TITLE: SIN

TEXT: Ja. 4:17: Mt. 25:34-45, 7:22-23, 5:20-28;

Ja. 1:13-15; 2nd Co. 10:5; Ro. 8:3-4

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about sin. Specifically the origin of sin, when it is that sin originates in our life, and how to deal with it….

This is important for us to know because if we are going to live the life that God has called us to live as a Christian, a life that is to be free from sin, free from its bondage and oppression, then we need to know about sin, exactly what sin is and how and when it originates in our life and how to deal with it..

First what sin is….

**266 hamartia {ham-ar-tee'-ah}**

**1a) to be without a share in**

**1b) to miss the mark**

**1c) to err, be mistaken**

**1d) to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong**

**1e) to wander from the law of God, violate God's law,**

**2) that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act**

In essence, sin is: **that which is done wrong, an offense, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act.**

OK, Sin is that which is done wrong, a violation of divine law…

How many sinners do we have here this morning?

How many of you this morning have ever done something wrong, committed an offense, violated the divine law of God?

In speaking about sin, Scripture gives probably the best definition in the book of James…

Jame 4:17 (NIV) Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

How many this morning have ever known the good that you ought to do but you didn’t do it?

Scripture tells us that if we know the good that we ought to do and don’t do it then we have sinned!

We know that we shouldn’t murder or commit adultery or steal or lie or bear false witness against someone because we would be sinning if we did and most of us probably wouldn’t do those things.

But Scripture tells us that anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

This really broadens the scope of sin doesn’t it? Especially for a Christian.

Sin being knowing the good that we ought to do and yet not doing it.

Once we become a Christian, once we receive the Holy Spirit of God into our lives the whole scope of the good that we know we ought to do should increase dramatically.

Because now we have the Spirit of the living God at work within our hearts. Because now we have become ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Scripture says that when we accept Jesus as the Lord and savior of our life that we become ambassadors of Christ as though God were making His appeal to a lost world through us!

In fact, the more that we grow in our relationship with the Lord, the more good that there will be that we know that we ought to do and with the more good that we know that we ought to do the more opportunity for sin that we have…

Because anyone who knows the good that he ought to do and doesn’t do it sins…

I want you to listen to a parable that the Lord uses to tell about the coming day of judgment when all men will have to come and give an account for every deed that they have ever done….

**Matt 25:34 (NIV) "Then the King will say to those on his right, `Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.**

**35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,**

**36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

**37 "Then the righteous will answer him, `Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?**

**38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?**

**39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'**

**40 "The King will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**

**41 "Then he will say to those on his left, `Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**

**42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,**

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

**44 "They also will answer, `Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'**

**45 "He will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'**

On that great day of Judgment when all men will have to stand before God and give an account to the Lord with what we have done with our lives it says that Jesus will tell those who are on His left**…. Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**

Depart from me, you who are cursed! Cursed to an eternity in hell!

What is it that these people did that put the curse of hell upon them?

Had they Committed murder? Adultery? Sexually perversions? Where they thieves and robbers?

Some may have been but that isn’t what Jesus rebukes them for here.

What horrendous sin brought down the curse of hell upon this group of people?

The sin of knowing the good that they ought to do and not doing it!

**42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,**

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

**For whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'**

Church, this is speaking about sins that will keep a person out of the Kingdom of God! Sins that will place the curse of hell upon one’s life!

To know the good that we ought to do yet don’t do it!

“A story is told about Christopher Columbus: He was discouraged one day as he walked by a monastery. He was thirsty, so he went into the monastery for a drink of water, and he sat down. As he was being refreshed with a drink of water given to him by an old Monk, the monk listened to his story of how he wanted to go on an expedition to find another land.

That monk listened to his story. And when it was all over, Christopher Columbus went on. But that old monk was a personal friend of Queen Isabella. He went and convinced her to finance the expedition of Christopher Columbus. The discovery of the Americas may have started with an act of simple kindness, with a drink of water in a monastery. “

The point is…

We may never know what kind of impact we may have for the kingdom of God by just being ready and willing to go and do the good that we know that we ought to do..

