

August 13, 2017

Your Sin James 1:13-16

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

Some people are saying, “Sin is an _____ word” and should be dropped from our vocabulary. Today we’re going to talk about sin, something that affects _____ of us.

The Bible is the _____ important book that you’ll ever read. It’s the _____ book that tells you where you came from, why you’re here, and what will happen after death. Scripture reveals God’s _____ for mankind and how He’s dealt with our problem of sin. God’s desire for all men is that they be _____ from sin and live with Him eternally. Sin, however, keeps us from _____ life. The Bible reveals the answer to sin and how we can live eternally with God.

Some people _____ using the word “sinner” is offensive and a hindrance to Christianity. Some _____ that Jesus never called anyone a sinner. Several years ago, Dr. Karl Menninger saw this _____ in attitude in American people and he wrote the book, *Whatever Became of Sin?* More recently John MacArthur wrote the book, *The Vanishing Conscience*. Both of these men realized that many had grown callous about their sin and had decided to _____ the concept of sin altogether.

Does sin really exist? What does the _____ say about sin? What does it _____ to be a sinner? What’s the big deal about sin anyway? Is sin really so offensive that a person will spend an eternity _____ without God? Should we ever call anyone a sinner? In a politically _____ world, some have banned the word “sin” as being offensive. But, is the word “sin” really so _____ that we should never mention it? I realize some folks don’t want to hear about it, but sin is a real _____! Ignoring sin won’t make it go away and it won’t turn something that is _____ into something that’s _____.

Our reading today comes from the letter of James 1:13-16. The word “sin” is certainly a Biblical term. It’s used _____ times in the New Testament alone; and the word “sinner” is used an additional _____ times. The Bible also uses other terms when speaking of sin. Sin is sometimes described as an “error,” “iniquity,” “unrighteousness,” an “evil,” a “trespass,” or a “transgression.” Sin is not some _____ thing that one can ignore or dismiss. You’ll never find sin taken _____ in Scripture. You’ll never find Jesus _____ that sin is an outdated word. In fact, every time Jesus thought about sin, he called for _____. He recognized that sin was _____.

You can hardly understand the _____ of Jesus without talking about sin. When Mary was with child, the angel told Joseph, “she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their _____” (Matthew 1:21). When John the Baptist

introduced Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the _____ of the world!” (John 1:29). More than seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah. He spoke about Jesus and how Jesus would _____ our transgressions.

Read Isaiah 53:5-6. Jesus died a cruel, ugly death upon a cross so that we might be _____ from sin. His suffering brought us forgiveness, grace, and peace. To suggest that sin is an unimportant word makes a _____ of what Jesus did on the cross for you and for me. It suggests that we don’t need His _____.

Sadly, some people don’t realize just how _____ sin truly is. Sin has caused much of our greatest _____ and has wasted countless lives. Sin, of some sort or another, is at the root of every _____ and every violent act; it’s brought so much guilt and shame, and so much pain. Calling sin “outdated” doesn’t make it outdated. Relabeling sin only shows the _____ of the one who makes this claim. God takes note of sin whether we do or not. When men sin, they sin against God—they _____ God. Sin is not merely a transgression against the law; it’s a transgression against God’s law and God Himself, and it breaks his heart! There is no “victimless” sin for _____ is always the victim.

Some people think of sin as something somebody _____ does. Nearly everyone can point to someone they think is a _____ sinner than themselves. But everyone sins. Paul said, “for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Every person who reaches the age where he knows about God, and he knows about right and wrong, comes to that point where he acts in _____ of God’s law and so sins. We all stand guilty before God.

Some people have categories of sin. They think “_____” sins are really bad, but “_____” sins are no big deal. Or they figure _____ commit the big sins, while they themselves only commit little ones. But all sins are bad. All sins transgress God’s law and break God’s _____. All sins go against His _____ for our lives. Paul said, “the wages of sin is _____” (Romans 6:23), and that hasn’t changed. When he talks about death, he’s talking about _____ death, that is separation from God and from His grace.

Isaiah 59:1-2 explains, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a _____ between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” When people persist in sin they build this _____ between themselves and God. This barrier means that God no longer _____, that one doesn’t stand in His grace and receive His blessing.

Some people still don’t think they’ve sinned. However, John said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, then he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, why we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10). People tend to _____ to themselves about many things. Some ignore warnings about the _____; others ignore warnings about their _____.

When your sins aren't forgiven, they will _____ you your soul. Sin is no joke. **Read what Jesus said in Matthew 16:26-27.** Some people _____ about sin, but no one will be laughing when Jesus comes again. Then they will weep with regret that they didn't _____ their lives and come to the Lord.

