

April 3, 2016

## Born in Sin Titus 2:11-14

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When God made man, did He \_\_\_\_\_ him good or evil? Some say people are born entirely in sin, but we want to \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord. The Lord's way is the way to abundant life on earth and eternal life in \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing is more important! Riches lose their luster, and health and youth fade, but God's \_\_\_\_\_ grow sweeter and better day after day.

Years ago, I heard a preacher teach that every person from birth has a \_\_\_\_\_ that is totally corrupt, perverse, and sinful. Because of this inborn corruption, he said the natural man is totally \_\_\_\_\_ to do anything spiritually good. The sinner is so spiritually bankrupt that he can do \_\_\_\_\_ pertaining to his salvation. He cannot believe on his own or \_\_\_\_\_ of his sin. This natural man is enslaved to \_\_\_\_\_ he said; he's a child of Satan, rebellious toward God, blind to truth, corrupt, and unable to save himself or prepare himself for salvation.

He said that when Adam chose evil in the garden, he plunged himself and the \_\_\_\_\_ human race into such spiritual ruin that mankind cannot choose spiritual good over evil. He no longer has \_\_\_\_\_ will. He said men inherited this \_\_\_\_\_ depravity. The only answer to these problems is a miraculous \_\_\_\_\_ from God; and once man is saved, he can \_\_\_\_\_ be lost. This doctrine also suggested that God arbitrarily chose from heaven who would be saved and who would be lost; that man has no \_\_\_\_\_ in the matter.

Over the next few weeks we will examine the Scriptures to see whether this doctrine is true or false. We want to know what God's Word says because God's Word is utterly reliable.

### **Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to Titus 2:11-14.**

We're asking today what the Bible says about the \_\_\_\_\_ condition of the soul when a baby is born. **Read Romans 7:7-11.** Romans 7 teaches that people \_\_\_\_\_ from the commandments what is right and wrong. When we allow evil desires to cause us to break the commandment, we \_\_\_\_\_ against God and spiritually \_\_\_\_\_. **Read James 1:13-15 that describes more specifically when spiritual death takes place.** Sin is an \_\_\_\_\_, not an inheritable trait. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ the act of stealing, or the act of gossip, or fornication. People choose to act. Sin is accomplished after a \_\_\_\_\_, not inherited.

God's Word everywhere holds each person responsible for his or her \_\_\_\_\_ sins. **Read the entire chapter of Ezekiel 18 for yourself.** God clearly doesn't hold children \_\_\_\_\_ for the sins of their parents or parents guilty for the sins of their children.

Some people think that children inherit the guilt of their \_\_\_\_\_. Some say we, as children of Adam and Eve, have inherited their wicked \_\_\_\_\_ and are guilty of their sin. Some say an infant who dies is lost eternally; others say they go to limbo. You cannot find the

concept of limbo in Scripture; that's made up; it's of human origin. Little children who die aren't lost; they haven't inherited Adam's guilt. Why? Ezekiel 18:20 says, "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself." Babies don't know right from wrong and they \_\_\_\_\_ sin. One can only be lost for his \_\_\_\_\_ sins.

Romans 14:12 says, "So then \_\_\_\_\_ of us will give an account of himself to God." You may be kin to the most godly person in the world, but that will not \_\_\_\_\_ you on Judgment Day. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ someone else's righteousness. Your father may be a preacher or an elder, and your mother may be a saint, but you cannot inherit salvation from your \_\_\_\_\_. You must choose to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord yourself. You may be \_\_\_\_\_ to the most sinful person in the world, but God will not hold you responsible for what he or she has done. God will hold you responsible for your \_\_\_\_\_ actions. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has \_\_\_\_\_ in the body, whether good or evil."

We all tend to \_\_\_\_\_ to blame others for our sins or to look down on others for their wickedness. I received a touching card from a viewer who said, "As much as I would be astonished at the sins of others, with an \_\_\_\_\_ appraisal I am much more astonished and offended at my own." If I'm lost on judgment day, I'll have \_\_\_\_\_ to blame for my sinful life but me. I may have \_\_\_\_\_ to sin from other people, but it was my \_\_\_\_\_ to do it myself.

Spiritual death means a person is \_\_\_\_\_ from the grace of God. **Read what Isaiah 59:1-2 says.** When people allow sin and iniquity in their lives, that's when they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves from God. Sin means God turns His back on us and will not hear our \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin \_\_\_\_\_ animosity between God and man. Sin takes place when man selfishly says to God, I won't live by Your \_\_\_\_\_; I will do what I want to do. Sin utterly \_\_\_\_\_ God and alienates us from God. James 4:4 says "whoever wishes to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world makes himself an \_\_\_\_\_ of God." When you choose to embrace a sinful world and \_\_\_\_\_ God, you make an enemy of God. You didn't start out an enemy, but you \_\_\_\_\_ one through your sin.

Paul preached to some pagan philosophers in Athens who didn't \_\_\_\_\_ God at all. In spite of this, he said to them in Acts 17:29 that we are \_\_\_\_\_ "offspring of God." Hebrews 12:9 reveals that God is "the Father of \_\_\_\_\_." Whether you know God or not, the spirit that is inside you \_\_\_\_\_ from God. You are His offspring, created in His \_\_\_\_\_. God didn't \_\_\_\_\_ you evil. You chose to do evil. Psalm 58:3 says, "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies." These are not newborn babies; these are people that have gotten a little older and they go astray; they're not \_\_\_\_\_ astray.

