**Sin, and the Nature of Man**

**Introduction**

1. Sin is the greatest problem mankind has.
2. Therefore, the greatest need mankind has is for the enemy of sin to be destroyed, and for man to be delivered from its grasp.
3. **However, in order for such to occur, man must understand his own nature, and its relationship to sin.**
4. **An unscriptural view of sin, and the nature of man is catastrophic.**
5. Sin, and the Nature of Man
6. The Beginning of Sin
   1. **Genesis 1:26-27** – God creates man.
      1. **NOTE: (v. 31)** – He saw that man was good.
      2. **Good** – in the sense of all that was said before – it was as God intended it to be.
      3. Also, in a moral sense – ***“Truly, this only have I found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).***
   2. **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6-7** – God gave a law, and man sinned.
   3. **Consequences:**
      1. **There are lasting consequences of this sin (“original sin” as some would refer to it as), but what are they?**
      2. **Calvinism (Total Hereditary Depravity – ‘T’ in T.U.L.I.P.):**
         1. “Our first parents by the sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them, whereby death came upon all; all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all faculties, and parts of soul, and body…They being the root, and by God’s appointment, standing in the room, and stead of all mankind, the guilt of their sin was imputed, and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation, being now conceived in sin, and by nature children of wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects of death and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus sets them free…From this original corruption whereby all are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions” (p. 24, Philadelphia Confession of Faith).
         2. Contradicts **🡪 Ezekiel 18:19-20** – Son not inherit guilt from father, yet, Calvinists say that we inherit the sin of the “father of mankind.”
      3. **Consequences revealed by the Bible:**
         1. **Romans 5:12-21** – The lasting effects of Adam’s sin are placed in contrast to the act of Christ’s obedience.
            1. **(v. 12)** – Why did the death spread to all? – ***“because all sinned”***

Physical or spiritual?

**Spiritual death, because physical death spreads to all men regardless of whether they have sinned or not.**

* + - * 1. **Reigned** – **vv. 14, 17, 21** – How does sin reign through Adam, and grace/righteousness reign through Christ?

**“’ingressive,’ (verb) stressing the point of entrance” (Vine).**

**BEGAN TO REIGN, and continues** – consider David’s throne – He continued to have a throne through his seed, though not literally himself.

**Adam – first to sin – first occasion of spiritual death.**

* + - * 1. **Those who follow?**

**Vv. 18-21** – Follow the example of Adam (disobedience), sin and death. Follow the example of Christ (obedience), righteousness and life.

**Remember** – ***“thus death spread to all men, because ALL SINNED.”***

* + - 1. **Such a sin was a choice – a choice to follow in the footsteps of Adam:**
         1. **Romans 3:9-12, 23** – Why have all sinned? – ***“all turned aside”*** – choice made.
         2. Spiritual consequences of Adam’s sin is that all would**, in their own free-will, choose to do as did Adam – thus die spiritually!**

1. The Nature of Sin
   1. **1 John 3:4** – Sin is lawlessness.
   2. It is not doing what law has said to do, or doing what law has said not to do.
   3. Not something which one can do for another, nor something that can be inherited. **A CHOICE MADE – I.E. THE CHOICE TO DISREGARD, AND DISOBEY LAW.**
2. The Problem of Sin
   1. **Romans 7:15** – What is this struggle?
      1. **Calvinists say** – Example of being “utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil.”
      2. This is not the case.
   2. **Romans 7:7-12** – Time when Paul was without sin – not inherited – law told him not to do something, but he did it.
      1. **V. 15?** – 1st “doing” (**accomplishing**); 2nd “do” (**produce**).
      2. Not that he could not help making the choice, **but that he consciously, and deliberately chose to do it, without knowing the full extent of the consequences.**
   3. **(vv. 16-20)** – The choice to disobey, i.e. follow sin (personified).
      1. There is not an inability to do what is right here, **but the decision to do that which is wrong, and not right.**
         1. **NOTE – distinction between Paul and sin.**
         2. **Calvinist** – sin and man are naturally, and inherently one with each other.
      2. **Sin does it?** – **vv. 8, 11** – The law directs man, and man makes the decision not to follow the law.
      3. **The result?** – **v. 21-25a** – slavery to sin and death. (**Consequences of sin can only be taken away in Christ.**)
   4. **Sin is something man chooses to do, which places us under its dominion until someone frees us – i.e. Christ.**
3. Sin, a Choice Made
4. The Nature of Man – Free Moral Agent
   1. God created man with free-will – the ability for man to choose for himself what he will do – namely, obey God, or disobey God.
   2. **Total Hereditary Depravity takes this fundamental, and prominent doctrine of free-moral-agency out of scripture.**
   3. Man has a choice – when he sins, HE CHOOSES TO SIN – i.e. HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO SIN.
   4. **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** – Moses to Israel, blessing or cursing?
   5. **Joshua 24:14-15** – Serve God, or idols?
   6. Through Moses and Joshua, God gave the Israelites a choice – **if they could not choose, why present them with choices?**
   7. Man is righteous until he chooses not to be – ***“Truly, this only have I found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes” (Ecclesiastes 7:29)***.
5. Damage of Calvinistic Doctrine of Sin, and Man’s Nature
   1. **The Calvinistic approach to sin and spiritual death takes away man’s responsibility. It isn’t his fault!**
   2. This doctrine has even affected the minds of members of the Lord’s body – let it not be so!
   3. **Sin is a choice! WE CAN MAKE THE CHOICE NOT TO SIN!**
   4. **James 1:13-15** – Don’t blame God, but understand it is YOUR PROBLEM. (To say sin is in our nature is to blame God who created us.)
   5. **Luke 17:5-6** – Understand that if God said to do it, we can do it!
      1. This includes avoiding sin. YOU NEVER HAVE TO SIN!
      2. ***“These things I write to you, so that you may not sin” (1 John 2:1)***.
      3. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – God continually makes the way of escape.

**Conclusion –** The Bible shows that man is not totally depraved, and that sin is a choice.Let us strive to make the right choice always, and serve God rather than sin.