

SIN.

The inspired Word of God tells us that sin is the transgression of the law of God. God is the Author of the inspired Word and sin is the transgression of His way or will, a crossing over the bounds set by God.

When man partook of the forbidden fruit, it was an overt act. He, knowing that God had said, "Thou shalt not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," allowed Satan to direct his attention, put forth his hand, and took and ate. Therefore God drove him out of the garden.

Not all of God's law is written between the lids of the Bible. Some of His law is written upon the tablets of the heart. He declares: "I will put my law into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." We also find His law in nature. It permeates everything. Man is constantly fronted with the laws of God. When He says, "Be sure your sin will find you out," He was making a statement that is as absolutely correct as His laws are correct.

How will man's sin find him out or tell on him? The answer is simple. God's laws are everywhere. They are like the hidden mines in the harbor which the ship cannot pass without striking. The sinner, sooner or later, will run afoul of some law of God that will catch him up and his sin will find him out. Just as the officers, sentinels, papers, posters, telegraphs, telephones, bloodhounds, and all are after the criminal fleeing from justice, so God in the same way is sure to run down every sinner whatever his sin, who dares to cross God's will and take things into his own hands, thus purposing to have his own way in his life. He will get caught in the meshes somehow. Somewhere God's faithful Holy Spirit will run him down, head him off, corner him up, capture, convict and sentence him, and thus prove the truth of the divine statement, "Be sure your sin will find you out."

The law of God as recorded in the Ten Commandments is not the whole law as found in the Bible. Neither do the books of Moses hold the entire list of God's statutes in the Word. We find His law scattered from Genesis to Revelation. His commands permeate the inspired Book. "Thou shalt," and "Thou shalt not," are not confined to any given portion. To disobey any one of God's commands or requirements, to run counter to any part of His blessed will laid down in the Book, to fail to walk in the light of any truth pertaining to us, is certainly to break God's law in the Word. No one can transgress this law with impunity. Most dire consequences come to those who dare to take the bits in their teeth and have their own way contrary to God's written law. Attached to the breaking of God's law is the plain written statement: "The wages of sin is death; the soul that sinneth, it shall die." God does not say, "I will kill the soul that sinneth." He says, "Sin will kill him." The inevitable consequence of sin is death. If I should say to my child, "Do not take that poison, or you will die," I do not mean I will kill the child if she takes the poison. The poison itself will kill her. On this general, broad principal we find the truth of the statement, "Be sure your sin will find you out," everywhere evident. Death is reigning on every hand, because sin is on every hand. It cannot be hidden, it tells on the individual continually that he is a sinner, by the spiritual death and dearth obvious in his life. His lack of love, joy, peace, life and spirituality

all go to show that he is dead. His sin is telling on him.

Can a man dabble with sin, and not suffer the consequences? Since the wages of sin is death, and the soul that sinneth shall die, has not one who attempts to trifle with such a monster reached the climax? Sin is the worst thing on earth. It has caused all the trouble—sorrow, suffering, sickness, death and destruction either directly or indirectly since the fall of man. Sin is that dismal, dark, heinous, monster that has wrecked prospects and lives; homes, countries and practically the whole world.

One might as well think of trifling with a live wire with thirty-three thousand volts of electricity passing through it, as to trifle with sin. It always leaves its mark, it always harms. It always kills, and it is as sure to tell on one as that it exists in the life. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." No matter how well sin may be covered, it is only a question of time till it will come out. Certain great iron castings have been ordered for a railway according to the extent of the span, and the bridge. The thickness has been calculated weight of the load. The contractor constructs his moulds according to the specifications, and when all is ready pours in the molten metal. In the process of casting through some defect in the mold portions of air lurk in the heart of the iron, and cavities like those of a honey comb are formed in the interior of the beam but all defects are hid, and the flaws are effectively concealed.

