

What Happened to Sin? John 3:7-10

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

Some people don't want to _____ a certain word any longer. What is that word? Sin! We'll talk about what happened. We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will because the Word of God has the _____ to the problem of sin. You won't find that answer anywhere else! Trust the Word of God and _____ it every day. It will bless you.

According to an Ellison Research Study, thirteen percent of Americans say that there is no such thing as sin. Even many _____ won't discuss the topic of "sin." One clergyman says evangelists must never _____ that someone is a sinner. He believes it's a _____ thing and keeps people from following Jesus. He said Jesus never called anyone a sinner.

There's no doubt that Jesus demonstrated amazing _____ with sinful people and He loved everyone, but to suggest that He never spoke of sin ignores Scripture. Luke 5:30-32 says, "The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?' And Jesus answered and said to them, 'It's not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I've not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.'"

The Lord Jesus came to earth to _____ sinners (1Timothy 1:15). The fact that Jesus loved and received sinners doesn't mean that He condoned sin. Jesus knew sin is an _____ that separates people from God and His blessing. Sin poses a genuine _____ to our lives and to our souls. Rather than ignore or deny sin, Jesus lovingly _____ on the cross so people could leave their sins and lead a new and better life. If sin weren't _____, Jesus wouldn't have sacrificed Himself to free people from it.

Our reading today comes from the First Letter of John 3:7-10.

From the beginning, people have downplayed sin. They _____ others for their sins. You remember Adam and Eve sinned against God by _____ the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Read Genesis 3:8-13.** People tend to rationalize away their sins. They want to make sin _____ and okay. You've probably heard people give excuses to justify themselves. Maybe you've done that. People say, "Everyone does it"; but appealing to a large number of people doesn't determine right and wrong. It is the Word of God that determines right and wrong.

During the days of Noah, "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only _____ continually. The Lord was _____ that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart" (Genesis 6:5-6). Noah, however, found _____ in the eyes of the Lord; and everyone on earth except Noah and his family perished in that flood. God will _____ everyone who remains in sin, even if that includes the whole world. Sin is still sin. Sin _____ our righteous and holy God.

Read Romans chapter 2:6-11.

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I've heard people say, "Well, God _____ me this way." They're suggesting that God made them where they cannot _____ but sin. Sin, however, isn't a characteristic; sin is a _____. James 1:13-15 explains: "Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own _____. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth _____."

Someone says about a sin they're committing, "Well, I can't see any _____ in it." But right and wrong are not determined by what we _____ is or is not harmful. God sees things that we cannot see and He knows things that we don't know. We must _____ in His judgment and realize that He makes the moral rules. Sin may warp our thinking; we may be _____ by what we want to do. God says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

We might easily be swayed by what is _____, but those people won't judge us on the last day. Some claim, "well millions of people can't be wrong!"; but millions of people can be wrong. Their _____ can mislead them. First John 2:15-17 warns, "Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the _____ is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the _____ and the desires of the _____ and the _____ in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides _____."

Some say, "Well, we're not supposed to _____ anybody." It's impossible not to make judgments; we all make judgments. The Lord Jesus said, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Jesus realized that people make _____ judgments based on human standards; and the Lord opposes that kind of judging. But this doesn't mean people must never make any moral judgment. That would be terribly foolish. If we cannot make moral judgments, we'd have complete chaos and ruin. Everything would be permissible.

Hebrews 5:12-14 speaks of those who haven't _____ spiritually as they should. The Bible says, "For though by this time you ought to be _____, you have need again for someone to _____ you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you've come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the _____, who because of practice have their senses trained to _____ good and evil."

Spiritual maturity includes using God's Word, the Bible, to distinguish what is right from wrong. Many people think being an "_____" means one can read literature or view movies filled with sexually explicit behavior or foul-mouthed words. They don't realize that such things have little self-control and can _____ them to sin. Watching "adult" movies shows a person is immature and hasn't grown spiritually enough to discern _____ from _____. Proverbs 22:3 says, "The prudent sees the evil and he _____ himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it." True adults don't run to evil; they _____ it.

