

## THE PROBLEM WITH SIN



Because sin is a deceiver many have been misled into thinking they can save themselves by their own good works. But the Bible is clear, "by observing the law no one will be

justified" (Galatians 2:16). The Jews of Christ's day made the tragic mistake of thinking that they could be saved by keeping the law. It is for this reason Jesus said unto them: "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Man's only hope of salvation is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16) Before we can rejoice in this good news of salvation, we must first come to grips with our sin problem. Once we lose all confidence in ourselves, we will accept with open arms God's incredible gift of salvation in Christ. In this lesson we are going to discover what the Bible has to say about the universal sin problem, as a prerequisite to appreciating the good news of the gospel. It is only when the night is darkest that the stars shine their brightest. Likewise, to fully appreciate the glorious truth of the gospel, we must view it against our total depravity.



### HIS WORD SAYS

1. What does God say that sin is? 1 John 3:4

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*Where there is no law, there can be no sin and therefore no need of a Saviour.*

2. Which are the greatest commandments? Matthew 22:37-40

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*Without these principles of love in one's life, the rest of the law and what the prophets say have no foundation on which to build. The entire Bible hinges on these two principles, love for God and love for one another. If we love God we will keep the first four of the Ten Commandments, and if we love our neighbour we will keep the last six. Love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 13:10).*

# WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT SIN

“And if your right hand causes you to sin cut it off and cast it from you.”

Matthew 5:30

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

3. What is the law that is referred to in Matthew 22:40? Exodus 20:1-17

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*The principal of God's law is summed up in one word—love. See also Deuteronomy 6:5 & Leviticus 19:18. The great principle of love has always been the foundation of God's law.*

4. How much of what God says is important to us and why? Luke 4:4; Proverbs 30:5; Deuteronomy 8:3

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*Exodus 20:1 God spoke the ten commandments, so they must be important.*

5. How inclusive are the Ten Commandments? James 2:10-11

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*If we break one of the commandments we are guilty of all. God asks for complete obedience to His law.*

6. What does the Law do for us? Romans 3:20

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*Sin is lawbreaking, so the only thing the law can do is point out sin to us; it is powerless to save us from its penalty.*

7. What is the penalty of sin? Romans 6:23

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8. Can man save himself from sin? Romans 7:18-19, Jeremiah 13:23 & Romans 8:7

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*Since Adam sinned it has been a part of human nature to rebel against God and break His law. It is only through Jesus that we can live righteously (Romans 5:12, 19).*

9. What is God's part in saving man from sin? John 3:16 & Hebrews 9:26-28

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*The penalty for sin is death. To save us from this penalty Jesus gave up His own life in our place. As God, the originator of all life, and One who is equal to the eternal law, Jesus alone could lay down His life for us.*

10. How many people have sinned? Romans 3:23

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11. What should the sinner first do? Psalm 51:3; Acts 3:19

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*First one should acknowledge their sin, then ask forgiveness and forsake their sin*

12. What is God's promise if we confess all our known sins? Psalm 32:5 & 1 John 1:9

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*God wants us to confess our sins so that He can forgive us for them, cleanse our hearts and enable us to live a pure life.*

13. Suppose that I'm not sure of what all my sins are? Psalm 139:23-24

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*God can read our heart. We may not be able to remember every sin we have ever committed but God understands our desire to be forgiven for it and to live a new life in Him. He will forgive all who come to Him seeking it.*

14. What if we have hurt or deprived someone by sinning? Ezekiel 33:15-16

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*If we have harmed someone through our sin, or even by mistake, we owe it to them to make it right, and God expects this from us.*

15. What if I hide a sin and do not confess it? Proverbs 28:13

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*Sin comes from within, from the sinful desires of our hearts (Mark 7:21-23). It will eat away at us and we will have no peace, neither can God forgive us and cleanse us if we will not acknowledge the evil in our life.*

16. What if we then continue to sin? Hebrews  
10:26-27

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*True repentance is necessary for forgiveness. If we continue to sin willfully it is a sign that we are not truly repentant. In this instance our sins remain unforgiven.*



17. How can one gain the victory and overcome sin? Romans 8:13-14

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*God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives man the victory over sin in his life. He gives repentance for our sins (Acts 5:31), and provides comfort, strength and guidance.*

18. What advice does Paul give in Hebrews 12:1-2.

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*We must lay aside our sins and keep our eyes on Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. So long as we keep our eyes on Him we will have strength to overcome every temptation. Jesus has promised that He will finish the good work that He has started in us (Philippians 1:6); we have no reason to doubt Him.*

19. How much is God willing to give in order to free us from sin? Romans 8:32

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20. Can God change His mind? Malachi 3:6

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21. How does Jesus save us from sin? 2 Corinthians 5:21

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*Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, and gives us His perfect righteousness. He died the death that we deserve so that we might have the life that is His.*

22. What did we die to and how should we live as a result? 1 Peter 2:24.

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*The new life in Christ is a righteous life where the sins of the old life have been left behind.*

23. For us to live with Jesus what must first happen to us? 2 Timothy 2:11.

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24. How do we become justified? Romans 3:22-24 James 2:24.

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*Justified means to be just as if we have never sinned. When we come to Jesus and He forgives us and treats us as though we had never sinned. James 2:20 says; "Faith without works is dead," this is because true faith always leads to a changed life.*

25. Because the cross of Christ frees us from sin, what sort of life should we live? Romans 6:22-23.

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*We accept Jesus as our Saviour from the guilt and punishment of sin, as well as from the power and slavery of sin.*

26. Following justification, how does the process of sanctification take place? John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

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*Sanctification is the process by which something is made holy. As we study and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us, we become changed by the truth of the Word of God.*

27. What does sanctification lead to? 1 Peter 1:2. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-9, 5:23

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28. How earnestly did Jesus emphasize the necessity of conversion? Matthew 18:3.

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*Unless we accept Christ and turn away from a life of sin, we cannot be saved.*



29. If we hear and believe God's word, what will be the result? John 5:24 \_\_\_\_\_

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30. What happens when you accept the gift of Christ's Righteousness? 2 Corinthians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

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*We are born again into a new life. The old life of selfishness and sin is left behind and God moulds us after His own perfect image that we might do that which is good. We may make mistakes along the way, and sanctification takes time, but with God's help we will be restored to the divine image.*

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

COULD GOD DO ANY MORE FOR US?  
WHAT AMAZING LOVE!!



## LIFE QUEST

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

## YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

\_\_\_ I am going to pray and ask God to forgive me for all the wrongs I have done.

\_\_\_ I am going to pray for the Holy Spirit to keep me from sinning.

\_\_\_ I have decided to study the Bible to discover more about what Jesus has done for me.

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_