The Scriptures do not describe us as totally depraved; rather they describe us as \_\_\_\_\_. Saying humans have a weakness to sin is not the same thing as saying they're totally \_\_\_\_\_ to do any good. The Lord Jesus told the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is \_\_\_\_\_, but the flesh is \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 26:41). We want to do good, but we often find ourselves doing wrong.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." This is not the tree of the knowledge of evil and evil; it's the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve received \_\_\_\_\_ of good as well as evil. They were not totally \_\_\_\_\_ in knowledge. Though they sinned, they had a knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord God said, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's \_\_\_\_\_ is evil from his youth (not from the birth, but from youth)" (Genesis 8:21). All of us have these same selfish, evil desires inside of us. Yes, they \_\_\_\_\_ us to sin against God. We have to \_\_\_\_\_ them all of our days, but that doesn't mean that we cannot also do good.

In the parable of the sower, there are different \_\_\_\_\_ of soils or hearts. The Bible says, "But the seed on the good soil stand for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the \_\_\_\_\_, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop" ( Luke 8:15). This good and honest heart belongs to a person who's not yet a Christian, not yet \_\_\_\_\_. Remember Cornelius, the first Gentile convert. The Bible says that Cornelius, though not saved was nevertheless "devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly" (Acts 10:2).

The apostle Paul spoke of this spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ going on inside of him, that goes on inside of all of us. **Read what he said in Romans 7:21-23.** We all, everyone of us, face this battle of \_\_\_\_\_ to do right and often finding ourselves doing the evil things that we \_\_\_\_\_. But this doesn't mean that we are totally \_\_\_\_\_ and incapable of believing.

Let me ask some questions for those who believe we are totally depraved and incapable of good. Hebrews 11:6 says, "without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please God." Why would God demand faith from all men when He knows that men are \_\_\_\_\_ of believing what is written in His Word? The Lord Jesus said, "unless you \_\_\_\_\_, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). Why would Jesus Christ condemn people for failure to repent if they're incapable of repenting or doing any good thing toward their \_\_\_\_\_?

**Read Luke 18:15-17.** How can this be if infants are \_\_\_\_\_ wholly corrupt and unable to do good? Why would the Lord speak so glowingly of babies if they were so bound up in \_\_\_\_\_?

At this point, someone is probably asking, "Phil, don't you know about Psalm 51:5?" Here the NIV reads "Surely I have been a \_\_\_\_\_ from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Doesn't this \_\_\_\_\_ that we are born in sin? The NIV translates poorly here. Literally, David's words would be translated: "Behold in iniquity I was born and in sin my mother conceived me." David is saying he was born in an evil and sinful \_\_\_\_\_. Let's remember that sin is an \_\_\_\_\_; it's a transgression of God's law. Sin is not an inherited trait; it's \_\_\_\_\_ and acted out.

I am speaking English because I was \_\_\_\_\_ in an environment that speaks the English language and I learned it. In Acts 2, the apostles spoke with the miraculous gift of tongues to people from \_\_\_\_\_ nations. When they heard the apostles, they marveled and said, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were \_\_\_\_\_?” (Acts 2:7-8). People are born in a language. One learns a language by being born into an environment that \_\_\_\_\_ it. In the same way, one \_\_\_\_\_ sin by being born into a world that practices it.

To make this passage say that David was born depraved and sinful as a baby would make it contradict what David said in Psalm 22:9-10. “Yet You (God) are He who brought me forth from the womb; You (God) made me \_\_\_\_\_ when upon my mother’s breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother’s womb.” From the time he was little, David \_\_\_\_\_ both good and bad, both trust in God and later on, sin.

God didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ us totally evil and incapable of believing or incapable of repenting. We’re all weak, but we can \_\_\_\_\_. Thank God for that!

Second Corinthians 5:19-20 says, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not \_\_\_\_\_ their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Why do Christians \_\_\_\_\_ others to be reconciled to God? The word “reconcile” means “to bring back into \_\_\_\_\_.” A reconciled husband and wife were once in harmony, then they separated, and later \_\_\_\_\_ to harmony. If an infant is born utterly in sin, he cannot be reconciled because he was \_\_\_\_\_ in harmony with the Lord in the first place. God’s answer to man’s sin came in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ the cross of Christ, telling people what God did for them so that they might believe, repent, and obey. We’re not totally depraved. Infants are born spiritually \_\_\_\_\_; they separated from God when they \_\_\_\_\_ and now need to be reconciled to God by responding to the \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord God gave up His Son Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins, and offered the gift of salvation to those who \_\_\_\_\_ in faith, love, and obedience. Even in our sins we can respond to the gospel. Because of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, we can change.

Believe Jesus is the Christ! Turn your heart from sin to the Lord. Confess Jesus the Christ as the Son of God. And be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins. “Be saved from this \_\_\_\_\_ generation.” God made you \_\_\_\_\_ of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. You don’t have to \_\_\_\_\_ in sin. In Acts 2:41, those who gladly received the \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized. All through the book of Acts, lost people \_\_\_\_\_ to preaching; they believed it and they \_\_\_\_\_. And my friend, you can, too!