Others excuse their sins by saying, "Well, God wants me to be _____ and to feel good." This is a very popular saying, and especially of people who _____ on their spouses and want to find somebody new. They reason that their old spouse doesn't make them happy anymore, and since God wants them to be happy, they feel justified in divorcing the old and finding somebody new that is more to their _____. But the Lord Jesus said, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits _____ against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery" (Mark 10:11-12). God wants us to _____ in righteousness, not sin.

People may find _____ in sin, but it won't last. Pleasure and happiness are not the same as _____ that comes from God. Joy is the product of righteousness. First Corinthians 1:36 says love "does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the _____." God wants us to live righteously with joy, not be happy with sin.

We must understand that sin leads to spiritual _____. The Bible says, "Behold, all souls are Mine (God is speaking here); the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. And the soul who sins will _____" (Ezekiel 18:4). Again, Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is _____, but the free gift of God is eternal _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord." Regardless of what the world thinks, God will hold people responsible for their sins.

First Corinthians 6:9-10 says, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the _____ of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God." Again, Revelation 21:8 says, "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the _____ death."

Sin takes place when someone transgresses God's _____ (1 John 3:4). You sin when you lawlessly fail to _____ what God says and then you do what you want; that's offensive to God. Sin also takes place when people _____ to do what is right. James 4:17 says, "So whoever _____ the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." When we fail to take God's teaching seriously, when we fail to follow Jesus, and when we fail to be obedient to His will, we sin against God. Sin isn't simply an attitude or a behavior; it's an _____ thing toward God. We can't say no to God and think that we have a _____ relationship with Him.

Sin is serious business. God didn't send Jesus to the earth to die on a cross for _____ reasons, but to die for our sins. No matter how we _____ about sin, God takes sin seriously. The death of Jesus that was so painful and shameful was not for some "inappropriate action" or "mistake," but for evil and the iniquity of sin. The Bible says that Jesus "gave Himself for our sins, (why?) that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the _____ of our God and Father" (Galatians 1:4).

Jesus took our sins personally. The Bible says, "He himself (that is, Jesus himself) bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness. By his

wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). The last part of this verse, “By his wounds you have been healed,” quotes Isaiah 53:5. Isaiah says, “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like _____ have gone astray; and we have turned everyone to his _____ way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (verses 5-6). Because of His _____ for each of us, He was willing to take the punishment that you and I deserved. We were the _____, and He was innocent. He died in our stead, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

God doesn't simply want to _____ you of sin. He wants you to _____ your life. He wants sin _____ of your life and righteousness _____ your life. Remember what we read from God's Word in 1 John 3:7-9, “Little children, let no one _____ you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a _____ of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to _____ the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.”

God wants a loving, peaceful relationship with you. Sin creates a _____ between people and God that ruins that relationship. The Lord cannot _____ of sin. If you have unresolved sin in your life, you can't draw _____ to Him in that condition. He will not accept you, but the blood of Jesus can _____ you from that sin and it can open the way to God. So, my friend, get right with God today! Don't let another day pass and remain in sin. The devil wants us to think sin is a harmless plaything and doesn't _____ anyone. Many believe him. They'd rather think that nothing is wrong, that everything is okay. Meanwhile sin works inside our _____ like a cancer. We must take sin seriously!

If we would be right with God, we must first _____ that we've sinned. Romans 3:23 says, “all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God.” It's absurd to speak of forgiveness or salvation until we come to grips with our _____ sin. Second, if we would be right with God, we must _____ what God says, and take it to heart, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Third, out of faith and love, we ought to _____ of our sins. Acts 17:30-31 says, “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands _____ people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will _____ the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Repentance is _____ from sin and turning to Christ. Romans 12:9 says we are to _____ what is evil; and to _____ to what is good. Repentance is a change of _____ that leads to a change of _____.

Fourth, we must be _____. Acts 22:16, says “Rise and be baptized and _____ away your sins, calling on his name.” God washes away all our sins with the _____ of Christ at the time of baptism. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that our sins will be forgiven (Acts 2:38). Be baptized into Christ today and begin your Christian life. Then stay faithful to the Lord all the days of your life.