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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 John 5:16-17**  
**Lesson #21**  
**Sin Seminar**  
**05/22/2022**


*1 John 5*

“16 If anyone sees his brother committing a **sin not leading to death**, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All **unrighteousness** is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.”

**The unforgivable sin**

*Mark 3*

“28 Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an **eternal sin** 30 because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.””



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## Understanding “sin”

### Universal human experiences

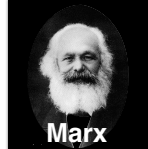
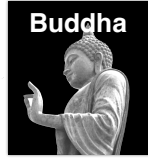






- ✓ **Mortality** - Physical death & suffering
- ✓ **Meaning** - Longing for life
- ✓ **Morality** - A sense of good and evil
- ✓ **Management** - Alienation & struggle

**call for an explanation.**



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## Different emphases in facing life’s hard questions

<h3>Addressing symptoms</h3>  <p>Marx</p>  <p>Buddha</p>	<h3>Addressing root issue</h3> <table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">by Law</td> <td style="text-align: center;">by Grace</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center;">  </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">                     Islam Judaism Roman Catholicism                 </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	by Law	by Grace			Islam Judaism Roman Catholicism	
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## The Biblical explanation of the human dilemma

### Genesis 1-3

## addresses the human experience in a unique way.

- ✓ **God** - One spiritual God who creates the material world and all that is in it
- ✓ **Man** - The uniqueness of humanity
- ✓ **Responsibility** - Freedom, Fall, & Fear
- ✓ **Sin** - the human struggle - Independence, alienation, defensiveness.

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## Understand the depth and breadth of sin.

✓ **Sin is not just “misbehavior” but a deeply imbedded nature.**

<b>Original sin</b> (participation in Adam’s sin)	<b>Sin nature</b> (predisposition to sin)	<b>Sinful acts</b> (pattern of behavior)
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*Romans 5*

“12 Therefore, just as through one man (**Adam**) sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—13 for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed (**counted**) when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him (**Jesus**) who was to come.

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## Human nature

**Dignity**  
(created in the image of God)  
Gen.1-2



**Depravity**  
(Adam's rebellion and fall)  
Gen.3

*Romans 7*  
"22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members."

**futility**  
(of nature)



**sinful behavior**  
(pattern of conduct)

**sin nature**  
(predisposition to sin)

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## What was the original sin?

**Autonomy**  
(spiritual insurrection and selfish pride)

### What did it lead to?



**Anxiety**  
(social injustice, cultural conflict, chaos and fear)

**Anger**  
(shame, bitterness, defensiveness, and despair)

**sinful attitudes and actions**

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## Three different emphases of Christianity



**It's about eternal life.**

*What Christ does FOR us*



**It's about personal holiness.**

*What Christ does IN us*



**It's about social justice.**

*What Christ does THROUGH us*

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## Roman Catholic view

### Mortal sin

is an **intentional** violation of the 10 Commandments (in thought, word or deed), committed in full knowledge of the gravity of the matter, and it **results in the loss of salvation**. Salvation may be regained through repentance / penance and God's forgiveness.

(Gal.5:19-21, 1 Cor.6:9-10, Eph.5:3-8)

### Venial sin

may be a violation of the 10 Commandments or a sin of a lesser nature, but it is committed **unintentionally** and/or without full consent. Although damaging to one's relationship with God, it **does not result in loss of eternal life**.

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## Unpardonable sins?

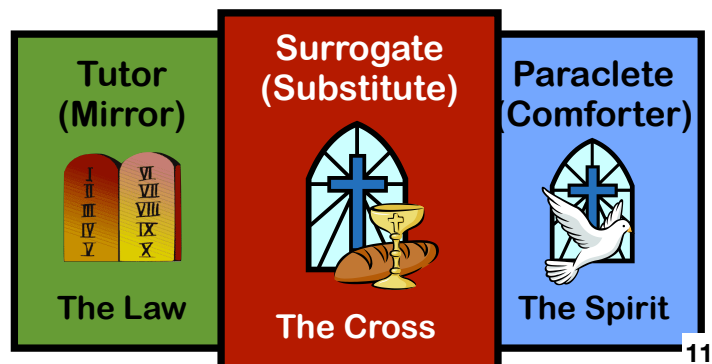
*Galatians 5*

"19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: **immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery,**

of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**"

10

## Protestant view "Word & Way of the Cross"



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## Keep the Law in its place.

It is to **RESTRAIN** but not **REFORM** individuals or societies

**CONVICT**  
humanity of  
its need for a  
savior



**SHOW**  
humanity  
what a Savior  
must do

Christians are freed from the Law's condemnation as a covenant but respectful of it as a guide to God's moral expectations.

12

A religious, legalistic, spirit is distinguished from **true religion** by the relationship between our works and God's blessing.



13

## Why is this important?

- ✓ **Managing life demands** an understanding of human nature.
- ✓ **Identifying the nature of our sins** is a part of our appreciation of the Gospel.
- ✓ **Realistic expectations** of ourselves and others will shape our relationships and peace.

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## Mistakes to Avoid

- ✓ **Lowering the moral bar** to a manageable level for a "spiritual" human.
- ✓ **Holding a superficial view of sin** while ignoring systemic, attitudinal sins.
- ✓ **Living under the O.C. Law** with its guilt, shame, blame and fear.
- ✓ **Unrealistic expectations** of self, others, society, and this world.
- ✓ **Placing hope in something other** than the person and work of Christ.

