

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

June 5, 2019 Lesson #22 Seriousness Of Sin

The Seriousness of Sin

Before we can appreciate the greatness of our redemption, we must understand the seriousness of our sin. If we belong to Jesus Christ and repeatedly sin against God, we can expect His chastisement. Because God hates sin, we cannot take it lightly, joke about it, or rationalize and excuse it. Sin comes in many forms, but it is always an act of disobedience to God that separates us from Him and brings all kinds of painful consequences.

The Nature of Sin

- It Deceives. If we keep sinning while telling ourselves that God loves us and understands, we have been deceived, thinking that we are the exception to sin's consequences.
- It Disappoints. Sin always promises to satisfy, but the pleasure is only temporary. In the end it will always disappoint.
- It Disables. People who sin against God lose opportunities and sometimes even their health and relationships. Furthermore, a believer who lives in sin will never become the person God desires or accomplish what He's planned.
- It's a Depressor. If a person continually lives in sin, it will have a depressing effect. Even going to church or taking a prescription medication will not help depression that is caused by sin. Although the sadness may be hidden with a cheerful expression, it continues to sap the life and vitality out of the one who refuses to forsake sin.
- It's Demonic. True to his nature, the devil will do his best to entrap us in sin.
- It's Destructive. Although sin takes many pathways, they all ultimately lead to the destruction of people, families, marriages, children, jobs, and the future.
- It Brings Death. Sometimes it's a gradual death, or maybe it comes in an instant. The Bible says that those who sin will die.

Ezek. 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. [also Rom. 6:23]

Scripture uses a wide variety of terms to describe the pervasive, destructive nature of sin. Sin is described as impurity, failure, rebellion, transgressions, missing the mark, trespass, iniquity, wickedness, uncleanness and unfaithfulness, etc. The nature of sin is complex.

In Leviticus 16 four different words are used to describe the sin of God's covenant people:

- ❖ "uncleannesses" "transgressions" "iniquities" "sins"
- 1. "Uncleannesses" [Lev. 16:16, 19] = the pollution of sin. Pollution brings together what ought to be kept apart. The introduction of sin into the natural human relation to God adds in a foreign agent; it corrupts by an addition of impurities.
- 2. "Transgressions" [Lev. 16:16, 21] = willful, disloyal rebellion of man against God; a breaking away from God. A man knows what is right and good and deliberately choose

what is wrong and destructive. God provides law and order to maintain a good, peaceful relationship and transgressors revolt and brazenly break ties with God.

3. "Iniquities" [Lev. 16:21-22] = the religious and ethical wrongdoing and the wickedness of humanity when we pervert that which is intended for good for our own selfish, manipulative purposes. Iniquities refers to the fact that men and women are not content to just turn their backs on God and walk away - we want to destroy anything in our path on our way out.
4. "Sins" [Lev. 16:16, 21, 30, 34] = catchall word for any attitude or action, whether trivial or paramount, unintentional or intentional, commission or omission, that is offensive to a holy God.

The use of multiple words to describe sin shows the comprehensive fallen nature of man and the serious nature of our problem, which heighten the grace of God's provision.

The pollution of man needs cleansing; the rebellion needs peace; wickedness needs pardoning; and our utter failure needs forgiveness. The solution will not come without great cost.

The Greek word for saint is "hagios." It refers to one's state of being and not to their character. The Bible defines a "saint" as someone whom Christ bought with His own blood on the cross and has separated unto Himself to be His own possession.

1. We are set apart by God and separated unto God to be transformed into the likeness of His Son.

2. We are to increasingly glorify God as our life is transformed.

Eph. 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

3. The warfare between the flesh and the Spirit described in Gal. 5:17 is fought daily in the heart of every believer. I Still Sin!

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:

and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

4. Peter urges us in I Pet. 2:11 to "abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against the soul."

5. Although we are a new creation in Christ Jesus, the outworking of the change is not instantaneous. Sanctification is progressive over time and is never complete in this life.

6. We grieve and mourn over the flagrant sins such as abortion, homosexuality, murder, etc. Why do we not mourn over our selfishness, critical spirit, impatience, anger, etc.?

I Cor. 15:9 For I am the Least Of The Apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [Saved 18 years]

Eph. 3:8 ...who am Less Than The Least Of All Saints... [saved 24 years]

I Tim. 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save Sinners; Of Whom I Am Chief. [Saved 29 years]

Consider: The longer he was being transformed into image of Jesus, the MORE he realized his need for sanctification.

Truth: Those whose lives most reflect the fruit of the Spirit are usually those who are most keenly aware of and groan inwardly over the "respectable sins" in their life.

7. Principle of Dependent Responsibility

- a. I am responsible before God to obey His Word.
- b. I do not have the ability within myself to carry out this responsibility.
- c. I am totally dependent upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

8. Holy Spirit's ministry to me

- a. The Holy Spirit works in me to bring conviction of sin.
- b. The Holy Spirit works in me to enable and empower me to deal with my sin. It is by the Spirit that I am able to put to death the sins in my life.
- c. He works to bring about my transformation by bringing into my life circumstances that are designed to cause me to grow spiritually.

