



Lesson 3

What Is The Result Of Sin?

Just as the Bible teaches us what sin is and where sin comes from it also teaches what the result of sin is? In the Scriptures we read, **“For the wages of sin is death,” (Romans 6:23)**. The two key words in the verse are wages and death. Wages is easy to understand because we are all paid wages at one time or another. But to illustrate let us think through a situation. Let us say that I asked you to come and paint my house for a set fee. You agreed and did the work. After you finished you came to me to collect the agreed upon fee. Now this fee would be the wage that you have coming, you earned it, and it is your right. The scriptures teach that we have a fee coming to us as a result of sin, we have earned it and it is our right to receive it. The problem is that the wage we have earned is death.

WHAT IS DEATH?

It is a word which simply means separation. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is separation of man from God. Back to our story in Genesis, we read that when God commanded Adam not to eat of the forbidden tree, He told him that if he did eat of it then, **“you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17)**.

Adam did not die, physically, the day that he ate of that tree. But he did die spiritually and he began to die physically. When sin entered into the world because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, then the whole world began to die or to fall apart. The reason why there are weeds to be pulled is because of sin. The reason why things get old, moldy, rusty, and decay is because of sin. The reason why people get old, wrinkled, gray headed, and die is because of sin. The reason why there is disease and why some people are malformed, or retarded in growth, physically or mentally, is because of sin. Most of the things people blame God for in our world is because of sin. That is why the Scriptures talk about the whole world groaning while waiting for the redemption of the Saints **(Romans 8:18-22)**.

As Adam and all creation began to die the day sin entered into the world, Adam died spiritually. God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and out of His presence (Genesis 3:24). Being sent out of the presence of God meant the ground was cursed and Adam would live by the sweat of his brow and after a life of toil, would die and return to the dust from which he was made. Eve would bear children in pain and sorrow and many descendants of Eve have died in the effort of giving birth. She would also end her life in death and return to dust.

Where once man walked in communion and fellowship with God, man was now outside of the presence of God and would behave himself as one who is controlled by the sin nature.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

Being separated from God, dead spiritually, has a twofold result. The first, concerns itself with this life, the second, with the life after this one. We have already mentioned some of the things which have happened in our world because of sin but let us take note of a few more items. The Bible does not take long to show us what man does when apart from God. In chapter four of Genesis we read of the first murder, Cain killed his brother Abel; in chapter six we read, "**Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**" (Genesis 6:5). In chapter fourteen we have the first war and in chapter nineteen Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed by God because of their wickedness. The story of man apart from God is not a pretty sight, as the pages of history reveal war, murder, and destruction repeated over and over again. We need to only pick up our local newspaper or just go out for a walk into our city streets and see what has happened to man since he has been apart from God.

WHY IS THERE A HELL?

But the bad news gets even worse, because after man lives a life of frustration and pain. he is doomed to hell. Some people think their hell is here on earth but that is not what the Scriptures teach. Or to put it another way, if you think it is had now, "you ain't seen nothin' yet." First, let us think about this question. Why is it necessary for there to be a hell? We need to realize that sin is against God (Psalm 51:4) and that God is holy (I John 1:5) and cannot look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13). Because of sin, man cannot be in the presence of a holy God.

Since this is true, there must be a place for man away from the presence of God. This place will be without God and therefore he without all the things that make up God. God is light, so this place will be darkness; God is love, so this place will be without love; God is joy and peace, so this place will be sorrow and suffering etc. Our Lord told of a man in hell who, "**lifted up his eyes, being in torment,**" and "**he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame**" (Luke 16:23,24). Our Lord also taught that, **the way is broad that leads to destruction and many are those who enter by it**" (Matthew 7:13) and that it is a place where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44).

Hell is not a place where anybody would want to go and God does not want anybody to go there either (II Peter 3:9). That is why God has made it possible for men and women to go to heaven instead of to hell. In our next lesson we will begin to see how that is possible.

Bible Reading: Genesis 3

Questions for Review:

1. What does it mean to receive a wage?
2. What are the wages of sin?
3. What happened to Adam and Eve after they sinned?
4. What happened to creation after sin entered?
5. What are some of the results of sin that we read about in the Bible in the book of Genesis?
6. What are some of the results of sin that we can see in history?
7. What are some of the results of sin that you can see in your own life?
8. Why is there a hell?
9. Does God want you to go to hell? Why or why not?
10. Do you believe there is a hell and if so, do you want to be sure you are not going there?