

WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 1 -- Definition and Origin

This series of lessons is designed to make you aware of sin. In this lesson, you will learn the basics of what "sin" means and where it started in this lesson. In future lessons, you will learn what types of sins there are and some specific sins mentioned to be on your guard against. You will also have a lesson on whether or not you have committed sin and what to do if you are a sinner.

"SIN" DEFINED

Let's open our Bibles and start looking at the definition of "sin" that God has supplied for us. Turn to 1 John 3:4 and read the passage.

1. According to the passage, sin is _____.

Different translations use different words to fill in the blank above. Your translation probably said "lawlessness", "transgression", or "breaking the law". All of those, and any similar phrases, are acceptable translations. All of them mean that we sin, or are "in sin", when we are acting against the law. The law John is talking about is God's law. Whenever you or I violate a law that God made, then we have sinned.

One word for "sin" in the Greek means "to miss the mark". Originally this was a term used in archery. If you shot an arrow at the target and missed the center it was a "sin". God chose this word to describe those who break His laws. The illustration below is an attempt to demonstrate this principle.



Only those who keep God's law have "hit the mark" in the center. Everyone else has missed and committed sin even if it were only breaking one of His laws.

Now let's turn to James 4:17. Read the verse.

2. If you know the _____ you should do and don't do it, you have _____.

Here we learn that sin is not just things that we do. Sin includes not doing the things we know we should be doing. We will look more closely at sins that are committed when we don't do what we should in a later lesson.

3. Another word from the Greek translated "sin" means "to cross over the line". Try to illustrate this definition below. Use my illustration of "miss the mark" as an example.

GETTING A PICTURE OF SIN

The Bible often uses words that should form a picture in the reader's mind to describe difficult to understand concepts. We call this "picturesque speech" or speech that forms pictures. The horror of sin is a concept that the Bible uses picturesque speech to describe. Read Isaiah 1:6. Here Isaiah is describing how sinful his nation had become.

4. Isaiah describe his nation's sins as looking like "wounds and _____ and _____" that have not been cleansed or _____ or _____.

Read Psalm 38:1-8. Here King David is describing his own sinfulness.

5. He describes his sin as a burden that is _____ . (verse 4)

6. He also says his sins are like wounds that _____ and are _____ . (verse 5)

Read John 8:34. Here Jesus gives a description of sin.

7. Everyone who sins is a _____ to sin.

In the time of Jesus, a slave was a piece of property, not a human being. A slave could be bought, sold, killed, etc. at the decision of his master. A slave had absolutely NO rights. No one would willingly choose to be a slave. So if committing sin is like choosing to be a slave to sin, what must be the condition of the mind of the man who would choose to sin? Read 2 Samuel 24:10.

8. David says that by sinning, he had done a very _____ thing.

The word "foolish" is the same word that could be translated "insanity". No one should want to be a slave to sin. If one willingly sins, then it is an act similar to deciding to be insane. Read James 1:21.

9. Another description of sin is "moral _____" .

Elsewhere sin is pictured as a binding debt (Matthew 6:12-15, 18:23-35); a stain (Psalm 51:2, James 1:27, Isaiah 1:18); and an impenetrable darkness (John 3:19-20, 8:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14).

10. Considering all of the pictures of sin and sinful lives we have in the Bible, do you want to live in sin?

ORIGIN OF SIN IN MAN

Here I am talking about why man sins. Some people teach that we are born sinful. That we inherit the sin of Adam. Let's see what the word of God says. Read Ezekiel 18:1-20. Here is a description of a man, his son, and his grandson. The man keeps all of God's laws. His son breaks God's laws. His grandson keeps God's laws.

11. The soul that _____ is the soul that will _____.
12. The son will not share the _____ of the _____.(verse 20)
13. Considering verse 20, can sins be inherited? Why or why not?

Read James 1:13-15 and answer the following questions based on that passage.

14. Each person is tempted because of his own _____.
15. When we give in to temptation (that is, when we act to do what we are tempted to do), it produces _____.
16. Sin produces (or gives birth to) _____.
17. Read Matthew 18:1-6. Who are we to become like in order to be great in the kingdom of heaven?

If a child is born a sinner, then Jesus is telling us to become sinners to be great in the kingdom. Obviously, that is not what Jesus said. Jesus knew that all children were without sin. A child does not decide to give his life to sin. A child has to grow and learn good from evil. When the child learns enough to make a distinction and knowingly decides to do evil, then he has become a sinner, but all little children are pure. We must become pure like them in order to be great in the kingdom.

