

When A Christian Sins



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

When A Christian Sins

Learn that a Christian can sin and what a Christian must do whenever he sins

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW186

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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When A Christian Sins

Satan does not stop working on people whenever they become Christians. Therefore, God inspired the author of Hebrews to write, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13).

God wants His people to be encouraging one another to live for Him every day – because He knows that Satan is working fiercely to turn His people away from Him. He knows that Satan is “like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). He is deceptive and wants to destroy those who are God’s people.

And, sometimes, Satan is successful in his efforts. That is, sometimes Christians sin. Therefore, those who are Christians need to be aware of a few things. First, they must be aware of the fact that Christians *can* commit sin. Second, they need to recognize what their sin *means*. Third, they need to know how to *correct* the sin in their lives.

The purpose of this study is to instruct and encourage you in each of these points. So, if you are a faithful Christian without any sin in your life right now, this lesson is intended to help motivate you to

keep yourself away from sin and provide you with the necessary instruction in case you do sin against God. Or, if you are currently a Christian who has gone back into sin, this lesson is intended to help open your eyes to the great spiritual danger you are in right now and help you understand how you can return to the Lord.

A Christian Can Sin

Although there are some who believe and teach that it is impossible for someone who has become a Christian to commit sin, God teaches that it is possible. In fact, the Scriptures often teach concerning this situation. Consider just some of the passages in which the Bible writers taught that it is possible for a Christian to sin.

John taught that it is possible

Within the 1 John letter, John taught (when writing to Christians), “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Instead, we must confess our sins to God (1 John 1:9). We make God out to be a liar if we say that we have no sin (1 John 1:10). In fact, John was writing all of this “so that you may not sin” (1 John 2:1). The implication is that they could have sinned. And, “if anyone sins,” John wanted Christians to know that they had an “Advocate with the Father” in Jesus Christ, who is both the propitiation for the sins the Christian commits as well as for the whole world (1 John 2:1-2). Furthermore, 1 John 5:18 indicates personal responsibility to refrain from sin. Though John states that the one who is “born of God does not sin,” he also says that this one “keeps himself” and “the wicked one does not touch him.” However, if he does not keep himself, the wicked one will touch him and he will sin.

John’s writings also include the rebuke of an individual who had become a Christian and sinned, named Diotrophes (3 John 1:9-11). Then, when John wrote the book of Revelation, he recorded the words of Jesus to many Christians who had sinned (see Revelation 2-3). Some had left their first love. Some had compromised the truth. Some had been involved

in sexual immorality and eating things sacrificed to idols. Some had died spiritually. Some had grown lukewarm in Christ's service. But, though Christ rebuked these Christians and told them to repent, He never said that they were not actually Christians. Furthermore, John recorded Christ's words, instructing Christians to be faithful until death in order to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10) and saying that those who would overcome would not be blotted out of the Book of Life (Revelation 3:5). The implications are that those who would not remain faithful or overcome would not receive the crown of life and would be blotted out of the Book of Life (see also Revelation 22:18-19).

Paul taught that it is possible

Paul joins with John in teaching that it is possible for the Christian to commit sin. Like John, Paul wrote letters to those who were Christians – and his consistent message was one of warning that it is possible to sin. For instance, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 records an exhortation about self-control. Paul, in using a comparison between the Christian's life and running a race, encouraged Christians to run "in such a way" that they may obtain the prize. Then, he demonstrated that just as those who compete in physical races understand the need to exercise self-control, Christians must exercise self-control in order to be victorious. And, specifically, Paul said that he disciplined his body (bringing it into subjection), lest he "should become disqualified" even though he had preached to others. Now, if Paul could lose his salvation by failing to exercise self-control and commit sin, anyone who is a Christian can do the same!

Paul also teaches the possibility that the Christian can sin in many other passages in his writings to Christians. For instance, in 1 Corinthians 5, Paul distinguished the actions that should be taken against the Christian who sins and the sinner who is not a Christian. 2 Corinthians 2:11 warned about Satan taking advantage of the Christian (implying that the Christian can succumb to his temptations). 2 Corinthians 13:5 instructs the Christian to test himself in order to know whether he is in the faith or not. Galatians 1:6-12 warned Christians who were "turning away" from Christ. Galatians 5:4 spoke

about some Christians who had "fallen from grace." Ephesians 6:10-18 exhorts the Christian to put on God's armor in order to withstand Satan (implying that Satan will defeat the Christian if this is not done). And, in 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15, Paul instructs Christians to withdraw from other Christians who walk "disorderly and not according to the tradition" received from them – even though he was a "brother."

