

The Bible's Cure for Sin

By Arthur Whiting

Arthur Whiting

This is the broadcast for Dr. Talbot's Bible study hour on station KGER for Wednesday, January the 9th. And now we come to our fourth and final study on the subject of sin as we consider what the Bible reveals about the cure for sin. Certainly no one in his right mind will deny the fact that he is living in a sick world. The world is sick because the individuals who constituted are sick, tragically infected with the most dreadful of all disorders sin sickness. Sin is a loathsome disease that spreads death over all that it touches. It is the poison that digs the graves of earth. It is the digger which makes the grave of the soul and sends men into the midnight blackness of eternal separation from God. Yes, friends, the world is sick and this sick world is just full of nostrums falsely guaranteed to cure the soul of sin sickness. The human devices are many indeed. There are those who advocate forgetfulness as the solution. Refusing to be realistic, they close the eye to the ugly fact of sin and its terrible, devastating consequences. Immersing themselves in material things, they would drown their consciousness of sin in the sea of human forgetfulness. But what about the justice of God? What about the conscience of man? The justice of God must be satisfied. And the human conscience cannot be silenced indefinitely.

There are others who seek an exit from the difficulty by the expedient of redefinition. We live in a new age, give sin a new name. Call it the creature of diseased imagination, Call it false moral arithmetic, Call it moral obliquity, Call it psychological eccentricity, Call it a relic of the animal not yet outgrown, Call it congenital weakness, call it anything but what the Bible calls it.

But unfortunately for the advocates of this cure, changing the name of a thing does not change the nature of the thing. The character and the consequences are unaffected by such action. For instance, a new label on the bottle does not make potassium cyanide the elixir of life. To say you are afflicted with Pediculosis [sp?] does not alter the fact that the real trouble is lice. changing The name of sin never effects any cure at all. Give it all the fancy names you wish but sin will still blast and blight, Sin will still wreck and ruin. Sin will still corrupt and condemn man.

In some quarters, legislation has advanced as the panacea for all of our ills. No law has been nor ever will be devised that will make a bad man good. Not even the best law can do this. The law that God gave to Israel is described as holy, just, spiritual, and good in the seventh chapter of Romans. Yet we know it did not make that nation righteous. The fact of the matter is, God never gave them the law for that purpose at all. But rather that through it they might come to realize their own inability to meet his standard as the law stirred up the wickedness of their own hearts. In the last analysis, the best that any legislation can do, if it is enforced properly, is to put a check on sin. But it never can cure it.

Education is another highly touted remedy for the world's troubles. Increase a man's knowledge, train his faculties, lift the level of his thinking, and man will become properly adjusted to his environment, so we are glibly told by the exponents of culture. There is no question about the advantages of cultural training, about the advantages of educational attainments. But my friends, education does not solve the sin problem. In many cases, it accentuates it. Because as men increase in knowledge, they increase their ability to scheme more ways of sinning. Educate a sinner and you do not make him good, you simply make him an educated sinner. It is safe to say that never in the history of the world have nations been so educated and so erudite. Yet never in the history of man have we had so much impurity,

illegitimacy, intemperance, and moral insanity. The refined sinner is as much a sinner in the sight of a holy God as the uncouth sinner. Education is definitely not the remedy for the dread sin diseases with which man is afflicted.

Since sin is primarily an offense against God, It should be clear to every one of us that God alone can deal with sin to his satisfaction, the remedy must be divine. No man can cure himself, let alone cure anyone else. Self-recovery from the sin disease is absolutely impossible. We can develop what good traits we may have and thus produce some semblance of holiness. But our best efforts can result only in reformation, and reformation is doomed to failure. We are helpless and hopeless apart from divine intervention. Our one hope is God's grace in Christ. The only adequate cure for sin is in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Calvary, not culture that makes possible the remission of the penalty of sin and the cleansing from sin's Pollution. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood", Says the word, "And I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls. For it is the blood that maketh an atonement for your soul." That is the great declaration of Leviticus Chapter 17:11. And then hear the testimony of Hebrews 9:22, "Without shedding of blood is no remission."

The shedding of animal blood in the Old Testament sacrificial system was only temporary, it was only preparatory, It was only in anticipation. It only pointed to the perfect and permanent offering in the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who offered one sacrifice for sins forever. It was God's provision in the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, which made possible a fourfold blessing to all who were appropriated by faith. If man is under divine condemnation because of the four categories of sin, then it is evident that God's provision in Christ must adequately take care of each aspect. In a most remarkable way, the Bible reveals this is exactly what happened.