Now let's turn to the first sin any man committed. Read Genesis 3:1-24.

18. After the serpent spoke to Eve, Eve looked at the fruit and saw that it was _____ and _____.
19. Did Adam and Eve both know the command that God had given to them?
20. Did they willingly choose to disobey God?
21. Did God ever say that because Adam sinned all men would be born sinners?

Our next lesson will discuss the Kinds of Sins that the Bible talks about. Please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments or suggestions in the space below.

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PO Box 1123
Poteau, OK 74953

WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 2 -- Kinds of Sin: Sexual

This lesson and the next few lessons will be on specific kinds of sins. I will not attempt to discuss every possible sin in each category. I will not even claim to discuss all possible categories of sins. I will try to discuss enough sins so that you will know whether or not you have ever committed a sin. (Actually, I believe that most of us will conclude that we have committed several sins). This lesson will talk about sins that are sexual in nature.

ADULTERY

This sin is the sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife. When you are married, you have been joined to that person. You make vows before God to be faithful. That means you are not allowed to ever have a sexual relationship with another person while your spouse is alive. Read Romans 13:8-10.

1. Write out the command about adultery found in this passage.
2. Read Matthew 5:27-28. Can adultery be committed in the heart?

Adultery of the heart is when you look at another person and desire to commit adultery. You may only lack the opportunity to carry out the desire. Jesus says that the desire to commit adultery is just as sinful as the actual act of adultery.

FORNICATION (SEXUAL IMMORALITY)

This sin is having sexual relationships before you are married. Sometimes we just call fornication, "pre-marital sex". In today's society, many people say that there is nothing wrong with having many sexual partners without being married. Some people say that people should sleep together before marriage. But God condemns all such acts. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.

3. What does this passage say we should do when we see an opportunity to commit fornication (sexual immorality)?
4. Fornication is a sin against what ?
5. What is your body supposed to be?
6. What should we do with our bodies?

HOMOSEXUALITY and BESTIALITY

Even though the Bible does not use the term "homosexuality" or "bestiality", the sin is clearly defined and condemned. Read Leviticus 18:22-23 and Romans 1:26-28.

7. What sins are described in these two passages?
8. Does God condemn these sins?

Notice that God calls these acts "unnatural" or "perversions". God created man and woman. He did not intend for man to have sexual relations with man or animals. Nor did God intend for a woman to have sexual relations with a woman or an animal. There are no people who are "born a homosexual."

INCEST

Incest is defined as sexual relations between close relatives. Read Leviticus 18:4-18.

9. Does God want His laws to be obeyed?
10. List the relatives God says we are not to have sexual relations with.

LEWDNESS (LASCIVIOUSNESS)

This sin is committed when we act in a way that would encourage another to think about committing a sin with us or encourages us to commit a sin with another. For example, a young, pretty woman might dress and act in such a way as to cause men looking at her to want to have sexual relations with her. Those men have sinned because of their thoughts (see question #2, above), but the woman has committed the sin of lewdness by her dress and conduct. Read Mark 7:20-23.

11. List the other sins that lewdness (lasciviousness) is listed with by Jesus.

There is no difference in God's sight between a murderer and a lewd person. They are both sinners. We will be discussing some of the other sins Jesus mentions in this passage in later lessons

12. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10. How should a woman dress?

At the end of each of these lessons on specific kinds of sins, you should consider whether or not you have committed any of the sins listed. We will discuss the consequences of those sins in a later lesson.

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WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 3 -- Kinds of Sin: Spiritual

This lesson is about some of the sins in worship or attitude towards God. Later lessons will cover sins in attitudes we may have toward other humans, but we will dwell on our attitude towards God in this lesson. We will begin with what God has to say about worshipping Him. Read Isaiah 44:6-9. In English translations of the Old Testament, the name of God is translated "LORD", note the capitalization. In other translations this name of God is translated "Jehovah" or "Yahweh". The actual Hebrew would be YHWH or JHVH if translated directly into English since the Hebrew Bible has no vowels.

1. How many gods exist other than Jehovah?

Many false teachers argue that we will all be "gods" and/or that there are many "gods". Jehovah, our God, has said plainly that such teachers are wrong. But what is the sin committed by those who worship what they call "gods". It is "Idolatry".

