July 27, 2014

"The Wages Of Some Sin Is Death?"

Bryan Garlock

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18.10-14).

Each of us plays the role of the Pharisee from time to time. We look at a homosexual, a rapist or a serial killer and say, "They are just horrible, dirty people. How could they do such a thing?" If we haven't said it, then we've thought it! I'm convinced the reason why people believe this kind of thing is because they allow the world to define sin instead of God.

For instance, when the law of the land is violated, we are punished with some form of earthly punishment. These violations include murders, rapes, theft, drug exchanges, kidnapping, etc., but nothing happens when one lust or covets, is unloving or unforgiving, or even commits adultery. There may be a loss of relationship, but even then, the government doesn't intervene. Interestingly, I once heard a woman say, "cheating isn't a crime." As far as the government is concerned she is correct. Further, we do not break any laws when we use profanity, view pornography, have premarital sex or cohabitate with someone of the opposite sex – or in this society, even of the same sex. Simply put, if it isn't punishable by law, we have the right to do as we please, or should I say, sin as we please. *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Tyler Dance discharged from Hospital.
- Jack Greenwood is recovering from surgery on his wrist.
- Amy & Baylee Eastes will be flying home tonight from Arizona; Scott will be in Virginia Wed. thru Sat.
- Singing at Baker's house,
 Fri., August 1st at 6 PM.
 Bring a dish.
- Happy birthday to Daniel and Derrick Smith!

Coming Up!

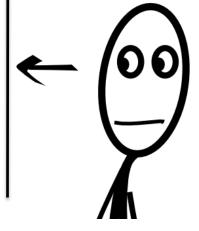
Kid's Drill Class

Parents with children twelve and under please see Bryan Garlock on Sunday, August 3rd after evening services. We will discuss scheduling the studies. Thanks.

As Christians should we accept what society has deemed "fit"? The world says, "there's nothing wrong with premarital sex as long as you practice 'safe sex." The Scriptures teach otherwise (Heb. 13.4; 1 Cor. 7.2; 1 Cor. 6.9, 18). We accept this so readily when it comes to taking a human life by murder, but deny the same when we are faced with temptations to practice "safe sex." This may be hard for some to swallow, but the Scriptures do not place degrees on sin, but rather teach, sin is sin. Let me graphically illustrate: those who lie to their boss, spouse or neighbor are just as guilty as the prisoner awaiting the death penalty because he raped and murdered ten women (cf. Rev. 21.8).

The apostle John teaches that sin is sin, no matter how the world defines it. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3.4). No matter the sin, whether "great or small," sin is lawlessness and their wages are the same too, that is *death* (Rom. 6.23). That means, when I speed and text while driving, that I'm breaking man's law (which is sin, cf. Rom. 13.1ff) and I'm just as guilty as the adulterer, thief or murderer in the eyes of God. This is because sin is a disobedience of God's law and it's unrighteousness (1 John 5.17, James 4.17).

The Scriptures teach sin is sin. There is no difference. When you get angry and sin, when you have hatred in your heart, when you are jealous of someone, when you forsake the assembly or when you are unloving or unforgiving, you are just as guilty as the homosexual, the rapist and the serial killer. When we place the world's definition of sin before God's, we will commit every "small" and "little" sin known to God and believe we are nothing more than the Pharisee in Luke 18. \mathcal{BG}



Let us know if you are interested in a free Bible study!