

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 36, September 4, 2018 / South side Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

WHAT ABOUT 'DELIBERATE' SIN!?

You have sinned! Maybe you feel like the brother who, about 6 years back, sent me the following:

"James, Hi. May I share something with you that's been on my mind? Without going into the sordid details, **I have been experiencing regret and depression over certain past sins.** Part of me wants to simply claim the forgiveness held out in the Gospel, **but another part of me is disturbed by passages such as Num. 15:30-31 and Heb. 10:26-31**, which speak of "deliberate" or "high-handed" sin. **My particular past sins that I carry around inside me as heavy mental baggage are sins which I knew perfectly well were sinful when I was doing them.** Does this imply that I cannot obtain forgiveness for them...? Thanks and blessings, Sam. (Not his real name)

I sent the following response... which is in sort of an 'outline' fashion... as I was simply desiring to share Biblical truth; but in a

way that would call for him to OPEN HIS OWN BIBLE and search.
(This 'edition' does have a few updates.)

Greetings, Sam!

An Old Testament example: King David's adultery— likely was not planned— she just 'happened' to be bathing... and he just 'happened' to be on his roof top to where he could see. **BUT REGARDLESS, once he saw her, he began to make DELIBERATE CHOICES.** I believe R. C. Sproul and others are right when they say: ***"We always do the thing we most want to do at the given moment!"*** The thief says, "Give me your money or I will take your life!" I would like to have more 'options'... but, given the options I have... I, indeed, choose and do the thing I most want to do at the moment— I GIVE HIM THE MONEY!

In a fallen world, we may find ourselves suddenly facing things not planned or premeditated and we respond by sinning; **while at other times, we clearly PLAN to sin:**

***** Sometimes what we did was OUT OF CARELESSNESS...** Example: I run a red-light, 'T-bone' a little old ladies' car, which sends her to the hospital... sadly, she dies. ***** On the other hand:** She ran the red-light, I chose to get angry, chased her down, and beat her to death. ***** THE COURTS will - or should -** give me 'penalty' either way. **HOWEVER,** the Courts will... or should be stronger with punishment in the latter. The first was not premeditated; the second was premeditated and DELIBERATE.

King DAVID'S sin with Bathsheba apparently was not sought; but once he saw her, lust grew and he deliberately chose, etc. **In contrast, having Uriah killed was premeditated and DELIBERATE!**

1. Could he be forgiven? **Yes!** – 2 Samuel 12:1-14; Ps. 32; Ps. 51; Ps. 103:10-22. **2.** Were there continuing consequences? **Yes!**

SAM, YOU spoke of... PAST SIN ["deliberate" or "high-handed"] – sin which you have since forsaken; and which, I presume you did confess and ask for forgiveness... but they remain "...inside me as heavy mental baggage..." **SO, WHAT ABOUT Hebrews 10:26, 27?**

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more *sacrifice for sins*, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

IMPORTANT NOTE: We cannot apply this verse correctly if we avoid its context... and a key is the phrase, "**sacrifice for sin.**"

Numbers 15:30, 31: "But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him."

In Numbers, the issue is not 'heaven or hell'... but someone who would be put to death physically... likewise here:

(1) "And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel." (Deut. 17:12)

(2) "Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people." (Ex. 31:14)

SO, WHAT IS THE 'WILFUL SIN' in Hebrews 10:26-27?

In Hebrews, Paul (or whoever the author is) is dealing with professing Christians from a Jewish background, who were wanting to leave the faith to avoid persecution and to return to the O.T. sacrificial system. **HOWEVER: Christ has died "once for all" as prior verses teach so there is no more "sacrifices for sins."**

THEREFORE, willful sin, in CONTEXT, was/is returning to the former system and the crucifying of the Son of God afresh. As we know, there are no other sacrifices, because God has now done away with the sacrifices of the O.T. (Hebrews 6:4-6).

ALSO NOTICE Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

We usually apply that verse to talk about attending church regularly. **However, in context,** those who first read those words would have understood something different: NAMELY, there were some forsaking so as to go back to a sacrificial system of worship.

CRITICAL REALITY: MUCH OF HEBREWS shows us that Jesus was offered to pay our sin debt and has also sanctified us: *"By the which we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* (Heb. 10:10) *"For by one offering he hath perfected FOR EVER them that are sanctified."* (Heb. 10:14) *"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."* (Heb. 10:17)

APPLICATION:

1. Hebrews 10:26-27... CANNOT apply to you... UNLESS you have forsaken the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST and have gone back

to sacrificing sheep/goats... or turned to some other way of seeking to have your sins paid for OTHER THAN THE blood of Christ!