Peter taught that it is possible

Peter joins with Paul and John in teaching that it is possible for the Christian to sin. First, consider what Peter told an individual who had become a Christian and sinned, in Acts 8:14-26. Simon (who had previously practiced sorcery) had become a Christian, believing and being baptized (see verse 13). However, when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered the apostles money so that he could have that same gift. Peter identified this sin of trying to buy the gift of God with money and instructed him to, "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (verse 22). Notice that Peter did *not* say that Simon had never actually been a Christian. Instead, the picture is clearly a Christian who had sinned, and needed to repent and ask God for forgiveness.

Second, consider what Peter wrote in his two letters to Christians. In 1 Peter 2:11-12, Peter begged that his Christian brethren live as "sojourners and pilgrims" by abstaining from "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." Now, if they could not sin, why did they need to be so diligent in abstaining from these things – and how could these fleshly lusts war against their souls? In 1 Peter 5:8-9, Peter encouraged his Christian brethren to be self-controlled and watchful because of the devil, who was seeking to destroy them. He told them to resist him and be steadfast in the faith. But, if it was impossible for the Christian to sin, why would they need to do these things? And, in 2 Peter 2:20-22, Peter described the Christian who goes back into sin as being like a dog returning to its own vomit and a washed pig going back to roll in the mud.

James taught that it is possible

James joins with Peter, Paul, and John in teaching that it is possible for the Christian to sin. Observe the clear teaching concerning this in James 5:19-20. James told Christians that “if anyone among you [a fellow Christian] wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” So, it is clearly possible for a Christian to turn away from the truth and even become guilty of a “multitude of sins.” If not, this instruction makes no sense!

Other passages in James’ writings also indicate the same truth. James says that the one who “endures temptation” is blessed and will “receive the crown of life” (James 1:12). But, if the Christian could not sin, he/she would not need to endure temptation. James 1:27 instructs the Christian to keep himself/herself “unspotted from the world.” The implication is that the Christian can fail to keep himself/herself in this way and become spotted by the world (sin). James 4:7 encourages Christians to submit to God and resist the devil. But, this is a choice. If the Christian submits to the devil and resists God, he/she will have sinned.

Jude taught that it is possible

Jude joins with James, Peter, Paul, and John in teaching that it is possible for the Christian to sin. Even in his short letter to Christians, Jude was “very diligent” to write to them concerning their “common salvation,” finding it “necessary” to exhort them “to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). Jude recognized that there were individuals who were working to turn people away from following Christ. But, notice that the need to “contend earnestly for the faith” implies that sin is a possibility for the Christian.

Toward the end of Jude’s letter, he exhorted Christians (in light of this danger) to “keep” themselves “in the love of God” (Jude 1:21). The instruction to “keep” themselves in God’s love implies that they could fail to remain in the love of God by sinning against Him.

The Hebrew writer taught that it is possible

Finally, the writer of the book of Hebrews joins Jude, James, Peter, Paul, and John in teaching that it is possible for the Christian to sin. Consider two passages that plainly demonstrate this to be true. First, in Hebrews 2:1-4, the instruction is given to Christians to “give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” And, he asks how we will escape the consequences of neglecting “so great a salvation.” Both of these clearly imply that we can depart from the salvation that is in Christ Jesus!

Second, Hebrews 10 leaves no doubt that it is possible for the Christian to sin. Verse 26 speaks to Christians of the consequences when “we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth.” These are said to have “trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace” (verse 29). Please note that they had been sanctified by the blood of the covenant. Then, the Hebrew writer speaks of them drawing back to destruction (verses 37-39). They had clearly drawn back from salvation to condemnation.

What It Means When The Christian Sins

When Satan works to deceive those who are Christians, he wants them to think that their sin is no big deal. He wants them to focus on their own selfish desires. He wants them to disregard the consequences that sin brings. Therefore, we need to consider what God says about the Christian who sins against Him.

He displeases God

Concerning the one who becomes a Christian and returns to sin, God says, “Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:38). Think about the seriousness of the God who loved you enough to

sacrifice His Son for you not being pleased with how you live your life!

Those who become Christians and go back into a life of sin are like the prodigal son of Luke 15:11-32. This individual was more focused on his own desires and having a good time in life than he was on pleasing his father. So, he demanded his inheritance and wasted it all on foolish things. And, so it is with Christians who sin. They take the wonderful opportunity God has given them for salvation and waste it on selfish pleasures that do not last!

