

SIN: UNDERSTANDING OUR PERIL

1. Text: Romans 3:21-26
2. Verse 23 presents the issue we must face: human sin. Paul says all of us must deal with it.
3. What is sin?

I. Alternatives: How Sin Is Explained By Man

1. Persisting evolutionary instincts from our animal heritage.
2. More of bad attitudes.
3. Existence of oppression and inequities in possessions and power
4. Ignorance (solution: education to eliminate individualism and competitiveness)
5. Psychological problems

II. The Answer From Scripture

1. Main New Testament word: Hamartia (found as verb and noun 267 times) So hard to ignore. Literally means "to miss the mark." Was ordinary word for missing a target by spear or arrow. So it's to miss God's target.
2. Two problems: We don't care and we make our own targets.
3. We minimize sin and, therefore, minimize God's love in Christ's sacrifice.
4. Romans 3:9 Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.
5. Romans 6:23 Wages (payoff, payment) of sin is death.

III. Additional Terms To Help Us Understand

1. Three Positive Words Made Negative
 - A. Ungodliness. Word for reverence (as to God) plus an "A" in front to negate it. So God's person and will disregarded. Romans 1:18 Wrath revealed against all ungodliness. II Peter 2:5 Judgment on the ungodly in Noah's day. When we turn our back on God.
 - B. Lawlessness. Law plus "A" in front. God's precepts disregarded. I John 3:4 Sin is lawlessness. We are under law (Romans 8:2 The law of the Spirit in Christ; James 2:12 We'll be judged by the law of liberty.)
 - C. Unrighteousness. Righteous with "A" in front. We sin against God's nature. Romans 1:18 Wrath against unrighteousness. I John 5:17 All sin is unrighteousness.
2. Three Picture Words
 - A. Disobedience. Word means obstinate, stubborn rejection of God's will. Unwilling to be persuaded. Ephesians 2:2 Children of disobedience. Ephesians 5:6 Wrath on disobedience. Stubborn refusal, rebellion.
 - B. Transgression. Parabasis: to step across, overstep. Romans 4:15 Where no law, no transgression. Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed. To step across God's established line.
 - C. Trespass. To fall aside, blunder, false step, deviate. Ephesians 2:1 You were dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 1:7 Forgiveness of trespasses.

IV. The Approach To Sin

1. The need for God. All six above are an attack on God.
2. The need for Grace. Back to Romans 6:23 Gift is eternal life.
3. The need for the Gospel. By it we know and receive the grace of God.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, March 4, 2007**