By simply learning to listen to and discern that small still voice of the Lord…

To me, some of the most heartbreaking words in Scripture are found in: Mat. 7:22…again the Lord speaking about that day when all men will stand before Him and have to give an account for what they have done with their lives..

Matt 7:22 (NIV) Many will say to me on that day, `Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

**23 Then I will tell them plainly, `I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'**

What makes these words so heartbreaking is that they are spoken to those who thought that they were heaven bound. People who thought that they were saved. They addressed Jesus as Lord! Religious people! People who thought that they were manifesting the gifts of the Spirit in their lives…They had prophesied in the name of Christ, preached Christ. They drove out demons in the name of Christ and did many miracles in His name.

Yet Jesus says to them…I never knew you---depart from me you workers of iniquity, you evildoers!

“When an elderly lady named Adele Gaboury turned up missing several years ago, concerned neighbors in Worcester, Massachusetts, informed the police. A brother told police she had gone into a nursing home. Satisfied with that information, Gaboury's neighbors began watching her property. One neighbor noticed her mail, delivered through a slot in the door, piling high.

When he opened the door, hundreds of pieces of mail drifted out. He notified police, and the deliveries were stopped. Another next-door neighbor, started paying her grandson $10 twice a month to mow Gaboury's lawn. Later a neighbor noticed that Gaboury's pipes had frozen, spilling water out the door. The utility company was called to shut off the water.

What no one guessed was that while they had been trying to help, Gaboury had been inside her home all the time.

When police finally investigated the house as a health hazard, they were shocked to find her body. The Washington Post reported that police believed Gaboury died of natural causes four years eariler.

The respectable, external appearance of Gaboury's house had hidden the reality of what was on the inside.

Something similar can happen to people: We may appear outwardly proper while spiritually dead. All sorts of religious activity may be happening outside, while the real problem is missed: spiritual death on the inside. We need Spiritual life, not a tidy facade.”

To this people Jesus is speaking to it says…

Jesus will tell them plainly…away from me you evildoers! I never knew you and you never really knew me.

This most likely speaks of a people that knew all the right stuff, knew how to put on all the right window dressing, look like a Christian on the outside but they had never allowed Christ to do His sanctifying work on the inside of their lives and change and transform them from the inside out.

This is the same group of people that Jesus later in the book of Matthew says…

**42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,**

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

**For whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'**

Sin is knowing the good that we ought to do and not doing it..

So, when is it that sin becomes sin in our life?

Where is it that sin first originates, is first manifest?

Sin always originates in our heart. Sin is always first manifest in our minds.

Jesus speaks about this truth, about the origin of sin, when and where it starts in our life, in Matthew Chapter 5…

**Matt 5:20 (NIV) For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.**

**21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, `Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'**

**22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, `Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, `You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.**

**27 "You have heard that it was said, `Do not commit adultery.'**

**28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

Where is it that the sin of murder always originates?

Jesus said, In the heart!

Where is it that the sin of adultery always originates?

Jesus said, In the heart!

What Jesus was teaching about here is the origin of sin and our need to deal with sin where it originates.

Before the act of murder is actually committed it always starts as a seed of hatred in one’s heart.

Before anyone actually commits the sin of adultery it always starts as a seed of lust within the heart.

James provides us with the family tree of sin…

**Jame 1:13 (NIV) When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;**

**14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.**

**15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

This is the family tree, the blueprint for sin.

**Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.**

**Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

Desire originates where? Desire originates in the heart!

It is only after desire has been conceived in our heart that it then gives birth to sin.

And sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death…

Sin always originates in the heart so if we are to do the good that we know that we ought to do and not sin then we need to deal with sin at its origin, deal with sin where it starts, in our heart.

How do we do that….

2Cor 10:5 (NIV) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**Or…**

**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God (as) we take captive every thought (and) make it obedient to Christ.**

To get rid of sin in our life we must deal with it at its source…The source of all sin is in the heart….

We deal with sin by taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ.