The artisan has covered his fault; but he will not prosper. As soon as it is subjected to a strain the beam gives away. Sin covered becomes a rotten hollow in the human soul: and when strain comes, the false gives way. "Be not deceived," neither deceive yourselves, nor permit yourself to be deceived by others. God is not mocked. Ye cannot deceive Him, and He will not permit you to mock Him with pretended instead of a real service.

Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Whatever kind of seed a man sows in his field, of that shall he reap. For no other harvest can proceed from that which is sown. Oats will not produce wheat, nor wheat oats. In like manner, He that soweth to the flesh shall reap corruption. He that sows to the flesh, who indulges his sensual sinful appetites shall have corruption as the crop. According as your present life is, so will your eternal life be. Whether your sowing be to the flesh or to the Spirit, so will your eternal reaping be. To sow, here, means transacting the concerns of a man's natural life; to reap signifies his enjoyment or punishment both in the present and in the future state. Every act of the life, and every imagination of the heart, are of the nature of seed; they root themselves in the soul and produce their kind, whose fruit must be reaped sooner or later.

He who rejects the Gospel and follows the leadings of his own depraved lusts, shall reap disappointment and misery. He who trusts in Christ and receives the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit shall reap life everlasting.

If carnal indulgence or worldly pursuits is the end for which a man is living, moral ruin must be the result. If he aims at the higher life which comes through the operations of the Holy Spirit, the higher life will be his reward. "All unrighteousness is sin." "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil

sinneth from the beginning; for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."—Good Tidings.

MY BELIEF

By Claude H. Mayo

I believe in the old-time religion, the kind Jesus had when here upon earth, and the kind Peter, James and John had after Pentecost, with the other disciples and the one hundred twenty in that upper room. I believe in the kind Paul had, and all the saints who were persecuted and put to death, because they believed in and were filled with the Holy Ghost.

I believe in the religion of John Wesley, whose methods were Bible methods, and God's methods, and the religion of Joshua Soule, William McKendree and others of that day and this day, who know the power of the Holy Ghost to cleanse from all sin and can shout their praises unto God. I believe in a heartfelt religion, the kind we can know, and that can keep us from sinning every day we live. Praise His holy name.

I believe that a man is born in sin, with a sinful nature called the old man, old Adam, carnal nature, etc. This must be cleansed from the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost before one can have full salvation. I believe that the Holy Ghost brings conviction of sin upon the sinner and leads the sinner to repent; that God, for Christ's sake, forgives the sinner of all past sins. He is then regenerated or living in a state of regeneration. He has obtained pardon and stands justified before God. He is at peace with God and rejoices that as a babe in Christ he has been born into the kingdom of heaven.

I believe that after hungering and thirsting, fasting and praying, groaning and seeking for heart purity, for freedom from the sinful nature, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost, from all inbred sin, from all inward evil desires, from all inner evil tempers. He is then sanctified wholly or baptized with the Holy Ghost. He has taken on the nature of holiness.

The Holy Ghost has made His abode in his heart and he has obtained heart purity. He is wholly consecrated and grows in true holiness and Christian perfection.—Herald of Holiness.

THE SOURCE OF TRUE HAPPINESS

Man is God's creature. Hence the only right attitude for man is Godward living. The entire man is to move Godward. But how, since between man and God there is a chasm—deep, broad, impassable? Thank God, this chasm has been bridged; Christ is the reconciliation bridge, strong, eternal and all-sufficient. All humanity may pass over into the embrace of God, the Father, and now, to be with God, and to do His will should be the supreme end of our every act. The burden of life's care should be the fulfillment of divine mind in our creation. All things should be made to subserve this end.

This will rightly regulate the whole life, and secure to the individual, in abundance, all the necessary good, present and future. Let all life's energies center in God, and without anxiety upon thy part, virtue, perfection, and as a sequence, happiness will crown thee, as truly and naturally as darkness gives way to light at the rising of the sun. "In thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."—Selected.