

Under the Weight of Sin

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Text: Romans 6:15-23

Introduction:

There is an old song that says, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, slowly but wholly overcoming your soul; it will cost you far more than you want to pay, and it will keep you far longer than you want to stay." Sin is a weight that crushes the life out of a human being. While under the weight of sin, an individual has no will of their own; they obey the sin nature and fulfill the will of the flesh.

A wise old tutor was once taking a stroll through a forest with a curious youth by his side. The tutor suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants close at hand. The first was a tiny sprout, just coming out of the earth. The second had rooted itself quite firmly in the fertile soil. The third was a small shrub. The fourth had grown into a well-developed tree.

The teacher said to his youthful companion, "Pull up this first plant." The youth pulled it up easily with his fingers. "Now pull up the second." The boy obeyed, and with slight effort the plant came up, root and all.

"And now the third." The boy pulled with one hand, then the other, but it would not come. Then he took both hands, and the plant yielded to all his strength. "And now," said the master, "try the fourth." The youth grasped the trunk with all his might, but hardly a leaf shook. "I cannot move it," he exclaimed.

"Just so, my son," said the teacher, "with all our bad habits. When they are young and small, we can cast them out, but when they are full grown, they cannot be uprooted." May CD (1999)

Here Paul is writing to the Church at Rome; he is using the human analogy of slavery in explaining sin and its affect upon holiness. He contrasts between the old unregenerate life and that of the new regenerate life. Slaves of sin do not recognize any kind of obligation to anything but sin. Christians, those, who have been saved, recognize only an obligation to live Holy.

As we look at this portion of Paul's letter, we need to remember when God delivered us and that we are not supposed to reenter the sin world. He said "God forbid," we are supposed to be dead to sin. Let's look at a few of the "weights" of sin that slowly destroy a person's life.

I. The practice of sin is a weight that holds us down from serving God.
(15-17)

A. As slaves of sin, a person is not free to serve God. Their minds are under the influence of the sin nature. They go around practicing sin. Even though they have seen the things of God they choose to serve sin.

Paul explained the practice of sin in Romans, chapter one:

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

19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man; and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

B. However, God gave every man the ability to be saved. Paul says in verse seventeen, “Yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.” A person chooses whom he will serve.

C. Christians must realize that even though we are saved by grace, we have not been saved to continue in sin. We must flee the very appearance of evil.

II. Another weight is the pressure of sin that robs man of peace. (18-20)

- A. There is no peace to a man when he rises in the morning or lies down at night. Nor is there peace when he goes out or comes in. He is constantly under the pressure of sin.
- B. There is no rest from the constant conviction of spirit of God who loves you. He is calling and trying to deliver you from this pressure to sin.
- C. Paul says, “when you were slaves of sin you were free in regard to righteousness.” This simply means that you were pressured to obey sin and had no obligation to obey righteousness.

III. Then there is the weight of the penalty of sin hanging over our heads.(21-22)

- A. Even though sin has pleasure, it doesn't last long. The Bible says, “it is just for a season.” Sin carries with it the penalty of death.
- B. God has revealed the penalty of sin as the “wages of sin.” You will be penalized to spend eternity away from God.
- C. God has warned each man that if you continue to practice sin. There is going to be a pressure that will dominate you life and a penalty that you will have to pay. There will be no parole or term that will grant you freedom. You will be eternally doomed.

IV. The last weight is the punishment of sin that is eternal. (23)

- A. The death of sin is a spiritual death where the spirit of man lives constantly without peace or rest. The Bible teaches us about hell, and in hell the worm never dies. This is a reference to the conscience of man that informs us that a person will always be conscious.

- B. Then there will be a second death that will take place after the great white throne judgement. Hell will be thrown into the lake of fire, which is the second death. The Bible teaches that the lake of fire will never be quenched. Its flames are eternal.
- C. There will be such a state of loneliness like the world has never known. The Bible teaches us that the outer darkness will be thick. A person will not only be tormented by the flames of hell, they will be tormented by the conscience that will remind them of all the opportunities that they had to be saved and delivered from this fate. And if that were not enough, they will be all alone for eternity; they will never see anyone, they will only be able to hear the cries and screams from hell.

Conclusion:

Friends don't let your families go to hell. Pray, fast, worship, and witness to them of the love of God and the finality of hell. Sin will take someone to hell today will it be you?

Remember that every one has an opportunity to be saved. God will forgive you today. Confess your sins and confess that Jesus is Lord. Believe in your heart that Jesus rose from the dead and is the Son of God who is seated at the right hand of God making intercession of each of us.

Sin separates, so forgiveness is the element that must be applied to your life today.

g "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God" (Is. 59:2). The Bible says that sin separates; it comes between man and God.

Sin is like a giant canyon, with man on one side and God on the other. A canyon can never be removed; it will always be there. And it is useless to try to fill up a canyon. But when a bridge is put across a canyon, a man can cross it as if no canyon ever existed there. Forgiveness of our sin is like a bridge. A bridge allows us to have eternal life, even though there is sin which otherwise would separate us from God.

Sin is also like a cut or break in an electric wire. There must be a perfect connection from the source to the light bulb before there can be any light in the bulb. Sin separates our connection with God. Forgiveness is like a splice in a wire. It does not take a brand new wire to complete the circuit, but there must be a wire in which every single break has been repaired.

Sin separates man and God. There is only one way to get back to God; through Jesus Christ!

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Will you be saved today? Except a man is born again he cannot enter into heaven. This message is not for just sinners; it is also for saints. Christians must not practice sin. We must not allow sin to become a weight in our lives. Paul said in Hebrews that we must put away every sin and weight that so easily gets in our way. There are many “weights” of sin; will you allow sin to become a weight in your life. Repent and be free today!

References

May, Steve (1999) 1001 Contemporary Illustrations. Raleigh, North Carolina: Heaven Word Inc.