First, I want you to notice that for personal sin, there is eternal forgiveness. Personal sin, as we have reminded you, is that form of sin which a man produces in his daily life. It covers, of course, a wide range from wrong thought to wrong action. Personal sin makes us chargeable with personal guilt before God and puts us in a position of condemnation before him. Sin means death, and the only human solution would be to pay the penalty. God solves this aspect of the problem of sin by sending the Lord Jesus Christ to take our place, to bear our penalty, and thus free him to act in grace toward us by removing the charges which he has against us. Well, has P.P. Bliss put it in his lovely hymn, and we delight to sing it don't we? "Man of sorrows, what a name for the son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim hallelujah what a savior. Bearing shame and scuffing root, in my place condemned he stood. Sealed my pardon with his blood, hallelujah what a savior. Guilty, vile, and helpless we. Spotless Lamb of God was he. Full atonement can it be? Hallelujah, what a savior."

Paul has put it this way, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace." That is the great declaration of Ephesians chapter 1 verse 7. Here, as elsewhere in the Bible, God's forgiveness is based on the one sacrifice for sin which the Lord Jesus Christ made at Calvary. But, says the critical cultist, What about Christ forgiving sin before his death? The sufficient answer to that is that such forgiveness was given in anticipation of his death. Just as the Old Testament believers were forgiven on the strength of the divinely promised savior. Then too friends, you must always remember that the Lord Jesus Christ was God himself. And because he was God and was himself to be the sacrifice, he could well say the son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins. Yes, it is gloriously true that for our sin, our personal sin, God gives us his eternal forgiveness.

Secondly, I want you to notice, for the inherited sin nature God gives us his own sinless nature. We have seen in a former study that man occupies the place of condemnation before God because he is the possessor of a sin nature. Thus man inherits a fallen nature, a nature contaminated and corrupted by sin in its every part. I want you to remember that. A darkened understanding, polluted affections and enfeebled will, yes, and corroded conscience. Every part of man's nature has felt the impact, the pollution, the corruption, the contamination of sin. The fact of the matter is that the nature of man is so infected and so disabled by sin that the only remedy for such a situation is the provision of a brand new nature, a nature that is untouched and untouchable by sin. friends, this is exactly what God does as he makes the believer, that is the one who trusts in the substitutionary death of Christ, a partaker of the divine nature. The great miracle of grace is that the believer is brought into possession of God's own nature, a nature that is untarnished, a nature that never can be tarnished by sin. This is why I believe we have that great declaration in First John, chapter 3, verse 9, a verse that has given a lot of folks a great deal of difficulty By the way. 1 John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin for his seed", that means God's seed, God's life principle, God's seed "Remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God."

You see friends, the divine nature, the nature which the believer possesses when he believes, the divine nature is sinless. It is a nature that is altogether and absolutely incapable of sin. That being true, whatever of sin is in man has to be from the old Adamic nature. If there is any sin in your life, my friends, even as a believer, you can rest assured that that sin does not come from the new nature which you have in Christ. That sin comes from your old, Adamic nature. Thus it is that the unsaved person has a nature which can produce nothing but sin. The saved person still has this old nature. But thanks be to God, He also possesses a new nature, a

nature which is divine, and a nature which is incapable of producing sin and capable only of producing holiness. Man is thus lost by nature, the sin nature. But I want you to recognize that he is saved by nature. He is saved by the divine nature, as God gives him his very own nature. Yes, certain it is that for the inherited sin nature, God gives the believer his own sinless nature.

In the third place, I want you to notice that for imputed sin, God gives divine life. Imputed sin, you will remember, is the initial sin of Adam in repudiating God's will Reckoned over to all of Adam's descendants. Did you get that? Imputed sin is the initial sin of Adam when he repudiated God's will. That initial sin reckoned over to all of Adam's descendants. Why? Because it properly belongs to them. God reckoned the sin of Adam to be the sin of the race. He charged that sin to us. Why? Because it is ours. Since we were in the loins of Adam when he thus sinned. The proof of this truth is declared very plainly in Romans 5:12, "And so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned." That means that death passed upon the whole race, because the whole race sinned When Adam sinned. According to God's own statement, death was the penalty to be paid for. After the one single act of disobedience, just as God had said, he passed the death penalty against Adam and against all his posterity. He has executed against every member of the human race. Man is born spiritually dead, and after spending a little while on this earth, physical death takes him to its cold embrace.