2. 1 John 1:5-10 - 2:1-2 CONTAIN PRECIOUS PROMISES for the Child of God— thus, there is **no sin for which the blood of Christ is not sufficient!**

At the same time NEITHER these verses NOR other verses give COMFORT to those who 'claim to be saved'... but who continue in a persistent lifestyle of continuing domination by sin.

3. God does not have a memory lapse as to our past sins... but, gloriously, **He remembers them AGAINST US NO MORE!** (Heb. 10:17; Ps. 103:10-14)

If the Jews, spoken of in the Epistle to the Hebrews, **forsook Christ and went back to the Levitical system— then the only thing that they could expect was:** "But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

(Heb. 10:27-31)

These Jews were being exhorted to remain faithful to CHRIST. They were in grave danger of heeding some other Jews, and buying into a way to avoid persecution by going back to the O.T. sacrificial system. Their fear of persecution of the Jews was nothing to be compared to the consequences of forsaking CHRIST.

THEIR CHOICE would reveal the genuineness or lack of genuineness of their profession. **IF THEY LEFT CHRIST... they would simply prove the reality of what John speaks of:** 1 John 2:18-19. **AGAIN... these do not LOOSE their salvation. They depart because they NEVER were IN CHRIST. (Also: Matt. 7:13-27)**

Heb. 10:32-39-- The Author of Hebrews continues to appeal to the MIXED AUDIENCE to whom he writes...

1. There were, no doubt, genuine saints who were wavering... and who could be in line for some serious CHASTENING if they failed to listen/heed and be fully restored in FULL CONFIDENCE in the ONCE AND FOR ALL SACRIFICE of Christ!

2. Others, who had SEEMED to be living by faith... when the pressure came on, they would fall away— because of who they really were in their hearts! (1 John 2:18-19; Mark 4:14-20)

Here's the last plea of what we have as Chapter 10: VERSE 38- "Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. **VERSE 39- *"But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."***

AGAIN, the context of Hebrews 10:26-27... is that some Jewish 'professing believers' were considering on going back to the Levitical system. They are warned that there is "no more

SACRIFICE for sins" because Jesus had completed that sacrifice **ONCE FOR ALL** (verse 10).

IF THEY FOLLOWED THROUGH in following those who were trying to lead them astray— it would be equal to identifying with a nation who was under judgment for rejecting the one and only sacrifice of JESUS. Such a decision would essentially be arguing that those Jews that rejected Christ and killed Him were correct... and so, we are returning to the sacrificial system. **SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE ABSOLUTE APOSTASY** for, "...**there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.**" (1 John 2:18-19)

THUS:

- 1.** Hebrews 10:26-27 **CANNOT** refer to 'loosing' one's **salvation;**
- 2. Nor can it refer to** some deliberate sin of whatever stripe... for which forgiveness is NOT available— **THERE IS NOT** any sin for which the child of God cannot be gloriously forgiven.

THEREFORE: what shall YOU or I do about ON GOING CONDEMNATION from past sins— past but confessed and repented of past sins?

1. Take God at His Word and run all over our screaming emotions and/or accusations of satan! Glory in God's forgiveness! Believe the TRUTH in our hearts and confess it with our lips!

2. REJOICE: GOD THE FATHER values what Jesus accomplished on Calvary's cross so much that HE raised Jesus from the dead, proving that His holy wrath had been satisfied, propitiated! **THEREFORE, since the Father is satisfied; I MUST BE SATISFIED and PRAISE AND GIVE THANKS!** Ps. 32; Ps. 51; Ps. 104:10-12.

Grace to you! // James Bell // www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** (Enter by IRON STEPS; or doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September, 11 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE. ENTER** at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!***) **ENTER** AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

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http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SUNDAY SERVICES: September 2018— 9, 16, 23, 30

Sunday School at 9:30am /// Worship at 10:45am

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. September 9— 5:30pm, Faithful Men

2. September 16— LORD'S SUPPER at conclusion of the Morning Worship Service //

HOME GROUPS MEET at 5:00pm

3. September 23— 6:00pm, monthly, church-wide equipping hour... presently SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART

4. September 30— 6:00pm, an Evening of Praise and Scriptures