

The Effects of Unrepentant Sin 09/30/2018 Sunday AM

Scripture: Romans 6:1-13, Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 66:18

Introduction

- Last week we discussed **God's Love...**
- We saw that God's love is an agapē love, an atoning love, and an independent love.
- God's love for us prompted him to provide us a way of salvation so we could be reconciled back to him.
- There is no doubt that salvation and the hope it brings provides us with tremendous joy and fulfillment.
- This morning we will discuss **The Effects of Unrepentant Sin.**
- The Bible calls us to "repent" of our sins. The word Greek for "repent" is *metanoēō* which means - to perceive afterwards. A person expresses regret for current actions and focuses on how they will change going forward.

Romans 6:1-13

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²**By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?** ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.**

- I think Paul was pretty direct in these 13 verses and the message should be extremely clear.
- Paul had been speaking about grace and wanted to qualify what he was saying.
- He just said in **Romans 5:20**, "The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more."
- Paul did not want the people to "hear what he was not saying."
- So, he starts **Romans 6** off with a rhetorical question. "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"
- Should we? Should we sin just so God will have the opportunity to bestow grace upon us?
- V. 2 answers that question quickly and asks a follow-up question, "By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"
- **So, we have our answer to the first question, now what is your answer to the second question?**
- Notice that it says, "live in it" in v. 2. He is asking about unrepentant sin.
- Paul goes on to explain how we have "died to sin" in vv. 3-11 as we identify with Christ's sacrifice.
- V. 6 sums it up really, "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."
- The point Paul is making is that because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we have been released from the bondage of sin. When we receive salvation, we are "alive to God in Christ Jesus."
- Paul goes on in vv. 12-14 to really bring all of the home for us.
- V. 12 – **If sin is still reigning in our bodies, where is there room for Christ to reign?**

- These verses clearly list for us what we should and should not do:
 - Do not let sin reign in your mortal body and so you can resist obeying its evil desires. (v.12)
 - Do not offer the parts of your body to sin to be used as instruments of wickedness. (v. 13)
 - Do offer yourself to God and surrender the parts of your body as instruments of righteousness. (v.13)
 - Understand sin should not be your master, for we are not under the law, but under grace. (v. 14)
- In this entire passage Paul makes it clear that sin is something we should cut out of our lives at every turn.
- We cannot have two masters, either we surrender to God or to the sinful desires of our heart and the enemy.
- **Now let's turn to see what the Bible says will happen if we do not heed Paul's above teaching.**

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

- Obviously from this verse David understood that sin distances us from God.
- Some translations say “hear” instead of “listened.” I believe “listened” is the better translation.
- God may actually hear what we pray, however if sin is being “cherished” or “regarded” in our hearts, he may just choose to ignore what he hears.
- This is clearly the case for those that are unbelievers, but it is also true for believers that allow sin a foothold back into their life as well.
- To cherish sin in your heart would mean that there is unrepentant sin.
- The effects of that is maybe God doesn't listen to your prayers.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

- King Solomon wrote Proverbs and he knew a lot about prosperity and wisdom.
- Concealing sin is the opposite of confessing and if you are concealing the sin, you are most likely not repenting of that sin.
- The point is that sin hinders our forward progress both for God and in terms of the world as well.
- Concealed sin will affect every aspect of your life.
- **As Christians, this type of sin hinders our witness, and our effectiveness for Jesus Christ.**
- **The God that giveth, will begin to taketh away.**
- The good news is that if we do confess and renounce our sin, God grants us mercy.
- **Which part of this verse describes you?**
- If you truly want to experience authentic joy in your life, repent of your sins and invite Jesus to reign in your life.
- If you want to be effective in your witness and walk with Christ, make sure you are not “living” in the very thing we were supposed to “die” from.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Study of the Book of Romans Romans 2:17-29