IDOLATRY

Idolatry comes in several forms. It includes worshipping other "gods" and making carved (graven) images to worship. We'll first discuss graven images since Isaiah mentioned them in the passage you just read.

2. God says that those who make images to worship are all _____ (Isaiah 44:9)

3. God says that those who defend the use of carved images in worship are ignorant (or blind and without knowledge) to their own _____. (verse 9)

Later in this chapter of Isaiah, God points out the true foolishness of bowing down before something that has been made by man's hand. He says a man takes a log and carves out of it into an idol and with the rest of the wood he cooks his dinner. Yet he expects the same piece of wood to be able to save him. He concludes with Isaiah 44:19-20. Read Deuteronomy 5:8-10.

4. God says, you shall not make for yourself a _____ in the form of anything in _____ or on _____.

5. God also says, do not _____ to them or _____ them.

God does not want anyone to try to carve a symbol to represent Himself. No image should ever be bowed down to since that is idolatry and a sin against God. It does not matter if you are bowing down before an image of Jesus (who is now in heaven) or of a dead man or woman. God says that it is sinful. Also part of idolatry is the worship of false gods. Any "god" other than the one true God is non-existent. Read Deuteronomy 5:7.

6. You shall have _____ before me.

7. Read Deuteronomy 6:13. Who are we to serve?

8. Read Romans 1:22-23. By carving an image to represent God or His Son, we are exchanging the _____ of the _____ God for _____ of _____ man.

BLASPHEMY

"Blaspheme" means "speak against". Anything we say or do that speaks against what God has said is blasphemy. For example, God has said that He inspired the writing of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If we say, that we believe the Scriptures are just the work of man without divine inspiration, then we have spoken against God and blasphemed. We can also blaspheme God by the way in which we speak about Him. Read Deuteronomy 5:11.

9. You shall not _____.

When we speak about God, we should keep in mind His absolute holiness and purity. Many people casually throw the name of God into their conversations. They use expressions like "Oh, my God" or worse without ever considering that they are actually addressing the Creator of the universe. Such a use of God's name is blasphemy. The same thing applies to all the names that are given to God: Jehovah, Yahweh, Father in heaven, Lord, Jesus, Christ, Holy Spirit, etc. I include the last few to remind you that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also one with God the Father. (If you do not understand the nature of God as three persons, just tell me and I'll include a lesson for you on the nature of God)

WITCHCRAFT, SORCERY, SPIRITISM

All of these practices, and those like them, are referred to as the occult or arcane arts. All of them are strictly forbidden by God. Read Deuteronomy 18:10-13. If you have more than one translation of the Bible, try reading the list in each translation. God forbids casting spells (witchcraft or sorcery), trying to tell the future (omens, divination) and trying to speak with spirits or the dead (spiritists, necromancy, mediums).

10. All who practice such things are _____ to God. (verse 12)

Today many of these practices try to go by different names or try to pretend that they are harmless fun. Astrology is an attempt to tell the future based on the time of birth. Astrological charts are found in most newspapers. Palm readers try to tell the future based on the lines on your hand. All of this is condemned by God. In many countries, like the U.S., witchcraft is making a comeback. They call themselves "good witches" or druids or warlocks or wizards, but God has condemned them all. Today also there are many books about contacting spirits (sometimes called spiritism, channeling or "crystal power") and speaking with the dead by means of seance. The practice of all such things is sin.

UNBELIEF

There are people today who refuse to acknowledge or believe in God or His word. They are called atheists or agnostics. Read Hebrews 3:12.

11. The writer encourages his readers to not turn away from the living God because of a _____ heart.

12. Read Romans 1:18-21. God has made himself known to all men and His power can be seen in _____ so men (who do not believe in God) are without _____. (verse 20)

APOSTASY or DISOBEDIENCE

For those who do believe in God and His word, there is still the possibility that they will commit sin in their relationship to God. Some people who believe in God will not obey Him or they may obey for a little while and then they will stop obeying. This sin is called disobedience or sometimes "apostasy". Read Ephesians 5:5-7.

13. Notice first that a greedy (covetous) man is the same as an _____. (verse 5) This is because greedy people have made a "god" out of their wealth.

14. God's wrath (anger) will come upon those who are _____. (verse 6)

Read James 1:22-25.

