

The Truth About the Believer's Sins (and why we love them so)

I hope you brought either a Bible to church with you this morning or good reading glasses because I'm using a lot of Scripture this morning.

The world loves its sin and darkness, doesn't it? The people "of this world" love their sins and darkness so much that they're willing to take a chance with their lives and souls because their love is that strong. And it's that love that has driven this world's populace insane. Common sense tells us that violence is bad and we should avoid it at all costs. But not this world in the 21st century. Our world embraces violence and sees it as a legitimate means to an end. Insanity is the logical end of those who love this world and its god. ¹⁹ *aWe know that bwe are of God, and that cthe whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (1 Jn. 5:19 NAU)*

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since we have this ^aministry, as we ^breceived mercy, we ^cdo not lose heart, ² but we have renounced the ^athings hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or ^badulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth ^ccommending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

³ And even if our ^agospel is ^bveiled, it is veiled ¹to ^cthose who are perishing,

⁴ in whose case ^athe god of ^bthis ¹world has ^cblinded the minds of the unbelieving ²so that they might not see the ^dlight of the gospel of the ^eglory of Christ, who is the ^fimage of God.

⁵ For we ^ado not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants ¹for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "^aLight shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has ^bshone in our hearts to give the ^cLight of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor. 4:1-6 NAU)

“Love of this world is the enemy of faith in God.”

¹⁵ Do not love ^athe world nor the things in the world. ^bIf anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, ^athe lust of the flesh and ^bthe lust of the eyes and ^cthe boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (1 Jn. 2:15-16 NAU) John describes for us what the love of the world is, “^athe lust of the flesh and ^bthe lust of the eyes and ^cthe boastful pride of life.” I love nature. I love to fish. I love a good meal. I love beautiful architecture. I love to travel. And the Bible says God has given us all things to enjoy. That is not the love of this world. The love of this world is an of-this-world kind of love. “Lust, lust and pride.”

The world loves its sin and **this present devil-wrought darkness** enough to turn their backs on those of us who have presented them with the only way they might escape the coming wrath of God that will damn them for eternity. When we as disciples of Christ present the gospel as it's found in the Bible, those who reject us aren't just rejecting us, they're also rejecting God.

God's wrath is coming upon all who will not be found in Christ on the Day of Judgment. John wrote this, ¹⁸ *“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of ^bthe ¹only begotten Son of God.*

¹⁹ *“This is the judgment, that ^athe Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for ^btheir deeds were evil.*

²⁰ *“^aFor everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (Jn. 3:18-20 NAU)*

Notice v.19 again, ¹⁹ *“This is the judgment, that ^athe Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for ^btheir deeds were evil.* Students of the word of God should immediately recall what Yahweh said in our Genesis chapter 6. Listen to this, ⁵ *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that ^aevery intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

⁶ *“The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was ^bgrieved ¹in His heart. (Gen. 6:5-6 NAU)*

²¹ The LORD ^asmelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said ¹to Himself, "I will never again ^bcurse the ground on account of man, **for ^cthe ²intent of man's heart is evil from his youth;** ^dand I will never again ³destroy every living thing, as I have done.

²² "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And ^asummer and winter, And ^bday and night Shall not cease."

(Gen. 8:21-22 NAU)

But, beloved, we knew this was coming. We and the 1st century church were told all this was going to happen. **2 Timothy 3:1** But realize this, that ^ain the last days difficult times will come. (Difficult times for the body of Christ.)

² For men will be ^alovers of self, ^blovers of money, ^cboastful, ^carrogant, ^drevilers, ^cdisobedient to parents, ^eungrateful, ^funholy,

³ ^aunloving, irreconcilable, ^bmalicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, ^{1c}haters of good,

⁴ ^atreacherous, ^breckless, ^cconceited, ^dlovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵ holding to a form of ^{1a}godliness, although they have ^bdenied its power; ^cAvoid such men as these.

⁶ For among them are those who ^{1a}enter into households and captivate ^{2b}weak women weighed down with sins, led on by ^cvarious impulses,

⁷ always learning and never able to ^acome to the ¹knowledge of the truth.

⁸ Just as ^aJannes and Jambres ^bopposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, ^cmen of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

⁹ But they will not make further progress; for their ^afolly will be obvious to all, just ^bas ¹Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also. (2 Tim. 3:1-9)

First, "The global flood could not and did not change the nature of man."

