

### **1. They Will Damn His Fellowship With God.**

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:5-7

Light has no fellowship with darkness; right has no fellowship with wrong; good has no fellowship with evil- God has no fellowship with sin. The Christian that walks in sin travels a lonely road. He travels a road of discouragement He travels a road of discontent. He travels a dark road. "The way of the transgressor is hard." He gropes, he stumbles, he worries, he frets, he is illusioned, he has no fellowship with God: but if he walks in the light he has fellowship with God for God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Those sins won't damn his soul, but they will damn his fellowship with God and Christ,

### **2. They Will Damn His Spiritual Joy.**

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of

my salvation and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness, O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. Psalms 51: 12-15

The Scripture quoted above sets out the expression of David following his sins of murder and adultery. After the prophet Nathan rebuked him David prayed this penitential prayer. He did not ask for the restoration of salvation. He had not lost salvation, but he had lost the joy of salvation. He could not sing of God's righteousness; there was no note of praise in his life. His sin had corroded his heart; the joy of salvation, the song of salvation, the praises of God had been damned by sin.

Take also the case of the apostle Peter when he denied the Lord and cursed his so bitterly when Jesus was being tried. The scriptures say "when he thought thereon he went out and wept bitterly" and you, too, dear friend, by sin can drive the joy out of your soul, but you cannot drive salvation off the books of God. No sinful Christian will be a happy Christian; he will get to heaven all right, his soul will be saved, but he will have lots of and hours between here and there.

### **3. They Will Damn His Conscience.**

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing vexed righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds) II Peter 2- 7-8.

Paul was always talking about having; a conscience void of offense toward God and man. He could so speak because of his faithful living in Christ. scripture quoted above speaks of Lot's experience. Lot was a just man, he was a righteous soul, but Lot compromised by living in Sodom, seeing its wickedness and hearing filthy conversation of the wicked, and the scriptures say "he vexed his righteous soul" in this way. He vexed it from day to day. The Lord saved Lot out of the wicked city of Sodom, at its destruction, and the compromising

Christian will be saved from destruction that comes to this wicked world and its inhabitants, but the compromising Christian, while he is here, like Lot while he was in Sodom, has a very miserable time of it. His conscience vexes him, rebukes him, irritates him, and reminds him of his derelictions.

### **4. A Christian's Sins Damn His Prayer Life.**

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. Psalms 66:18. Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59: 1-2

A sinning Christian does not pray much and a praying Christian does not sin much. Sinful living and constant praying will not companionship together. The way we live has nothing to do with the salvation of our souls, but it has a lot to do with our prayer life and whether or not God answers our prayers. If you want to get the most out of praying, you have got to put the most into living. If you regard iniquity in your heart, the Lord, will not hear you and your sins and iniquities will separate between you and Him and hide His face until He won't hear you.

Most of us have occasions in our lives when we need very much the help of God and when through prayer we solicit that help, so therefore if you want God to hear you in your special time of stress, you had better have a daily life acceptance to him.

### **5. They Damn His Influence.**

And Lot went out and spake unto his sons-in-law which married his daughters and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law. Genesis 19:14

No man lives to himself and none dies to himself. Every person is bound inextricably to other people. They affect him, he affects them. They either help him or they cause him to be a worse man. Each man is a part of all he meets. Abraham, when the drought came, went down into Egypt, quit praying, began to lie and brought a plague upon the Egyptians. Later in life Isaac did the same thing under similar circumstances.

The Scripture above sets out the effect of Lot's compromises upon his family. When God sent His special messengers of mercy and told Lot of the coming destruction of Sodom, Lot went out into the city and hunted up his married daughters and urged them with their husbands to flee from Sodom. "He was to his sons-in-law as one who mocked."

His influence over them was gone, his advice to them meant nothing, his warning fell on deaf ears, his fear to them was humorous, his anxiety was a mockery. They did not believe him, they did not take him seriously. He had so compromised with the sins of Sodom that in this awful hour of danger his loved ones to listen to him, wanted to save them from destruction, "he was to them as one who mocked." To them, it was all a huge joke about his being so deeply concerned about the coming destruction.