Sin not only has eternal consequences, it also creates _____ in this life. Sin deceives and hardens people's _____. **Read Hebrews 3:12-13.** Most people sin because they think it _____ good, or because it's pleasurable; but in the end sin will _____ your heart and hurt you. It's deceptive and it's cruel. Sin will make a person desert every member of his family just to feed a _____.

We generally think of taking drugs or getting drunk as addictive and destructive behaviors, but actually _____ become addictive and destructive. A person can become _____ to lying, to gossip, to stealing, to anger, to sexual sins, and even to violence. These behaviors not only hurt the person who does them, they also hurt _____ people. How many families have been destroyed or impoverished because somebody thought they could sin and get away with it. The prisons are _____ of people who thought they could get away with their sins, or people who knew they'd someday get caught but wouldn't give up their sins.

There is an unalterable _____ in Scripture about the life we choose to live, and you can't cheat this law or change it. You can't wish it away or ignore it. **Read Galatians 6:7-8.** When a writer says, "Do not be deceived," it's usually because people _____ themselves and _____ to themselves about the lives that they're living.

Oh, I hope you're not _____ yourself, thinking that you can live an immoral lifestyle and avoid any consequences. You simply can't. Sometimes those consequences are physical diseases if you _____ your body. Sometimes they are shortened life if you commit _____. Sometimes sin _____ families and _____ friendships. Sometimes sin enslaves us financially with heavy _____ like gambling does. The choices that you make today may _____ you far more than you ever dreamed in your health; or the spiritual drain in guilt, in money and friendships. My friend, if you continue in sin, you won't be the exception. You will someday _____ what you _____.

The prodigal son wanted his inheritance, and he wanted it so that he could waste it on his _____. That's what a prodigal is, one who _____ his resources with reckless living. You remember the story. **Read Luke 15:14-16.** I tell you, when you live a selfish, sinful lifestyle, the time comes when you run out of _____. Selfish people are friends only when they see some _____. As long as the prodigal son paid the bill, he had friends.

It was only when the prodigal son was desperate and alone that he began to _____ about sin. **Continue reading Luke 15:17-19.** Sin _____ the senses, but reality _____ us up. Sin makes a person feel _____ in his own eyes. He no longer felt _____ to be called a son of his father.

While sin _____ only to shame and guilt, the wonderful thing is how much God loves us even in our sin and guilt. **Continue reading Luke 15:20-24.** God _____ when his prodigal children come home. He _____ to meet his ragged, dirty, but penitent son. He embraced and kissed him. It was a time of celebration, for his son was now _____ and found! God wants to _____ you, too. Sin will hurt you and embarrass you; but God still _____ for you because He loves you. No matter what your past has been, God wants to _____ you as you turn away from the old evil life and come home to Him. God's love is _____ than our sin.

Read what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:12-16. My friend, there is _____ for you. If you'll _____ in the Lord, if you'll _____ of your sins, if you'll _____ His name, if you'll be _____ (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of your sins, you too will become a _____ of God and a member of the Lord's _____. The prodigal son came home; Saul of Tarsus came home. They found forgiveness, and so can you.

We've seen that sin matters; it's not trivial. Scripture tells us that unresolved sin costs people their _____. You remember Paul said, "The wages of sin is death." Here, "death" is a reference to separation from _____ which lasts for eternity. Don't let Satan or the world _____ you into believing that sin is no big deal. It's the critical _____ to your soul and will cost you everything when Jesus comes again if it's left unforgiven. If sin weren't such a big deal, Jesus would never have gone to such great lengths to _____ for your sins by his cruel death on the cross. Sin is not trivial when you consider the _____ of Christ. Jesus didn't die for a petty, unimportant problem. He died for you because your sins are the greatest _____ that you face.

When you consider the Lord's _____, you can readily see His love. There's no _____ love that a man can have than to lay down his _____ for his friends. That's what Jesus did for you. He wanted you to be _____ from sin and to _____ with Him eternally in heaven. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is _____ _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Forgiveness is a _____ from God; and I would hate for you never to know how much God loves you and wants to _____ you. If God takes sin and your soul that seriously, shouldn't you take it seriously? Don't let anything keep you from having _____ the blessings of the Lord? Love Him, _____ Him, and _____ Him.

To become a Christian, _____ Jesus Christ is the Son of God, _____ of sin that separates you from God, _____ Jesus before others, and be _____ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water for the _____ of sins. You'll never regret obeying the Lord. So, do it today!