15. If we only listen to the word of God and do not obey, we are only _____ ourselves (verse 22)

16. If we listen but do not obey, then we are like a man who sees himself in a mirror and then turns away from the mirror and _____. (verse 24)

17. If we want to be blessed by God in our lives, then what we must not _____ what we hear, but we must continue _____.

Again, I'll remind you that we should be applying these lessons to ourselves. God does not want us to be doing any of the things we have examined as being sinful. Remember that God is holy and pure (without sin) so our sins separate us from God. (Isaiah 59:1-2). As I mentioned before we will discuss the consequences of sin in more detail after we finish discussing some more specific kinds of sins.

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Poteau, OK 74953

WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 4 -- Kinds of Sin: Social

This lesson is about some of the sins that are sins against others or against society as a whole. There is no way to make this list include every possible sin in this category, but enough examples are given to allow you to see the kind of actions that are being referred to. You may notice in several of these lessons that there is some overlapping material; that is, some sins can fit into more than one category. The reason for this overlap is that God did not list the sins in categories. The categories are those I have chosen to try to make sins easier for you to understand.

CRIMES

By "crimes" I am referring to any action which we may do which is in violation of a government law. I am not trying to make a distinction between criminal laws (for which imprisonment may be the punishment) and civil laws (for which the punishment may be a fine or something less). Read Romans 13:1-7.

1. All authorities (governments) are ordained (established) by _____.
2. Anyone who rebels against that authority is rebelling against an authority instituted by _____.
3. Rulers are not a terror to those who do _____.
4. Rulers are a terror for those who do _____.
5. The ruler is God's _____ to do you _____.
6. If you do wrong, the ruler is God's agent to bring _____ on the wrongdoer.
7. Therefore, we should obey the laws of the rulers, not just for fear of _____, but also for the sake of our _____.
8. This is also why we must pay _____. (verse 6)

So, Paul, the writer, tells us that if we disobey the laws of the rulers, then we may be rightfully punished. He also tells us that when we disobey our conscience should be hurt (that is, we should feel guilty even if we are not caught). We feel guilty because we have sinned.

MURDER, ASSAULT, RAPE, and OTHER VIOLENCE

Whether or not there is a law that prohibits this kind of conduct, unprovoked violence in all of its forms is displeasing to God. I say "unprovoked" because God does not condemn self-defense by man or country as sin.

9. Read Genesis 9:5-6. If a man sheds the blood of another man (murder), then by _____ will that man's blood be shed.

In this passage, God has prohibited violent killing, but has also given the people the right to put to death the murderer without committing an additional sin. From the above reading in Romans, we know

that the government bears the sword of God to punish the evildoers. Therefore, the government has the right to put murderers to death without violating God's command.

10. Read Deuteronomy 22:25-27. The man who rapes a girl is to die. In God's sight rape is like what other sin? (verse 26)

11. Read Leviticus 24:17-21. What is the law God gave for punishing the one who injures his neighbor?

This law in Leviticus is given to the government of Israel. It is not a right for one man to punish the man who hurt him. An injured Israelite was required to bring his attacker before the judges. The judges would determine guilt and administer punishment. So God allows governments to punish violent men. Violence is a sin.

LYING and STEALING

12. Read Deuteronomy 5:19-20. You shall not _____ . (verse 19)

13. You shall not bear _____ against your neighbor.

Bearing false witness means claiming your neighbor did or said something which he did not say or do. We call it lying. Read Matthew 5:37.

14. Jesus says to let your _____ be _____ and your _____ be _____.

Jesus taught that if you say "Yes" then you must mean it. Everything you say should be true. Read Ephesians 4:25.

15. We must speak _____.

16. Read Ephesians 4:28. Those who have been stealing (before they came to Christ) must stop _____, but should work with their _____.

CHEATING and SLANDER

17. Read 1 Peter 2:1. We must put off all malice, _____, hypocrisy, envy, and _____ of every kind.

Deceit means forms of deception. Getting people to believe something that is not true. We call this cheating. People may cheat on a test (getting the teacher to believe that they really know the answers when they do not), or cheat people out of their money (getting the customer to believe the product is better than it really is), or cheat on paperwork they fill out (getting the reader to believe that they have filled it out accurately when they have not), or in many similar ways. Cheating or deceiving is really similar to lying or stealing. So if you think you can do something because it is not exactly lying or stealing, then you are probably sinning because some deceit or cheating is involved.

Slander is saying unkind things about another person. He says "every kind" of slander so it does not make any difference if you say it in front of the person or if you are saying it to a third person while the person being discussed is not present. All forms of saying unkind things about other people are sinful.

