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**THE DOCTRINE OF SIN**

**(continued)**

**How to Overcome Sin:**

The answer in scripture for both **the unregenerate man**, lost because of his sin1, and the **regenerate man**, who in this world is continually tempted by sin2, is to believe3. The **unregenerate man** believes the Gospel and calls upon God’s forgiveness of his sin and claims the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. That’s when the penalty is paid, the power of sin no longer has dominion, the Holy Spirit now abides within the new believer and He will one day lift every believer out of this present sin cursed world into the presence of our Heavenly Father, where our Saviour intercedes for us, giving us the victory!

The believer (1) is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, that is re-gened, a genetic term, being born again into a new family, the family of God. (2) The believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:3-4; I Cor. 12:13, 27) into one body. (3) The Holy Spirit indwells the Spirit sealed believer, enabling the Spirit filled life (II Cor 5:17; Gal. 5:16-18; Eph. 3:16). (4) The Holy Spirit seals the believer (II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13). His permanent presence is the promise (the earnest) of the believer’s resurrection/removal from the presence of sin. (5) The Holy Spirit fills the believer (Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:18). The enabling power to live victoriously in spite of the sins which surround believers is in yielding to the Holy Spirit and seeking His fulness!

**NOTE:** John’s first epistle (1:7-1:9) walking in the light-Spiritual unity and harmony, showing forth the cleansing power by the presence of the Spirit of Christ, not quenching4 the Spirit by sins of omission5, neither grieving6 the Holy Spirit by sins of commision7 (I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30). Paul admonishes believers in (I Cor. 9:26-27) how to prevent sins from influencing or effecting the believer’s walk, the believer’s witness and the believer’s works.

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The unbeliever calls8 upon the name of the Lord (Rom. 3:10, 10:9-11) confirming9 his faith in God’s promise to clear him from the penalty of sin, **death**, and give him the gift, **eternal life**. The only acceptable payment for sin’s debt is the sinless son of God who gave Himself a sacrifice for sinners, that He might be their Saviour.

The believer confesses10 his sins calling upon the Lord claiming11 His promise to cleanse us from sins through the forgiveness of our sins. **Confession is the expression of our inward condition**, guilt? Shame? Suffering? Sadness? Remorse? Unforgiveness? Bitterness…? Confession is for cleansing; forgiveness is for confirming.

**Why Sin?** We have already established the Bible nowhere teaches God authored sin, but we are aware He allowed sin. Could God have prevented sin? The answer of course is, yes, He could have, but He chose not to. Why? There are several reasons we can ponder.

1. God created human beings and angelic beings with intellect and volitional will, giving them a moral nature, enabling them to discern between right and wrong, obedience or disobedience. To allow them the choice was the only way they could exercise true independence. If God had stopped Adam or Satan, even one second before their choice to sin, He would have violated their moral nature, volitional will and individual intellect and they would be mere ‘robots’ or minions, without choice.

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1. God allowed man to sin so He could manifest His grace and all that it encompasses as an expression of God. God, even prior to Adam, had displayed His OMNIPRESENCE in being everywhere, His OMNIPOTENCE in setting the universe and all the galaxies in motion. His OMNISCIENCE in creating all things even the angelic hosts. But the greatest attribute that reveals not just what God does, but who God is, that is grace12! Grace encompasses the Heart of God and all it encompasses. Only grace can provide an answer to sin, without grace no one could be saved, and that gift of God’s salvation is till the greatest gift given. Where there is no sin there is no need of grace. But, to truly see **“all”** that God is, and all that God can do you must see His grace. (Rom. 5:20; Eph. 2:5-7)

There is coming a final day of victory over sin, we find it in the word of God. The Apostles, Paul, Peter, and John penned it in (I Cor. 15.25-28; Heb. 12:22-24; II Pt. 3:7, 13; Rev. 20:11-15).

I Cor. 25-28 “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

Heb. 12:22-24 “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

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II Pt. 3:7 “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

II Pt. 3:13 “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

Rev. 20:11-15 “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

**Conclusion:** Because we have believed, Salvation is eternal, sin is not, but if you die in your sins, your sin is eternal, and your salvation is not!