He is disqualified and falls from grace

Remember what Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. After comparing living for Christ to running in a race for an eternal crown, he spoke of his need to exercise discipline over his body. Verse 27 says, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” So, Paul recognized that he could not be successful in receiving the crown/prize if he did not use his life to serve God. If he would use his life to fulfill his own desires, he would be disqualified from eternal life – despite all of the good things he had done in God’s service prior to this. And, so it is with every Christian who does not exercise the right kind of control over his/her body. Whoever uses their bodies to please themselves rather than God will disqualify themselves from eternal salvation.

Then, consider what Paul told the Galatians. Galatians 5:4 says, “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” Although these individuals had become Christians and accessed the grace of God in the past, they had now conducted themselves in a way that resulted in falling from God’s grace. Therefore, they had thrown away the opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven. And, so it is with every Christian who goes back into sin. They throw away their opportunity to go to Heaven in order to chase after some other thing.

He re-crucifies Jesus

When the author of Hebrews was addressing the situation of willful sin after individuals had become Christians (Hebrews 10:26-39), he said that there is no more sacrifice that can be offered for their sins. After making reference to the way that the Law of Moses required the death penalty for those who violated their covenant with God (see Deuteronomy 17:2-6), he addressed Christians who turn their backs on Christ. Verse 29 says, “Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”

The one who has become a Christian has been saved through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, received the forgiveness of sins offered by the new covenant, and accessed the grace of God. But, when he/she goes back into sin, now he/she is trampling Jesus Christ (the Son of God) underfoot as if His love and sacrifice means nothing. He/she is treating the blood that ratified the new covenant as if it is a common and ordinary thing. And, he/she is living in a way that insults the Spirit who has revealed the grace of God to mankind. So, in turning away from Christ, the erring Christian shows contempt not only for his/her own salvation, but for all that God has done! In another passage, the one who is set on rebelling against God is said to “crucify again...the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6). Therefore, it is as if the rebellious Christian is responsible for nailing Jesus to the cross again!

He deserves punishment

Look at the punishment that is deserved by the one who has gone back into sin after being saved by Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:26-31 says, “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will

he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Verse 39 says, “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

The stoning that people experienced for turning away from their covenant with God in the Old Testament (as seen in Deuteronomy 17:2-6) is nothing compared to the punishment due to those who rebel against God today! Those who rebel against God will stand before Him in judgment in great terror. They will know that they had once been obedient to God, but had thrown the gift of eternal salvation away for selfish things. Now, they will suffer eternal destruction in Hell fire (as pictured in Revelation 21:8 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). And, although those who were never Christians will also experience the same kind of eternal punishment, I believe this punishment will seem worse to erring Christians because they will know what they gave up (also see 2 Peter 2:20 that says, “the latter end is worse for them than the beginning”). So, not only will they suffer in the fires of Hell, but they will also have an eternity of regret, knowing that they had once tasted the joys of salvation and wasted them on selfish things!

He is re-entangled in impurity and defeated

The passage in 2 Peter 2:20-22 gives a graphic picture of the Christian who goes back into sin. “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’”

Whenever Christians go back into sin, they tend not to view their sin this way. Instead, they often view their rebellion from a selfish perspective that is focused on experiencing the temporary pleasures that Satan has offered them. However, they need to wake up and see that God views their sin in a very different way. Those who have come to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and return to sin are like dogs that return to eat their own vomit in the sight of God! Those who have had their filth and stains of sin washed from their lives through the blood of Jesus and return to sin are like pigs that have just been washed going back and rolling in the filth and stench of the mire!

How Erring Christians Return To The Lord

Whenever Christians turn away from the Lord, it is essential to recognize that there is a way back to God. As long as you remain separated from God, you are hopeless. But, if you wake up and recognize that you have sinned against God and are headed for an eternity of suffering in Hell, you can return to Him and be saved! Like the prodigal son who wandered far away from his father, you are never too far away to return to the Lord! But, what does God require you to do? Consider each of the following steps God requires you to take in order to be forgiven of your sins. Please note that these are the steps for someone who has once become a Christian and has gone back into sin – not the steps for someone who has never come to Christ.

Experience godly sorrow

Whenever the apostle Paul addressed the Corinthian Christians about a matter of sin that had been committed among them, he said, “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

Returning to the Lord must begin by recognizing the sin you have committed and experiencing true sorrow over it. It's not enough just to be sorry that you got caught or that you are experiencing the physical consequences of your sin. Instead, it is necessary for the one who has sinned to truly experience sorrow that his/her sin has separated himself/herself from God and re-crucified Jesus Christ (since he/she needs the blood of Jesus Christ to forgive his/her sins again). The one who has sinned should be sorrowful to consider that he/she is on a path that leads to eternal punishment in Hell fire.