DRUNKENNESS and ORGIES

Drunkenness means getting drunk or drinking alcohol to an extent that impairs your abilities to think, reason or act. Orgies (called "revellings" in KJV) refers to participating in parties or gatherings in which there is an overindulgence in alcohol or other intoxicating substances. Read Galatians 5:19-21.

18. Can you find both drunkenness and orgies (or "revellings") in this list of sins?

19. Those who practice such sins can not inherit the _____ of _____.

OBSCENITY, FOOLISH TALK, and COARSE JOKING

These sins are very common in most societies because there are usually not laws to prevent them. Of course, God is very concerned with what we say. "Obscenity" is making rude or degrading remarks or gestures about the gender or anatomy of another. "Foolish talk" is speaking of sinful activity as if it were acceptable to you. Some people joke about committing or planning to commit sins. Even if they do not mean to actually commit the sin, such talk is "foolish" and is therefore sinful. "Coarse joking" is what may be called today making a "dirty joke". Most such joking involves obscenity, but even if it manages to avoid that sin, it is still a coarse joke. A coarse joke might be regarded as a joke that would be offensive to someone. This sin would include jokes about races or nationalities or physical handicaps, etc. Read Ephesians 5:1-4.

20. What sins are mentioned in verse 4?

21. Instead of the sins mentioned in verse 4, what should come out of the mouths of people?

Remember that this lesson only covered some of the social sins, but I think you may be beginning to see the way God wants you to live. Please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments or suggestions in the space below.

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PO Box 1123
Poteau, OK 74953

WHAT IS SIN?**Lesson 5 -- Kinds of Sin: Attitudinal**

This lesson is about the sins we can commit by our attitude. These sins are more difficult for others to see in us. The entire sin can take place without you ever doing any action. Remember in Lesson 2 we talked about the possibility of committing adultery in your heart. We will look again at that sin and other sins of the heart in this lesson. As with the previous lessons, this lesson only gives you some of the sins that occur in this category, but it should teach you to watch more closely your thoughts and feelings.

LUST

Lust is an unlawful desire for something. Often the word is used in the Bible when referring to the desire of one person to have sexual relations with another person who the first person is not married to. Read Matthew 5: 27-28. In this passage Jesus is the speaker.

1. Whoever looks at a woman _____ has committed _____ with her in his _____.

Jesus understood that the attitude of the person is as important to God as the actions of the person. If a man never actually had sexual relations with a woman other than his wife, but he looked at other women and desired to have sexual relations with them, then he is a sinner in God's eyes. Read Hebrews 4:12-13.

2. The word of God will discern (judge) the _____ and _____ of the heart.

COVETOUSNESS (GREED)

This sin is closely related to lust. It is also an unlawful desire, but the focus of this desire is for an object rather than a person. When this desire is for money or wealth, we generally call the sin "greed". Read Exodus 20:17.

3. What are people of God commanded not to covet?

ENVY or JEALOUSY

Another sin closely related to the first two is envy or jealousy. These words describe when you desire another person's success. Sometimes you begin to dislike the person because he or she has become more successful (see hatred, below). Read Galatians 5:26.

4. We are not to _____ or _____ each other.

HATRED

This sin can be described as an extreme dislike of or active ill-will towards another person. Hatred is an absence of love. Read 1 John 4: 19-21.

5. If you say that you love God, but you hate your brother, you are a _____.

The hatred does not have to lead to any bad actions before it becomes a sin. At the moment you hate someone in your thoughts, then you have committed sin. Any future actions which are based on that hatred will also be sinful, but the sin began in your heart.

ANGER (WRATH)

This sin is often associated with hatred. Anger is a strong reaction to an injury (whether the injury is real or only imagined). Anger is not always sinful. The Bible does talk about a righteous anger and about the anger (wrath) of God. Godly anger is always the reaction of righteous people toward ungodly acts. In other words, if you are upset because someone is acting in a way that would displease God, then you are probably not sinning. But if you become angry because someone has done something against you, then you are probably sinning. Whatever the source or cause of your anger (godly anger or sinful anger), you must correct the problem quickly. If you keep being angry (bear a grudge), then you are sinning even if it was a godly anger to begin with. Read Ephesians 4: 26.