We start to have that lustful thought…then we need to take that thought captive, we need to isolate it in our mind and then bring it into subjection to Christ, bring it into subjection to the Word of God!.

We start to have a hateful thought… we need to take that thought captive, we need to isolate it in our mind and then bring it into subjection to Christ.

We start to have that deceptive thought… we need to take that thought captive, we need to isolate it in our mind, and then bring it into subjection to Christ.

We start to have that thought of not doing the good that we know that we ought to do….then we need to take that thought captive, isolate it in our mind and then bring it into subjection to Christ.

**None the less, not my will but Thy will be done..**

Church,Sin encompasses a lot more the just the “BIG TEN”.

The Ten Commandments given to Moses on the mountain was Gods overview of sin but they were then further broken down into over 600 specific laws….

God didn’t give man the law to keep him from sinning. He gave man the law to make man realize that he was a sinner. Realize that he was a sinner in need of a savior. That he couldn’t save himself or live up to God’s righteous requirements by himself but he could only fall at the feet of God and cry out for mercy.

That is what it means in…

**Roma 8:3 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,**

**4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

What the law was powerless to do was give man the ability to keep the law! The law just revealed to man what sin was and that he was a sinner that needed to be saved from his sin and that he couldn’t do it by or through himself.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

**4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

So if we find that the righteous requirement of Gods law is not being fully met in our life, find that we often know the good that we ought to do but we don’t do it, then there is only one reason why.. At those times when we don’t do the good that we know that ought to do, when we sin, we are still living according to our sinful nature. We have chosen not to live according to the Spirit, giving the Holy Spirit control of our life.

Our only hope for sanctification, to become holy just as He is Holy, to know the good that we ought to do and them carry though and do it is to place ourselves “IN CHRIST”!

To not live according to our sinful nature and do what it desires any longer, but to live our lives according to the Holy Spirit of Christ that indwells our hearts and then do what He desires, what He directs us to do.

We need to be living our lives according to the Holy Spirit that indwells us..

The main way that we do that is by taking our every thought captive and then making it obedient to Christ.

Why is it so important that we deal with the sin issue in our life, particularly as a Christian?

Because each time we sin as a Christian it is like driving another nail into the hands and feet of Christ.

In his song “feel the nails” by Ray Boltz, contain these words…

“Do You still feel the nails every time I fail

Have I crucified you Jesus with my sin

I’m tired of playing games

I really want to change

I never want to hurt you again”

This morning…

Do you find that there are times that you know the good that you ought to do but don’t do it? There are times that you needlessly fall to sin? Times that you fail to deal with sin at its true source and it has left you feeling like you have failed God and are unfit for His use?

Have you come to the place where you are tired of playing games in your relationship with Christ and you really want to change?

Come to that place of wanting to be sure that you are among the group on Jesus right that will hear Him say to you..

**“Well done, good and faithful servant, come and enter into the Kingdom that has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world!”**

That you will not be among the group on His left that will hear the words…

“Depart from me you evildoers—I never knew you---You never really knew me!”

The words that we hear on that day will depend on how we choose to live our life now.

Is it your heart’s desire to be the man, woman or child of God that He has called you to be and be able to actually do the good that you know that you should do?

If that is your heart’s desire this morning then choose this morning to place yourself “in Christ”, to envelope yourself “In Him”, to live from this day forward, not according to your sinful nature but to live according to His Holy Spirit, To take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ through surrender, submission and obedience.

Church, It is all summed up in one word…. Commitment!

Coming to that place of committing our life, yielding our life to Christ!

Simply living our life saying yes to God. Living our lives being controlled, not by our nature to sin but living our lives in obedience to the Holy Spirit that God has placed within our hearts. Living our lives striving to do the good that we know that we ought to do.

Coming to God and saying, Lord, here I am, take me, change me, transform me from what I am into who and what you want me to be for the glory of Your Kingdom.

Is that the desire of your heart this morning?

Are you tired of playing games and really want to change because you can’t stand the thought of your sin to be just one more nail that is being driven into the hands and feet of the Lord?