Pray: Holy Spirit, enable me to see the hidden, subtle sins in my life.

Conduct Unbecoming a Saint > Sins I Tolerate in My Life

Respectable sins deceive us into thinking they are not so bad. However, ALL sin is rebellion against the sovereignty of God.

I am presuming on God's grace when I tolerate the SINS that nailed Him to the cross.

Ps. 139:1-4 O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

I Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Truth: All of my rebellion, all of my grieving the Holy Spirit, all of my presuming on His grace, all of my attitudes are done openly in the presence of God.

It's as if I'm acting out ALL my sin before Him as He sits on His royal throne.

I. Ungodliness - Living as though God is not involved in my life or circumstances

Note: Ungodliness does not mean wickedness.

A. Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Note: Paul distinguishes ungodliness from unrighteousness.

1. Ungodliness is defined by an attitude toward God; living my daily life with little or no thought of God, His will, His glory or my dependence on Him
2. Unrighteousness refers to sinful actions in thought, word or deed.

B. Can be good, moral people - Many believers tend to live daily life with little thought of God.

James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen

tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Point to Consider: Form of Ungodliness

1. James does NOT condemn people for making plans, plans for a business or to make a profit. He condemns making plans that do not acknowledge my dependence on God to carry them out. How often do I think about my accountability to God?

C. Col. 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it (your faith in Christ), do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Points to Consider: Form of Ungodliness

a. Colossian believers were ordinary folks; yet Paul expected them to live godly lives.

b. How does Paul's prayer compare with my prayers for myself, family, church?

c. Do my prayers reflect a concern for God's will and glory?

A desire that my life be pleasing to Him?

d. Or are my prayers more of a "please do list?" Please intervene in various health, financial needs of family and friends? These are also right, BUT if that's the main thing we pray about, we are merely treating God like a "divine bellhop!"

e. Are my prayers more human-centered, and not God-centered?

D. How strong is my desire to develop an intimate relationship with God?

A spiritual relationship is decided upon, chosen and nurtured. Then it becomes not only natural, but it becomes supernatural.

Ps. 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Ps. 63:1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD.

Point To Consider: A person may be moral and upright, busy in Christian service, yet have little or no desire to develop an intimate relationship with God. This is a mark of ungodliness.

Truth: God is the center and focal point of the life of a godly person. Every circumstance and activity of life is viewed through the lens of God-centeredness. Being God-centered can only be developed in an ever-growing intimate relationship with God. You cannot genuinely desire to please God or glorify Him apart from this relationship.

Question: Where am I? Am I living ALL of my life as if God is relevant or irrelevant? Surveys show that there is little difference between the values and behavior patterns of Christians and non-Christians. This must reflect that we live much of our daily life with little or no thought of God or how we might please and glorify Him?

Truth to Ponder: It's not that we consciously put God out of our minds. We just ignore Him on most issues and He is seldom in our thoughts.

E. Sins of the tongue, such as gossip, sarcasm, unkind words to or about another person cannot thrive in an awareness that God hears every word I speak.

Truth: I am not living every moment in the presence of my all-seeing, all-hearing Father.

Dealing With Ungodliness

I Tim. 4:7-8 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise (train) yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

This implies commitment, consistency and discipline. Goals in the Pursuit of Godliness

1. Grow more in my conscious awareness that every moment of my life is lived in the presence of God.
2. I am responsible to Him and dependent on Him.
3. Cultivate a growing desire to please Him and glorify Him in ordinary activities of life.
4. Scriptures to memorize and pray over: I Tim. 4:7-8; I Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:9-10; Col. 3:23; Ps. 42:1-2; Ps. 63:1; Ps. 27:4.
5. Remember: Ps. 139:1-4 - He is aware of me and sees every deed I do, hears every word I say and knows every thought I think. He searches my motives.
6. May I seek to be as mindful of Him as He is of me.

II. Anxiety, Worry & Frustration > Result of Difficulties of an Ordinary Life

ANXIETY > Involves Fear

1. Trusting God in all circumstances is taught > 13 times New Testament

2. Opposite of trusting God = anxiety or frustration

Matt. 6:25-34- Christ uses anxious 6 times. Don't be anxious about what we are to eat, drink, or wear or the unknown circumstances of tomorrow.

3. Don't be anxious has the force of a moral command. It is God's will that we not be anxious.

4. Anxiety is a sin.

a. It is actually a distrust of God. If God cares for the birds and lilies, will He not much more take care of our temporal needs?

b. I Pet. 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (basis for casting our care)

c. When I give way to anxiety, I am, in effect, believing that God does not care for me and that He will not take care of me in the particular circumstance that triggers my anxiety.

d. Anxiety is a lack of acceptance of God's providence and sovereignty in our lives.

