

Sin – Part 1

There are many words and variations of sin, *but all sinners need the Savior!*

Sunday, August 24 at 9:00 + Monday, August 25 at 7 PM

11th Sunday after Pentecost / 10th Sunday after Trinity – 2014

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: God is holy, *He has never sinned* (Lev. 11:44; Jam. 1:13-14)! Then, *so that we would know what sin is*, God gave us the Bible, *which is His Holy Word* (Prov. 30:5). Then, *in the Bible*, God shows us His perfect will for our lives.

So how do we sin? We sin when God says **“You shall not...”** *but we do!* And we sin when God says **“You shall...”** *but we do not!*

Today’s assigned readings call us to be *serious* about sin:

- The LORD said through Isaiah: “...the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies.” (51:6 NIV) *The results of sin!*
- God said to the Christians in Rome: “...do not be conformed to this world [by sinning], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Rom. 12:2 NAS) *by knowing and doing God’s perfect will.* So what is **your** focus: On the things of *this world* OR on the things of *God*?
- Peter’s confession about Jesus is good news for us: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** (Mat 16:16 NIV) **Only thru Him** do we have the victory over sin and death!

Now, *as we begin to focus on various Greek words related to sin*,¹ let us ♦see our own sins, ♦be heartily sorry for them, and ♦rejoice in Jesus, who is our only Savior!

¹ Some of the contents of this sermon came from: <http://www.biblefood.com/7wrdsin.html>

1. **Hamartia (ἁμαρτία) – sin:** That is the common Greek word for sin.



- As the goal in archery is to **hit the center of the target**, so our goal – *as God’s forgiven children in Christ* – is to **perfectly do God’s will**.
- Some other shades of hamartia²:
 - Departure from doing right: ^{NAS} **1 John 5:17** “All unrighteousness is (*harmartia*) sin...”
 - It results in separation from God: ^{NAS} **Acts 3:19** “Repent...and *return*, that your (*harmartias*) sins may be wiped away...”
 - We all have a sin nature that seeks to control us: ^{NAS} **Romans 6:12** “...do not let (*harmartia*) sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts...”
 - The sins which hinder our Christian living: ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the (*harmartia*) sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..., (Some other verses with *hamartia*: John 1:29; 8:34; 9:41; 19:11; Acts 7:60; Rom. 3:9; 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; James 1:15; 1 John 1:8; etc.)

2. **Hettema (ἧττημα) – loss, failure, defeat:** When we try to do things *our way* and *in our strength*, they will **not** turn out well.



- The final part of the fruit of the Spirit is self-control (Gal. 5:23); so when we are *out of control*, that is a *loss or failure* for us.

² This and similar sections are from the Friberg Lexicon in Bible Works.

- b. Hettema is the result of being defeated: ^{NAS} **1 Cor. 6:7** Actually, then, it is already a (*hettema*) **defeat** for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? (Also Rom. 11:12) **TLSB:** “Enduring wrong is more victorious than to put a fellow believer under worldly authority.” (1953)

3. **Paraptoma (παράπτωμα) – trespass, transgression:** Think about a time when you did not intend to sin, but you fell into sin! For example: You intended to have one drink; you wanted to stay on God’s path, but you didn’t!



- a. Picture someone, in the presence of a police officer, trying unsuccessfully to walk a straight line; those who trespass have departed from God’s way which is straight and narrow (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)!
- b. Paraptoma is deviating from what is right: The Bible is clear that those who keep getting drunk, thus continue in unrepentance, will not inherit the kingdom of God (**1 Cor. 6:9-10**). However, for the repentant, there is good news in regard to our trespasses: ^{NAS} **Ephesians 1:7** “In [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our (*paraptomatone*) **trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace...” (Also Matt. 6:15; Rom. 5:16)

4. **Agnoeema (ἀγνόημα) – a sin of ignorance:**



- a. Do you remember when Peter tried to persuade Jesus to not go to the cross; Peter meant well, yet Jesus was born in order to die!
- b. *Agnoeema*: It means to do wrong without deliberate intent; so we are talking about ♦sins committed in ignorance, ♦unconscious error, or ♦oversight: ^{NAS} **Hebrews 9:7** ...into the second [tabernacle] only the

high priest enters, once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the (*agnoeema*) **sins** of the people **committed in ignorance**. A sin of ignorance is still a sin, so we are ♦ever-sorry and ♦ever-trusting alone in Jesus!

5. **Parakoe (παρακοή) – disobedience:**



- a. The Lord made His will clear to Adam: “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.” (**Gen 2:16-17 NAS**)
- b. Parakoe: An unwillingness or refusal to listen, thus disobedience: ^{NAS} **Romans 5:19** For as through the one man’s (*parakoe*) **disobedience** [that of Adam] the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One [our Lord Jesus] the many will be made righteous. (Also 2 Cor. 10:6; Heb. 2:2) However, just because God is so forgiving, let us see our sin and heed these words of Jesus: “**be zealous therefore, and repent.**” (**Rev 3:19 NAS**)

Conclusion: There are many shades of sin, but each one brings death and hell **apart from repentance!**

So, as God speaks to us through His word, let us ♦see our many shades of sin, ♦take responsibility for them, ♦be sorry for them, and ♦believe we have God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus!

Then, filled with much peace and joy, let us say “no” to sin and “yes” to God’s holy will as contained in God’s Holy Word!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**