

Questions on Salvation

Question: I stressed that the only definition for sin we have is that it is the transgression of the law so that it is not sin unless one makes a choice. (The New Theology pastor taught them different. He should have been stopped not to do a whole week of errors. Now some of my friends are defending some of his positions)

I know I will face this question (again): Where (unconverted) Paul says (Romans 7) that it is the **sin** in him that does the evil that he wills not to do yet he does.

What is that "sin" in that context? I suppose it is the "bent" of Psalm 51:5 but the only definition of sin includes a choice and none chooses to have that "bent," we inherit it.

TCs Reply: One of the big things with the New Theology is the definition of sin and the other is 'original sin'—which is a RCC doctrine introduced way back by Augustine—because he found himself unable to control his sexual appetites—and of course he was living in a totally unnatural way that God never intended—and was striving through his own efforts. Original sin is why they baptize infants. Original sin is a lie.

The sin definition is this—they claim that any mistake, any imperfection, any error—is all sin—for example—it I make a typo here in this document—that to them is sin. They claim any human imperfection is sin—if I stutter—that is sin—if I fail to do every task to total perfection—that is sin to them.

We are not born with the guilt of sin—not born guilty of Adam's sin—this is what they claim you see. BUT Adam after he sinned had a fallen nature—we are born with the fallen nature and our flesh is naturally inclined to sin. Adam could not give us any nature than what he had—so the fallen nature is what all receive.

So the Bible tells us: 1Co 15:45 “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (Christ) 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”

So we inherit our fleshly nature from fallen Adam—we have no choice in that—but Jesus stepped in to provide the way of Salvation—there we have a choice that He provided for us. Without His sacrifice and His life we would simply live, die, and perish—all under control of Satan. No hope at all.

But in Genesis 3:15—the gospel promise is given—Enmity is put between the seed of the woman and the serpent—without this enmity we would not even ever desire to be like Jesus and be converted!! Jesus could have lived and died and nobody would even care!

SO basically here is the process, first in my stumbling words and below I will give you SOP—as Jesus said in John 3—“Ye MUST be born again” – this born again is a miracle wrought by the Holy Spirit but it only comes by our seeking it and we only seek it as we come to understand our sinful and lost condition without it. This happens as we are exposed to the Law of God and the Living Word—through the Word the Spirit convicts of sin and of righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8) He shows us the Saviour—the righteousness part—and then we have a choice to make—we have to repent and surrender to the Saviour—and experience the supernatural birth—born again as a son of the Second Adam—a son of God!

The whole thing is an exchange—we give Jesus our life and He gives us His life—it is a total change. Our old life must die and be buried and we rise to new life in Christ. It is HIS LIFE—we must realize that—what Paul is describing is our natural life—our own carnal life. In our carnal state we may think that virtue is better than vice. We may as he says, consent that the Law is holy—but in our natural state we can not keep the Law.

Self MUST die and Jesus live HIS LIFE in us—AND it is a supernatural transaction! It must occur in our life through repentance and total surrender at the start of our real Christian experience—AND then it is an ongoing transaction—a daily, nay—hourly—minute by minute choice whether we are Christ's and remain in Him or we choose to yield to self and sin and are immediately out of Him. You see—this is what these New Theology people deny—they refuse to see that we have to be born again—and that is Christ lives in us—we do not sin because Christ will never sin!

People are brought into the church by consenting to a few facts—BUT they are not converted—and even the ministers are not converted and you can't teach what you don't know. SO because they have never experienced the new birth and conversion—they are like Nicodemus—they are the teachers and yet have never been converted and so they teach what they know—which is their human ideas and theories—but have not even come to the simplest, most basic principle of the gospel—that we, in our carnal self, must be dead—and Christ lives in us—constantly—by our ongoing choice!

It has been decades—nay—almost a century since real conversion was taught in the church!! It is RARE and so human ideas have taken the place of that supernatural exchange—and people manage to put on an outward show of consent to a few facts—and they consider they are a Christian and they find they can't get the victory over sin—of course not—because only Christ can take away our sin.

These 'New Theology' people do not believe in the supernatural—they only look at the human—and so they teach that Christ's salvation is only a legal transaction and not for real in the life. This is Satan's original lie to humanity—do you realize that?? YES—he claimed that man could not keep the Law of God—if it was true what they claim then Satan is proved right!

See the items below—and then ask more questions if what I have written is not clear. You see—it is so SIMPLE—that we go over it and around it—but we have a hard time to see it.

“The enemy is preparing for his last campaign against the church. He has so concealed himself from view that many can hardly believe that he exists, much less can they be convinced of his amazing activity and power. They have to a great extent forgotten his past record; and when he makes another advance move, they will not recognize him as their enemy, that old serpent, but they will consider him a friend, one who is doing a good work. Boasting of their independence they will, under his specious, bewitching influence, obey the worst impulses of the human heart and yet believe that God is leading them. **Could their eyes be opened to distinguish their captain, they would see that they are not serving God, but the enemy of all righteousness. They would see that their boasted independence is one of the heaviest fetters Satan can rivet on unbalanced minds.** {5T 294.1}

“Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the

earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts. Then take "the shield of faith," brethren, "wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."” {5T 294.2}

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. **Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.**” {DA 324.1}

The students were generally clear on the humanity of Jesus and other things that the pastor had tried breaking down but that's where the problem is and unfortunately that's the most sensitive spot, where an erroneous view will affect one's entire understanding of the gospel - what sin is and what it is not.

Reply:

When we sin we are outside of Christ—and we must return by the same path that we are first converted—repentance—confession—and surrender. But another error that goes with the SDA ideas of sin—is that we become righteous by evolution—like for example—this week I loose my temper 5 times—next week only 3 times and so on until I overcome on that sin—then I work on another one. THAT NEVER WORKS—but Adventism has been teaching it for decades!!!

Only Christ in Us can give the victory and it is not by evolution—it is creation—Instantaneous!! It is by His Word accepted into us—He spake and it was done!!! We can choose His victory—or we choose our sin—and this is ongoing as we forsake known sin and choose to have it removed from our lives. THEN the Spirit brings more light and we see more sin and we surrender that—this is the process of sanctification. BUT in Christ we **can cease from sin.**

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1Jo 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 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.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

“By faith and prayer all may meet the requirements of the gospel. No man can be forced to transgress. His own consent must be first gained; the soul must purpose the sinful act, before passion can dominate over reason, or iniquity triumph over conscience. Temptation, however strong, is never an excuse for sin.” "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers." Cry unto the Lord, tempted soul. Cast yourself, helpless, unworthy, upon Jesus, and claim His very promise. The Lord will hear. He knows how strong are the inclinations of the natural heart, and He will help in every time of temptation. {MYP 67.1}

Have you fallen into sin? Then without delay seek God for mercy and pardon. . . . Mercy is still extended to the sinner. The Lord is calling to us in all our wanderings, "Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings."--"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. V. page 177.