6. Paul says that we must cease being angry before the sun _____. Otherwise we will be committing sin.

PRIDE

This is probably one of the most widely spread sins because it is so easily introduced into our lives. Pride is placing too great a value on one's own worth. It can be associated with arrogance (looking down on others). Pride is the first sin that Satan committed (1 Timothy 3:6) and caused him to be cast out of heaven. Some other words that refer to sinful pride are selfish ambition, strife, vainglory, and conceit. Read Philippians 2:3.

7. Paul teaches that the way to cure pride is for each man to consider (esteem) _____ better than _____.

SUMMARY

The way God wants us to live and think can be summed up by reading Luke 10: 25-37.

8. What two commands does Jesus say you should keep in order to please God (live or be saved)? (verses 25-28)

9. Who is your neighbor?

Remember that this lesson only covered some of the sins that can occur in your heart, but I think you may be beginning to see the way God wants you to think. Remember that God will judge you by His word and His word can judge your thoughts and intentions. Please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments or suggestions in the space below or include a note.

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WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 6 -- Kinds of Sin: Omission & Doubt

This lesson is about sins that you can commit without doing anything. We often think of sins as involving some action or at least a certain attitude, but this kind of sin is not associated with action. I think the easiest way for you to see this kind of sin is to look at a few passages. Read James 4:17.

1. Anyone who knows to do _____ and does not do it commits _____.

This means that all of us are under a duty to do good. We need to learn about the good things we can do and then we need to do them. Every time you think that you really should do a good deed, but decide not to do it, then you have sinned. James does not make any exceptions. We may say that we were too tired or too busy to help a needy person, but if that was a good deed that we could have done, then to not do it was a sin.

Remember that in the last lesson I had you read Luke 10:25-37. The two greatest commands are to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. These are commands. In fact, they are commands that will lead us to do good. Let's think about how much we love ourselves, then we will know how much we should love our neighbors.

Even when you are dirty, you still love yourself. Even when you do things you should not have done, you still love yourself. How do I know that you still love yourself? Because you still feed yourself, wash yourself, and try to keep yourself out of danger. Now do you still love the people you meet who are dirty or who do or say unkind things? You should still love them. You will not always love what they do, but you need to still treat them with the same dignity that you would give to your own body. Read Matthew 7:12.

2. What command sums up the Law and the Prophets?

Of course, there are other sins that we can commit by simply not doing anything. Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

3. What are we not to forsake (give up doing)?

God places a lot of emphasis on our need to assemble or meet together. His reason is that we can not encourage each other to do good deeds if we do not see each other often. When we meet together we can share our problems and encourage each other to keep trying to serve God. Those who forsake or give up meeting together will stop doing other good things as well. If you are wondering if the church you are meeting with is acceptable to God, then I would encourage you to study the series of courses on "The Church that Jesus Built". It is important that you meet with a church that belongs to the Lord, otherwise you may not get the encouragement and teaching that you need in order to serve God.

This thought brings us to the sins of doubt. What should you do when you are not sure what is right. Read Romans 14:23.

4. Everything that is not from _____, then it is _____.

If you think that something might be sinful, then you should not do it. You should have faith that what you are doing is right. You can not simply do nothing. Instead you must try to study and learn from the Bible what is good and what is evil. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

5. Prove (test) _____.

6. Hold on to _____.

7. Abstain (avoid) every _____ of evil.

We are under a duty to test (prove) everything we learn. We need to be sure what God wants us to do and then we must do it. We can not delay and hope that others will force us to do what is right. We must do what is good, otherwise we again commit sin

Now we are at the point where each of us should ask ourselves whether we have committed sin. Is there any sin in your life? That question is just for you to answer. Read 1 John 1:8-10.

8. If we say that we have not sinned then we deceive _____, the truth is not in _____, and we make Jesus out to be a _____ and His _____ has no place in our lives.

So we know that we have all committed sin and we need to confess those sins to Jesus. If you want to know what else you need to do to be forgiven of your sins then please study my lessons on "What must I do to be Saved?" Read Romans 3:23.

9. For all have _____ and fallen short of the _____ of God.

10. Can any adult human being (other than Jesus) claim to have never sinned?

Our next lesson will be on the consequences of sin. Since we know that we have all sinned, we need to know what punishment God has in store for sinners. Then we will see if there is any way to avoid that punishment. Please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments or suggestions in the space below or include a note.

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WHAT IS SIN?