15

## What did Christ's death and resurrection accomplish?

- ✓ **It satisfied the demands** of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ **It fulfills and terminates the O.C.** as a covenant of works righteousness.
- ✓ **It unites us with Christ's death** to the Law's power to condemn sinners.
- ✓ **It placed us "in Christ"** as co-heirs to the kingdom promises.
- ✓ **It imparted Christ's Spirit** to all who believed.

16

## Spectrum of Sin

**Original sin**  
(participation  
in Adam's sin)

**Sin nature**  
(predisposition  
to sin)

**Sinful acts**  
(practice  
of sin)

**Disbelief**

**Disobedience**  
Greater

Lesser

*Matthew 23:23*

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the **weightier** provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

17

**Why was Jesus harder on religious people who did not believe**

**than on immoral sinners who did not behave?**

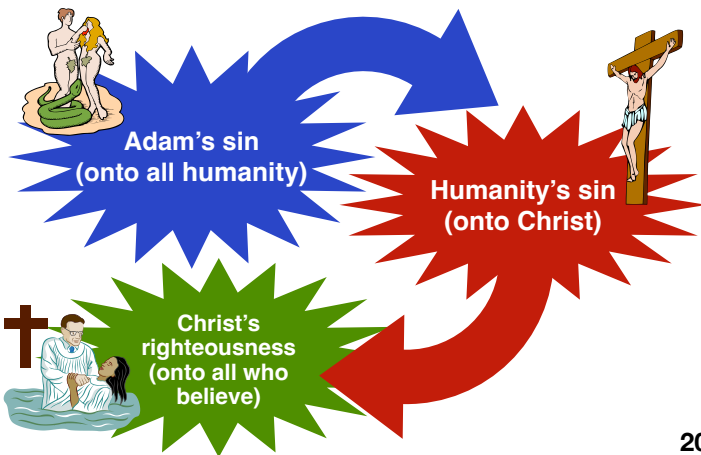
**The Word of the Cross made provision for misbehavior but not for disbelief.**



*Romans 5*

“18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more**, 21 that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Three great imputations**



*Romans 5:19*

“For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

*1 Corinthians 15:22*

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

**All who are in Adam die.**

**All who are in Christ are made alive.**

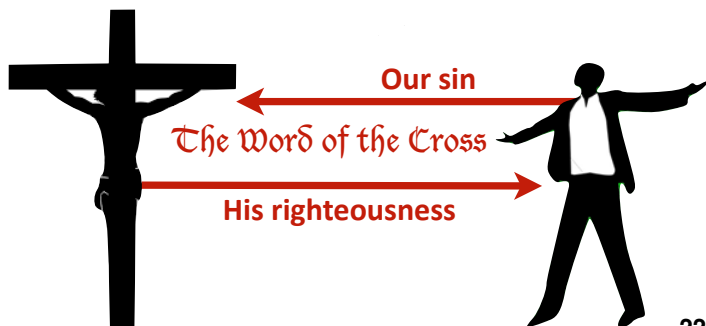
**The great exchange**

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,

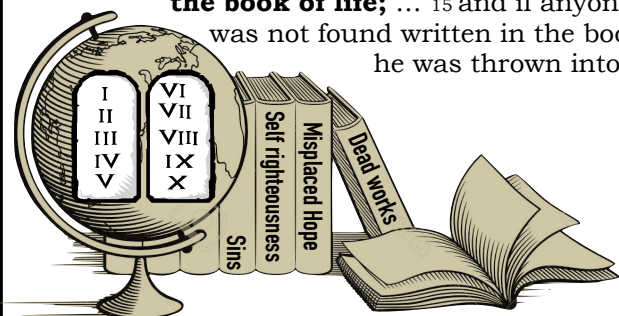


so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



*Revelation 20*

“11 And I saw a **great white throne**,...12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**: and **another book was opened, which is the book of life**; ... 15 and if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”





## 1st Resurrection (to eternal life)

**Jesus  
"1st fruits"**

**All who are  
"in Christ"**

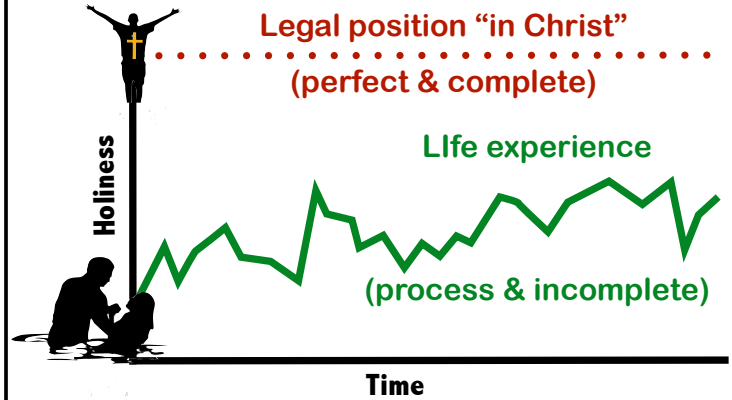
Book of Life

## 2nd Resurrection (to condemnation)

**All who are left with their  
own "dead works"**

24

## The two aspects of holiness



25

The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.



**This had to do with his official  
position not his personal character.**

26

**Water baptism  
is the positional washing  
of believer priests.**

“. . . baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”



*1 Peter 3:21*

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## Positional righteousness

- ✓ It is a declaration & non-experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.

**Christ's work FOR us**

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## 1 John



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A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

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