You know, do you not, that coming to this place called church doesn't change human nature? Some of the worst people I have ever known go to church. Some of those evil people died in their sins while

members of a local church. Church, the true church, is the body of Christ, and only those who have been baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ are genuinely in the body of Christ. That's why I have asked several times since I have been here at Eastway Baptist Church, "*did you receive the Spirit when you believed?*" It is absolutely essential that you answer that question with conviction and certainty. Without the Spirit you are not in Christ. That is an impossibility. Read this, ⁵ *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on ^athe things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, ^bthe things of the Spirit.*

⁶ *^aFor the mind set on the flesh is ^bdeath, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,*

⁷ *because the mind set on the flesh is ^ahostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,*

⁸ *and those who are ^ain the flesh cannot please God.*

⁹ *However, you are not ^ain the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God ^bdwells in you. But ^cif anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (Rom. 8:5-9 NAU)*

And this, ³ *For ^{1a}by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether ^bJews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to ^cdrink of one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:13 NAU)*

From the time I was at Columbia Bible College back in 1988 through '91, I have had so many parents and grandparents say to me about their children and their grandchildren, "If I could just get 'em back in church, I know they would change and quit all that nonsense they're into now." Sometimes that ends well, but it isn't church they need, it's Christ. Don't invite anyone to church who isn't saved, invite them to Christ. Yes, if you do not feel equipped to preach the gospel to them, invite them to church. But it's only when a sinner comes to faith in Christ that he or she can be a member of the true church.

Now go back to Gen. 6:5-6 ⁵ *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that ^aevery intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

⁶ *The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was ^bgrieved ¹in His heart. (Gen. 6:5-6 NAU)*
as spoken before the flood;

Gen. 8:21-22

²¹ *The LORD ^asmelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said ¹to Himself, "I will never again ^bcurse the ground on account of man, **for ^cthe ²intent of man's heart is evil from his youth;** ^dand I will never again ³destroy every living thing, as I have done.*

²² *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And ^asummer and winter, And ^bday and night Shall not cease."*

(Gen. 8:21-22 NAU) And that was spoken by Yahweh **after the flood**. God Himself lets us know that exterior events do not and cannot change man's nature one iota. The only way human nature is changed is by the grace of God bringing His chosen to faith in Christ. And even then the change is 100% in our inner man and almost zilch in our outer. We have the Spirit to help with the still sinful and corrupt outer man.

There is the witness of nature testifying that there is a God, a Creator, but **natural revelation is insufficient in and of itself to save or change anyone.**

Gospel revelation is what natural revelation can lead the sinner to. ¹⁹ *because ^athat which is known about God is evident ¹within them; for God made it evident to them.*

²⁰ *For ^asince the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, ^bbeing understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom. 1:19-20 NAU)*

So, what on earth did the flood and the destruction of all life accomplish? And what was the purpose of the flood?

First, the flood of Noah's day accomplished what Yahweh set out to accomplish, it rid the world of that perverse generation. **Second**, it demonstrated the power and sovereignty of Yahweh. **Third**, it put the

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fear of God into the hearts of God's people who would come to love His laws and ordinances.

And the Bible says this,

⁵ *But ¹because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart ^ayou are storing up wrath for yourself ^bin the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

⁶ *^awho WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:*

⁷ *to those who by ^aperseverance in doing good seek for ^bglory and honor and ^cimmortality, ^deternal life;*

⁸ *but to those who are ^aselfishly ambitious and ^bdo not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.*

(Rom. 2:5-8 NAU)

But what about those of us who are in Christ by the grace of God? What about those of us who were once separated from God but have now been brought near by the blood of Christ? Can any of us honestly say that we do not have some sins in our lives that we are not rather fond of and maybe, if we're honest, love? Christians have a love-hate relationship with our remaining sins. You and I both have our besetting sins, those sins that ensnare us and entangle us. **Hebrews 12:1**

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also ^alay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us ^brun with ^cendurance the race that is set before us,

² ¹*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the ^{2a}author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him ^bendured the cross, ^cdespising the shame, and has ^dsat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2 NAU)*

We have a love-hate relationship with our sins.

There was a blues song recorded way back in the '60's by Smokey Robinson and the Miracles called "You Really Got a Hold On Me."

Here are parts of the first two verses. “I don’t like you, but I love you Seems that I’m always thinking of you, oh, oh, oh, You treat me badly.”

V.2, “I don’t want you, but I need you, Don’t want to kiss you, but I need to. Oh, oh, oh, You do me wrong now, my love is strong now.”

Romans 7:1 *Or do you not know, ^abrethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

² *For ^athe married woman is bound by law to her ¹husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law ²concerning the husband.*

³ *So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.*

⁴ *Therefore, my brethren, you also were ^amade to die ^bto the Law ^cthrough the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.*

⁵ *For while we were ^ain the flesh, the sinful passions, which were ^baroused by the Law, were at work ^cin ¹the members of our body to bear fruit for death.*

⁶ *But now we have been ^areleased from the Law, having ^bdied to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in ^cnewness of ^dthe ¹Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. (Rom. 7:1-6 NAU)*