Lesson 7 -- The Consequences of Sin

This final lesson is about what happens to you as a result of sin. We learned in our previous lessons that everyone (referring to adults) has sinned. We have all broken the laws that God had set for mankind. We have looked at lots of specific sins that we might have committed. I hope you were able to notice some sins you have committed. I do not mean that I am glad that you have sinned. I am glad if you can acknowledge the fact that you have sinned. If you decide to study "What Must I Do to be Saved?", you will see that one thing you must do is repent of your sins. Repent means to be sorry that you have committed the sins and to change your life so that you will avoid those sins. We can not repent unless we first know that we have sins to repent of. Read Isaiah 59:1-2.

1. Your _____ have separated you from God.
2. Your _____ have hidden His face from you.

Verse two has two statements with the same meaning. "Iniquity" means the same as "sin" and "separated" is the same as "hidden His face". The meaning of these phrases is that because God is holy, pure and righteous, He can not be with those who commit sins. He is sinless. We have broken His laws. So He can not dwell with the sinners, but He still loves them. Read Romans 6:23.

3. The wages of sin is _____.
4. The gift of God is _____.

Sinning is here compared to working at a job. It pays you wages, but the wages all lead to death. Death is separation. Because of sin you are separated from God. If you continue in sin all your life, then you will remain separated from God forever. Read Revelation 21:8.

5. Describe the place that sinners (like those mentioned in this verse) will spend eternity?

6. Do you want to spend eternity in the place described in this verse?

The description, of course, is of hell. It is a place of torment. God prepared the place for the devil and for those angels which followed the devil in rebelling against God. But God will also place in hell those humans who rebel against His laws. However, if God put everyone who had ever sinned in hell, then there would be no one in heaven. So God had a plan ready for bringing man back into a sinless state after man had sinned. We often hear this plan called "The Plan of Salvation". If you want to learn the plan of salvation, I'd encourage you to study "What Must I do to be Saved?"

By this plan, we can have the gift of God. That gift is eternal life. Notice that in Romans 6:23, Paul said that eternal life is a **gift**. You can not earn eternal life just like you can not earn a gift. But someone who will give you a gift may require you to do something. For example, someone may say "If you will meet me at the bus stop at exactly 9 am next Wednesday, I will give you a present." No one would say that by going to the bus stop at the time indicated you had earned the gift. You did not earn the

gift, you only fulfilled the requirements for receiving the gift. The gift is still a gift. So it is the same with God's gift of eternal life. The only way to earn it would be to never sin, but we have all sinned. Read Romans 3:23.

7. For all have _____ and fallen short of the _____ of God.

Since we can not earn eternal life, our only hope for receiving eternal life is that God will present it to us as a gift. That is exactly what God has done. He sent His Son to die on our behalf. Read John 3:16.

8. What did God do because He loved the people in the world?

You will see if you study "What Must I do to be Saved?" that belief in Jesus is only the first step in receiving the gift, but it is the vital step. If you believe in Jesus, then you should be willing to do the other things that Jesus commanded for you to do in order to receive the gift of eternal life. But if you do not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and that He died to save you from sin, then there is no way for you to be saved. Read Mark 16:15-16.

9. Whoever _____ and is _____ will be saved.

10. Whoever does not _____ will be _____.

So if you have sinned, then you have broken God's laws. Since all have sinned, you must have committed sin. Do you acknowledge that you have sinned? The punishment you deserve is death. That is what each of us have *earned* by committing sin, but God is willing to give us a *gift* of eternal life. Do you want to accept God's gift, or do you want God to pay you what you have earned by committing sin? Read Revelation 20:11-15. This is a vision of what the final judgment day will be like.

11. Everyone (dead and alive) will be judged according to what _____.
(verses 12-13)

12. But if their name was written in the _____ of _____, then they were not punished.

If you want your name in the book of life, then find out what you must do to be saved (There is a series of lessons on that topic offered below).

I hope you have found this lesson, and especially this series, profitable. I am glad to have had this opportunity to share with you a little knowledge about sin and its consequences. Remember that all scripture is God-breathed (inspired) and should be studied. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Timothy 2:15). I hope you will continue to study. If you would like to study another series of lessons with me, please indicate a topic listed below or write down a topic of your own choosing on the blank line.

___ The Origins of the Bible

___ What Must I do to be Saved?

___ The Church that Jesus Built

Please feel free to add any comments or questions below or include a note:

Mail to: Correspondence Courses
PO Box 1123
Poteau, OK 74953