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What's Wrong With This World?!?



By Steven J. Hogan

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What's wrong with this world? The problem is **SIN.** It's not the economy, guns, the climate, schools, police, lack of food, corrupt leaders, or bad laws. The root problem, the real problem is sin, a spiritual cancer that corrupts (Rom. 8:21) and kills. *"The soul that sins will die"* (Ezek. 18:4). And it's related to all our other problems. Here are some important lessons to learn about sin:

Sin, the sinner, and its consequences:

*** Sin is not worshiping God, the Creator,** but instead, is worshiping the creation. Sin is idolatry. It's rebellion. It's disobedience. It's pride. It's not trusting God. It's trusting self. Sin is evil, vile, sickening, wicked, wrong, revolting, devilish, and deadly. Deut. 5:7-9; Jer. 2:5, 13; Rom. 1:20-23

* **Sin starts in a person's heart,** in his soul, in his innermost being. A sinner's soul is spiritually blackened, thoroughly dirty, altogether disgusting, and completely detestable to God. Sin is revealed in a person's thoughts, words, and actions. Ps. 10:3-11, 36:1-4, 51:5-6; Rom. 3:10-18

* **The root sin of not loving God is manifested in many ways**. In His Word, God describes 100's of specific sins because He wants us to know what they are and the consequences of committing them. Mark 7:20-23, Rom. 1:28-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Gal. 5:19-21, 2 Tim. 3:1-4, etc.

* **God demands a payment for a person's sin, and it's death.** *"The wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23). Sin, the most serious crime, is against God Himself, and He must punish it, and its death. This death is spiritual, physical, and may be eternal (the person who never turns to Christ is forever punished and separated from God). *"These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of God"* (2 Thess. 1:9). *"Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire."* Matthew 25:41

* **Some people are inwardly sinful but appear outwardly righteous.** *"You are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness... hypocrisy and lawlessness"* (Matt. 23:27-28, Luke 18:9-14). Other people are inwardly sinful and outwardly sinful. *"There was a woman in the city who was a sinner"* (Luke 7:37). Either way, sin is utterly deadly and must be dealt with, or else there will be hell to pay.

* **Many people do not believe in sin.** The world often classifies sin as a person's personality, an addiction, mental illness, or behavioral disorder (anxiety, eating, conduct, etc.). Yes, some people's problems are strictly mental in nature, but most are spiritually based. Most sinners want to forget, excuse, ignore, or gloss over their sin, for

admitting it would mean that God exists, and that they are guilty and deserve to be judged. *“If we say that we have no sin… the truth is not in us… if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar.”* 1 John 1:8, 10

*** God judges a sinner at different times:** 1) During his life on earth – *“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness”* (Rom. 1:18, note Deut. 28:15-68). 2) The day of the Lord – for those sinners living on earth at the end of the age (Rev. 8-9, 16). 3). In Hades after his life on earth (Luke 16:23). 4) In the lake of fire at the end of the millennial kingdom. Revelation 20:11-15

Jesus Christ is the only answer to sin:

*** Jesus Christ pays for a person’s sins by His death on the cross,** or a person pays for his own sins by being punished forever in hell. If a person repents and believes Christ died for him, then he’s forgiven, has eternal life, and goes to heaven. *“Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God”* (1 Pet. 3:18). *“God made Christ who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Cor. 5:21). *“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.”* Titus 3:5

The Christian’s response to sin, and his purpose in life:

*** God commands you to keep yourself holy in this evil world.** People clean their house, wash the dishes, take a shower, weed the garden, etc., but what’s most important is keeping your soul clean. By God’s word, by God’s Spirit, and by being in a good church, you can live a holy life, and you need to, for only then can you please the Lord and be useful to Him. *“Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord.”* 2 Timothy 2:22

*** Don’t focus on the sin in this world**. Don’t be occupied by the bad news and bad things in this world. Don’t think too much about crime, corruption, and conflicts, or you’ll find yourself fretting and getting

discouraged. Look to God, do what is good and right, and carry out the work He gives you to do – that's what can make a difference, and what's eternally important. *"As for you, be strong, and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."* 2 Chron. 15:7, Neh. 6:1-4, Psalm 37:1-6

*** As a Christian, be an ambassador for Christ**. You are to be a bright shining light in this dark and evil world. Be a witness to the lost by your life and words. Share with people the gospel of Christ. Exhort them to turn from their sin and turn to Christ. Tell them that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. *"We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God"* (2 Cor. 5:20-21). *"Repent and believe in the gospel."* Mark 1:15, Eph. 5:8-13, John 14:6

*** To successfully get through life, you need hope.** It's eternally worth it to live for God during your short life on earth – He has a **magnificent future** in store for you. Your hope is that you will literally be **with Jesus** (John 14:1-3), that you will be **in heaven** where there's absolutely no sin, that you will have an immortal, powerful, perfect, and **glorious body** (1 Cor. 15:40-42), that you will be **with your Christian friends** as well as all believers from all time (Heb. 12:22-24), that you will be **greatly rewarded** for serving God and suffering for Him (Matt. 5:11-12), and that you will be **reigning with Christ** during the millennial kingdom. Revelation 2:26-27, 5:10, 20:6

