIN OCCURS IN THE HEART LONG BEFORE IT IS EXPRESSED IN ACTIONS

Sin - Its Origin in the World

- The Fall of Man
 - Genesis 3
 - Romans 5
- Prior to the fall of man, sin existed only in the spirit realm inhabited by Satan and his fallen angels
- After the fall of man Satan became the prince of this world and man his slave

The Nature of Sin

- It is not eternal - someday it will be erased
- It is not merely the absence of good
- It has no standards of its own but is only seen in relationship with good and evil
- It always tries to disguise itself as good

The Nature of Sin

- Not merely the frailty of the flesh
- Cannot exist without the concept of good
- It is the bitterest enemy of itself - if left to itself - sin is self-destructive
- It did not originate as a result of the creative power of God

Theodicy

- If God is good, and only creates good things, then how did evil have an origin?
- This is the problem of theodicy - the origin of evil

Answers to Theodicy

- Dualism - good and evil always existed side by side - in other words, the concept of evil predates creation and is as eternal as God
- Open Theology - God does not infallibly know the future but is learning as He goes along - therefore evil was not something He knew would happen - He just has to deal with it now that it did

Answers to Theodicy

- God Created Evil
 - Refuted by James 1:13-18
- God Allowed Evil
 - God allowed evil to enter the universe although He is not its author
 - The existence of choice allows for the possibility of a “wrong choice”
 - God uses evil to display His eternal character

Sin - Its Universality

- Historical - all men are proven sinners
- Conscience - the knowledge of the concepts of good and evil prove its existence
- Religions - all have concepts of evil and good
- Scripture - Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-18
- Sinners - know any “perfect people”?

Consequences of Sin

- Upon Satan
 - He lost his position in Heaven
 - He will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire
- Upon Angels
 - They were cast out of Heaven
 - They will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire
- Upon Nature
 - Decay, death, and destruction

Consequences of Sin

- Upon Man
 - Physical death
 - Spiritual death - Romans 3:10-18
- Upon God
 - His rest of creation was interrupted by His activity in the drama of Redemption
 - He paid the ultimate price, the life of His Son, in order to redeem man
 - His glory is fully revealed

Imputation of Sin

- Liberal - Adams' sin has no bearing on me
- Pelagian - Adam's sin affected only himself
- Armenian - Adam's sin weakened my will but does not prevent me from being righteous
- Augustinian - Adam's sin is imputed to his posterity - Biblical viewpoint

Kinds of Sin

- Sins of ignorance - we sin and don't know it
- Sins of infirmity - our human frailty causes us to sin
- Sins of carelessness - we are not paying attention

Kinds of Sin

- Sins of presumption - we sin daring God to do anything about it or we presume on His nature as a forgiving God
- The Unpardonable Sin
 - View 1 - we sin away our day of Grace
 - View 2 - dispensational - could only be committed by those in Matthew 12
- Sin Unto Death
 - Committed by a believer who sins to the point God takes him home as punishment

The Effect of Sin On Believers

- It makes us lose our joy
- It robs us of peace
- It clouds our ability to know God's will
- It causes us to lose fellowship with God
- It causes us to lose confidence in our salvation
- It can cause us to lose our health
- It makes us spiritually apathetic

The Cure for Sin

- Confession

- Means we say the same thing about our sin as God does
- 1 John 1:9

- Repentance

- Means to “turn around and go the other way”

- Forsaking

- Means we leave our sin and run away from it

Prevention

- How can we have victory of sin in our lives?
 - Scripture - memorize specific scripture passages dealing with the specific sin over which you desire victory
 - Avoidance - avoid temptable situations

Prevention

- Run and Hide - run away from any place, person, or thing that promotes this sin in your life
- Prayer - ask God every day to give you victory over this sin and keep you from temptation
- Watch - be alert for this sin sneaking up on you and taking you unawares

The Pathology of Sin

■ James 1:13-18

- Temptation does not come from God, either directly or indirectly - v. 13
- We are drawn to temptation through the various desires of our flesh - v. 14
 - *exelko* - to lure or drag away
 - *deleazo* - to bait a hook
- The desire of our flesh then causes our mind to think of ways to indulge the temptation - v. 15

The Pathology of Sin

- Sin is born when we begin to imagine ways to satisfy our desire - v. 15
- The end product of sin is death - v. 15
- Sin is deceptive - v. 16
- God gives only good gifts, so why would He go through all the trouble to provide salvation and forgiveness of sin only to turn around and attempt to get us to sin? - vv. 17-18

Final Victory over Sin

- The imputed guilt of Adam is removed at the moment of Salvation - Romans 5
- The original pollution - our fallen flesh - will be removed or transformed at our death or the Lord's Second Coming
- Our individual sins were removed by the blood of Christ at the moment of our salvation

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