My, my, my what a tragedy! What a heart-breaking tragedy. A pleading father and a mocking family. His sins and compromises in Sodom had not

damned his soul, but they had damned his influence over his loved ones. If you want your life to count with your loved ones, if you want them to listen to you and take you seriously when you speak to them about spiritual dangers, then you've got to live a consistent life before them. If you have been living wrongly before God, then renew your vows and covenants in order that your life may influence your loved ones. While Jacob was down in Haran his family was associated with false gods, and even after he came back to Canaan and made peace with Esau while he was living in Shechem there was among his family strange gods and idolatrous worship and the folks around him did not have much fear of Jacob. But when he arose to go back to Bethel (Gen. 35:1-7) to renew his vows of God, his family put away all their strange gods, "and the terror of God was upon the cities that were around him and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob."

Dear wayward Christian friend, if your influence does not count much with your family, try going back to Bethel. It will help your influence over your family.

#### **6. A Christian's Sins Will Damn His Reward In Heaven.**

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3: 15.

There is a difference in salvation and, reward. Salvation is a present possession, reward is promised in the future. Salvation is based upon the work of Christ, rewards will be based on our work for Christ. Salvation is a free gift, rewards are earned. Salvation is settled once and for all when we believe, rewards will be measured out when Christ returns. The way I live has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of my soul. It has everything to do with what I will get in the way of a reward when Christ comes back a second time.

The Scripture quoted above declares that if you works abide we shall receive a reward, but if they are burned, we shall suffer loss though we ourselves be saved, as if by fire.

There is more to being saved than just getting to heaven. There is more to being saved than just having our soul cleansed. The cleansing and justifying of our soul is all a work of Christ that is conditioned upon our faith, but our fellowship with God, the joy of our salvation, a peaceful conscience, power in prayer, a whole influence, and an eternal reward are conditioned on our way of living. Sins will not damn our souls, but they will damn and destroy other things; therefore, it behooves every Christian to ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and then do it at all costs.

*Sam Morris*

## **DO A CHRISTIAN'S SINS DAMN HIS SOUL?**

By Sam Morris, Baptist

We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of its soul. That is settled. In Christ and Christ alone. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law." "Being justified by faith we have peace with God." "He that believeth on the Son bath life and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth in him." "By, grace are ye saved trough faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast." "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven among men whereby we must be saved" "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," "He that believeth' on him is not condemned and he that believeth not is on him is not condemned and he that believeth not is condemned already."

These and many other Scriptures teach that man's salvation and the justification n of his soul depend entirely upon his faith in Christ. The sin question is a Son question; salvation is a trust question; damnation is a disbelief question. All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong-to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger. The justification of he human soul is through the atonement of Christ and not through the efforts of man The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul. The thief on the Cross is an illustration of this truth. He taught nobody the Bible. He joined nobody's Church. He wasn't baptized. He did not observe the Lord's supper. He paid no debts. He rectified no wrongs. He led nobody else to Christ. He turned over no "new leaves." He did not "straighten up his life." He did not "change his way of living." He trusted Christ; he died. But Christ assured him; "This day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Do you mean to say it doesn't make any difference how a man lives?" No. I do not mean to say anything of the sort; it t does make a big difference how ho lives but that difference relates to his fellowship with God, his prayers, his conscience, his joy, his influence, and his heavenly rewards and not to the salvation of his soul. The human soul is damned not by "sins," but by it "sin" -- one sin--the sin of "disbelief in Christ" and the human soul is saved not by acts but by an act -- one act -- the act of faith. 'Relief saves, disbelief damns. And though what a man does has nothing to do with salvation of his soul, it has everything to do with his joy, his usefulness, and his reward is in eternity. A Christian's s sins will not damn his soul but they will damn so some otter things for him.