The nations, the world, and the end-times

*** God judges an individual nation because of its collective and cumulative sin.** God's word gives many examples and history proves it. You should pray, *"Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail. Let the nations be judged before You"* (Ps. 9:19, Rev. 6:9-11). The final judgment of the nations, the outpouring of God's wrath, occurs just after the rapture, during the day of the Lord. (Rev. 8-9, 16). *"You have rebuked the nations; You have destroyed the wicked."* Psalm 9:5

*** Sin is the worst problem, engulfing the entire world,** yet God is

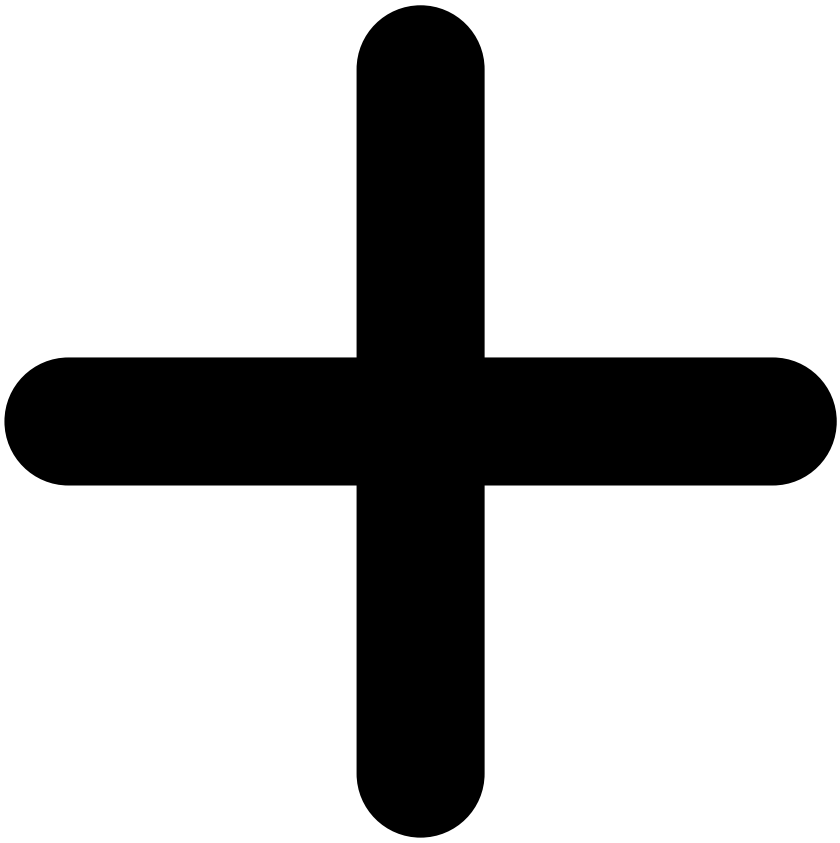
sovereignly causing all its evil to result in His purposes being fulfilled. God used Herod and Pilate to carry out the worst sin ever, the crucifixion of Christ, but it was the best thing that ever happened (Acts 4:27-28). So too, all this sin is part of God's plan to bring about Christ's return and the rapture, His wrath, and His 1000-year reign. *"All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, O Lord; they will bring glory to Your name. You are great and do marvelous deeds. You alone are God."* Psalm 86:8-10

* **The United States is being judged for her sin.** Rom. 1:18-32 describes the reason for God's wrath, a 4-stage progression of sin, which is what we have seen in this country over the past 60 years. We have gone from rejecting God to immorality to homosexuality to depravity (Isaiah 5:20). God has been righteously and severely judging our country, with the result that she is being diminished in power, and sometime in the future, Antichrist's kingdom will be ruling this earth (Rev. 13). *(And don't ever think that the government, leaders, laws, capitalism or socialism, or conservatism or liberalism are the answers. Remember, sin is our real problem, and only Jesus Christ is the answer. And there's no doubt that we will see His victory over sin in this age and the next age).* Psalms 67, 96; Phil. 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:24-28, Rev. 19:11-21

*** The world will become increasingly sinful as we get closer to Christ's coming.** For the Christian, this will be an extremely treacherous place to live. That's because *"lawlessness is increased"* (Matt. 24:12); *"the man of lawlessness* (Antichrist) *is revealed*" (2 Th. 2:3); they *"took pleasure in wickedness"* (2 Th. 2:12); and *"evil men... will proceed from bad to worse"* (2 Tim. 3:13). And there will be great tribulation – *"They will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name"* (Matt. 24:9). Yet, this is the time God wants you to be alive. Remember, God will give you all the grace you need to be holy, to be a good witness, and to do the work He wants you to do (2 Cor. 9:8). *"The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."* Romans 13:12

You must understand this subject of sin, especially in the end-times, and here's why: #1, for your own life and conscience, and so you can be loving God with all your heart; #2, so you can be a *"vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master"* (2 Tim. 2:21-22), and a good witness to the lost; and #3, so you are not confused, upset, or discouraged by what's going on in this terribly wicked world, but rather, are a good servant and soldier for Christ. *"The men of Issachar understood the times and knew what they should do."* 1 Chron. 12:32

P.S. As Christians, this subject of sin must be understood, or you will have problems growing in the way God wants, and difficulty helping others, both saved and lost. I would encourage you to find the time to read these three articles, for they will be extremely helpful now and in the years ahead: *Evildoers in the End-Times*; *A Little Suffering and A Lot of Glory;* and *Your Spiritual Service: A Member of The Special Forces.*



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