The causes of my anxiety are under God's control.

e. Paul told us to "not be anxious," but to pray about the situation.

Pray for relief and deliverance from the anxiety but accept the circumstance.

Pray: Ask God to give you a heart that is submissive to His providential will when it is contrary to your own plans.

WORRY

1. Synonym for anxiety - usually associated with long-term difficult or painful circumstances for which there appears to be no resolution. (Ex. Couple with mentally or physically dependent adult children)

2. The Battle > The situation looms larger in our minds than the promises of God's Word.

Mark 9:24 - "I believe; help my unbelief."

FRUSTRATION > Involves being upset or angry at whatever is blocking my plan

Example: Frustrated with computer

a. This frustration has its roots in ungodliness at the moment.

b. I am reacting as though God is not involved in my life or circumstances. In fact, I'm not really thinking about God at all; I'm focused on the cause of my frustration.

Ps. 139:16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned (ordained) for me, When as yet there were none of them.

1. "God, this circumstance is part of Your plan for my life today. Help me respond in faith and in a God-honoring way to Your providential will. Please give me wisdom to know how to address the situation that tends to cause me frustration."

2. Notice: I have used Scripture, dependence on the Holy Spirit through prayer to enable me to respond in a godly manner. Consider: Can you imagine Jesus ever being frustrated or anxious?

Whatever in my life is not like Jesus > it is sin. I should NEVER accept these sins as just part of my temperament (any more than I would accept adultery as part of my temperament.)

Other Sins I Tolerate In My Life

1. Discontentment - Usually arises from ongoing and unchanging circumstances that we can do nothing about- Sinful discontentment that negatively affects our relationship with God

Examples: Unfulfilling or low-paying job; singleness well into mid-life and beyond; inability to bear children; unhappy marriage; physical disabilities; continual poor health

Consider: 3 days after the Red Sea, the Israelites were complaining against God & Moses.

Why such an attitude change in 3 days?

They overlooked the FACT that the CLOUD had led them there.

Question: If God had led them there, wouldn't He take care of their every need?

Truth: Every complaint against circumstances, every grumbling about the daily trials of life is directed against the ONE who "works all things after the counsel of His own will." (Eph. 1:11)

Truth: It is my response to my circumstances rather the degree of difficulty that determines whether I am discontent or not.

Consider: When I fail to recognize my incorrect responses to my circumstances as sin, I am responding no differently from unbelievers who NEVER factor God into their situation.

Note: I am back to ungodliness as the root cause.

Truth: I MUST deal with my discontentment or it will lead to resentment or bitterness toward God or others.

Truth: God does nothing or allows nothing without a purpose. His purposes are always for our ultimate good and for His glory.

- a. I can resign myself to my circumstance but still harbor a smoldering discontentment.
- b. It is not in resignation that I find peace. It is in ACCEPTANCE.

Acceptance: "God, I accept my circumstance from You. I trust that You unerringly know what is best for me and that in Your love, You purpose only that which is best. Father, I ask You to use my difficult circumstance to glorify You."

- a. I no longer have a "victim attitude." I have an attitude of STEWARDSHIP.
- b. Spiritual Truth: I must have a firm belief in the sovereignty, wisdom and goodness of God in all the circumstances of my life. *
- c. Legitimate Discontent: We should always be discontent with our spiritual growth.

2. Impatience -Strong sense of annoyance at the (usually) unintentional faults and failures of others

- a. Often expressed verbally in a way that tends to humiliate the person
- b. It provides an opportunity for the flesh to assert itself.
- c. The cause of the impatience lies within the heart. We insist that others around us conform to our expectations.

Examples: How I react to slow drivers; slow service; slow training of children (How many times have I told you...?)

Irritability - Describes the frequency of impatience or the ease with which a person can become impatient over the slightest provocation

- a. We feel we must "walk on eggshells" around them.
- b. I am irritable if I am frequently upset with another person over their unintentional action.

Prov. 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.

I Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Thought: If love covers a multitude of sins, how much more should it cover a multitude of acts that irritate me?

Other Sins I Tolerate In My Life

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| 3. Unthankfulness | 4. Pride | 5. Selfishness | 6. Lack of Self-Control |
| 7. Anger | 8. Envy, Jealousy | 9. Worldliness | |

Rom. 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

II Cor. 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

"Father, give me an increasing awareness of my sinfulness and of Christ's love for me in dying for that sin."

Psalms to Pray for Yourself

Ps. 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

When I realize that God is all-knowing, I must realize that He loves me unconditionally in spite of my faults and failures. All He asks is that I come to Him with a contrite heart of repentance.

Ps 51:1-4a Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:

Ps. 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Ps. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit...

Ps. 19:12b-14 cleanse thou me from secret faults.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Search me, O God, and know my heart today,
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine;
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.