The passage in Romans, which we have been looking at, the passage which reveals this tragic situation into which men have been plunged by sin, also discloses God's wonderful remedy. Well, I want you to notice this so I hope you'll have your Bible open at this fifth chapter of Romans. The section now beginning with verse 15 and concluding with verse 19, we'll not have time to read it all. But get the passage location, please. Romans 5:15-19. "The blessed truth presented is that as death passed upon all the race because of the sin of one man, So God is going

to make it possible for life to be possessed by those who believe because of the righteous act of the perfect man, Christ Jesus, as he himself was obedient even unto death." So we have the great declaration of verse 18 of Romans 5. "Therefore, as by the offensive, one judgment came upon all men to condemnation Even so, by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

I want you to notice, if you will please, the contrasts in this wonderful passage. Look at verse 17. The first Adam brought sin. The last Adam brings righteousness. Take a look at verse 18." The first Adam brought condemnation, the last Adam brings justification." Take a look, if you will, please. At verse 19, "The first Adam brought death, the last Adam brings life." Now the important question is to which one do you belong? Well, of course, by natural birth you are united to Adam. This makes you a sinner condemned and dead. But by being born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are united to Christ. This makes you a righteous man, justified and alive. If you are linked only to Adam, you are doomed. If you are joined to Christ by faith, then you are gloriously alive and can begin to know something of what it means to reign in life.

Yes, the true believer is in the life realm, not the death realm. He has been taken out of his place of death in Adam, and put into a place of life in Christ. He has life. Why? Because he has the son who is the source of all life. Thus the believer finds in Christ who is his life, the cure of his spiritual death, and also the conquest of physical death. Since for him as a believer, death is not going to have the last word. for you remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said so triumphantly, "Because I live, ye shall live Also." death is not going to have the last word insofar as the believer is concerned.

Now, finally, I want you to notice that for sin as positional demerit, God gives the perfect merit of Christ. In this present age, the whole world has been declared by God to be under sin.

By which we believe he indicates that every man by birth and conduct is a spiritual bankrupt, incapable of doing anything through self-effort to please the Lord. Man possesses nothing good as God counts goodness, nor can he produce anything good according to divine evaluation. That means he is in a position of demerit, and this position of demerit before God leaves God free to exercise the fullness of His grace on behalf of sinners. Since God is perfect, He must demand perfection. And that which he demands he has provided in the Lord Jesus Christ, oh how we rejoice in it. The glory of God's salvation is that the very goodness and perfection of the Lord Jesus Christ are made available to every sinner so that the very moment a sinner takes God at His word, in that moment, God credits him with the merit of his own dear son.

2 Corinthians 5:21 declares that one of the reasons why Christ died was that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Colossians 2:10 reminds us that we are complete in him. You see, the perfection of Christ is placed to the account of every true believer, so that God sees that believer in the glory as perfect as he sees his own blessed son. Oh how wonderful it is to stand before God in all the merits of Jesus Christ. How tragic it is to stand before God with nothing but the demerit of your own supposed goodness. The only thing that a meritless person can do is to accept the merit of Christ, That merit which is offered in grace. Where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound. Sin brought death but grace brings life. Sin brought guilt, but grace brings justification. Sin separated man from God, but grace brings him nigh by the blood of Christ, sin disturbed and deranged man's nature, Grace creates him anew in righteousness and true holiness. Grace brings merit, Merit that gives full acceptance with the Lord.

And my friends the responsibility of choice is ours. We may refuse grace and continue in sin, or we may confess sin and accept grace. Yes, God has solved the sin in question of the human race. The cure for sin in all its aspects is available for everyone. But it is conditioned

upon acceptance. No patient ever recovered from a dreadful disease simply by admiring a doctor's prescription. But believe me, millions have returned to the pathway of health by accepting and applying the remedy. My friend, you will never recover from the sin disease with which you are afflicted by assenting to the truth of what has been presented. But listen, you will be renewed by divine grace as you personally appropriate by faith, the values of the death of Christ in your behalf. Let us pray.

Truly, our father, we are lost in wonder, love and praise when we think of the bounties of thy rich grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. Seal now this thy word to every heart that the lost sinner may be salvaged and the believer strengthened with might in the inner man. In the peerless name of the Lord Jesus Christ, We ask it all, amen.

Now, friends, we must bid you goodbye for the present. But may the joy of the Lord always be your strength as you keep looking up.