



## BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Cnr Marcus & Thompsons Roads, LWR TEMPLESTOWE VIC 3107  
03 9850 9633 / www.bulleenbaptist.org.au

### BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH PART 3 : "Understanding Man"

## July 3, 2005 Study 8 : "Sin's Nature and Consequences"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

"Building Blocks of Faith" deals with the basic Christian beliefs. The studies will be kept as simple as possible. Those who are considering following Jesus will have the main issues of the Christian Faith explained. New Christians will gain an insight into what God has done in their life ... and why. Older Christians need to revisit the basics from time to time in order to check that what they are building is consistent with the blueprints! Part 1 of the Series was "Three Little Words" - Grace, Mercy & Peace. Part 2 - 2 Studies on "Understanding God"

Part 3 is titled "Understanding Man." In this section we have seen what the Scriptures teach about Man's Nature and Purpose. Last Sunday Pastor Jennifer led a Study on "Fallen Man. Part 3 concludes today with a Study on "Sin's Nature and Consequences." Part 4, "Understanding Reconciliation" begins next Sunday.

### INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S STUDY

Ideas to combat crime, racism, hopelessness & despair abound - education, legislation, technology, counselling. But if we misdiagnose the problem; no proposed solution will go far enough. God tells us through his Word that our problem is that we live in a state of ACTIVE REBELLION against him and as a result there is a profound and serious flaw in our very makeup. Our problem is sin!

God demonstrates his love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us .....  
when we were God's enemies we were reconciled to him. Rom5:8-10a

The word "sin" has been greatly devalued in most people's mind. Often used in mockery or ridicule, or associated with "hypocrisy," it has lost its value to the point that often its best to find new words to use when talking to a person who is not a Christian. Today I'll use the word without embarrassment and attempt to put the meaning back in as we understand from the Scriptures what sin is and what its consequences are.

#### A. WHAT IS SIN?

1. For all have sinned and FALL SHORT of the glory of God. Rom3:23

The idea of "missing the mark" or "not reaching the standard." What is the standard?

Be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect. Mat5:48

You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. Lev19:2

2. Every one who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is LAWLESSNESS. 1Jn3:4

Sin - not just a rejection of God's Law, but of God himself and the enthronement of "self."

3. .. did God really say .... Gen3:1b

The essence of Adam and Eve's sin is not the act of disobedience itself, but DOUBT that God was acting openly and faithfully by what he said and in his motives for saying it. Man had bought the lie that God was limiting them or selfishly restricting them from true freedom. So the doubt worked itself out in open REBELLION.

#### B. WHO IS AFFECTED BY SIN?

"For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Rom3:23 (cf Rom 3:10-19)

have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way" Is53:6a

## C. HOW DOES SIN SHOW ITSELF?

1. Our inherited NATURE : a "bias" toward CHOOSING wrong.

"Surely I was sinful at birth; sinful from the time of my conception." Ps51:5

"..sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin ... death came to all men, because all sinned." Rom5:12 (cf Rom5:17a, 18a, 19a)

Adam, pre-fall was "free not to sin"; post-fall he (and us) was "not free not to sin"

2. Our deliberate, responsible ACTIONS : actually DOING wrong.

"The acts of the sinful nature are ....." Gal5:19-21

" ... gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts."  
Eph2:3 (cf Rom7:5)

## 4. WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN?

"For the wages of sin is DEATH ....." Rom 6:23a

God said to Adam that "when you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen2:17b) Satan said, "You will not surely die." (Gen3:4) When Adam and Eve "ate from the tree" they did not die. Or did they? Who's telling the truth, God or Satan? In a sense, both were ... but God was being completely honest (Can he be anything less?) and Satan only partially so. (Can he be anything more?)

The answer lies in the nature of death. Death has three aspects; they are :

PHYSICAL (the death of a person's body in time)

SPIRITUAL ...you were dead in your transgressions and sins Eph2:1

ETERNAL (the separation of a person from God for eternity)

What does it mean to be spiritually dead? The inability to RESPOND to God :

The mind of the sinful man is death ..... the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Rom8:6-8

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand. 1Cor2:14

If Spiritually dead we are : At ENMITY with God;

UNABLE to do what he requires ....

SATISFY his demands. (See also Is64:6),

or UNDERSTAND him or the Gospel.

## 5. WHAT IS SIN'S CURE?

..... but the gift of God is eternal LIFE. Rom6:23b God takes the initiative .....

... you were dead in transgressions and sin. .... But God, who is rich in mercy, and because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ ... Eph2:1 - 5a (RSV)

Jesus is CENTRAL ... the atonement sacrifice for our sins 1Jn2:2

Not counting men's sins against them. 2Cor5:19

....and this is the theme of the next Section of our Studies : "Understanding Reconciliation."