This sorrow should drive the erring Christian to repentance. Worldly sorrow may pass whenever the consequences are no longer experienced or the pressure subsides. But, godly sorrow drives the erring to make all the changes that need to be made in his/her life so as to please God and be forgiven of the sin that has been committed.

Repent

Anytime there is sin in a person's life, God requires repentance. You see, it does not please God whenever a person who is guilty of sin continues to live in his/her sin. In order for there to be true change in a person's conduct and in order for forgiveness to be given, repentance must take place.

Repentance involves looking on your past sins with abhorrence and determining to live differently in the future. Therefore, in repentance, you acknowledge the wrong that you have done and determine that you will not make those sinful things part of your life in the future. Then, the Scriptures teach that (if your repentance is sincere) your life will produce "works befitting repentance" in the future (Acts 26:20).

Now, although the Scriptures clearly identify repentance as being necessary in order to become a Christian (see Acts 2:38), we are focused on the place of repentance for the Christian who has committed sin. As we have seen in Acts 8:12-24, a man named Simon had become a Christian (verse 13). Previously, this man had been a well-known sorcerer and gained much fame through his sorcery. After he became a Christian, he saw that the apostles could give the Holy Spirit to others by the laying on of

hands – and he offered to buy that gift for money. Then, Peter said, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity" (verses 20-23). Notice carefully that one of the prescribed steps to remedy his sin was repentance. He could not please God without turning away from his sin.

The same thing can be observed whenever Jesus addressed the churches of Asia Minor in the book of Revelation. Of the seven churches addressed in Revelation 2-3, only two were pleasing to God. To the others, after Jesus identified their sin, Jesus instructed them to repent. For instance, Revelation 2:5 says, "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works..." Revelation 3:3 says, "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent..." Revelation 3:19 says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent." Repentance is clearly a requirement for the Christian who sins to be forgiven of his/her sin.

Confess

Not only must the Christian who sins repent of his/her sin, but he/she must also confess his/her sin to God. At the beginning of the lesson, we considered a couple of verses about the possibility that the Christian can commit sin from 1 John 1. Now, I want to consider verse 9 again. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Notice the conditional statement made concerning the forgiveness of sins: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God is faithful, just, and willing to forgive. Therefore, if the Christian who sins does not find forgiveness, it is *not* because God is incapable or unwilling to forgive! Instead, it is the failure of the Christian to confess his sins.

God wants the Christian who sins to acknowledge his/her sin before Him. But, “what good does it do to confess my sin to God – since He already knows the sin I have committed?,” someone might ask. First, it is not ours to question the reason why God has commanded us to do the things He requires. It is just ours to comply with what He has commanded.

Second, I believe that it is beneficial for the *Christian* to confess his/her sins to God. God already knows your sins (Proverbs 15:3) – so you are not telling God anything He does not know. However, confessing your sins to God forces you to specifically identify the sin you have committed – both to yourself and to God.

Ask God for forgiveness

As we seek to learn what the Christian must do whenever he/she sins, let’s revisit Peter’s instruction to Simon in Acts 8:22. “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.” Repentance alone was not sufficient for Simon to be forgiven of his sin. Peter said that he must repent “and” pray to God.

It is through the avenue of prayer that the Christian will need to confess his/her sin to God (as previously discussed) and that the Christian will need to ask God for forgiveness. Notice what Simon was specifically told to pray to God about: “...pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.” Through the avenue of prayer, therefore, the Christian is taught to petition God for the forgiveness of the sins he/she has committed.

A good example of a prayer to God after sin was committed is found in Psalm 51. This psalm was written by David after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba (see 2 Samuel 11-12). Now, after he had become sorrowful and repented of his sin, he acknowledged his sin to God and asked God for mercy and that God would completely cleanse him of the sin he had committed. While this passage is found in the Old Testament, I believe that it is a good example of the kind of contrite heart the Christian must have whenever he/she prays to God, confessing his/her sin and asking God for forgiveness.

For instance, Psalm 51:1-4 says, “Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”

Public confession

Up to this point in our study, we have focused predominantly on what God expects the Christian who has sinned to do in His sight. However, we also need to consider the fact that some sins a Christian commits are of a public nature (i.e. other people are aware of the sin). So, as we consider what God requires a Christian to do in order to be forgiven of his/her sin, we must also consider what God requires concerning public sin.

The Scriptures do teach the responsibility for the one who has sinned against another person to seek reconciliation with that person (or, those people). Consider, for instance, Matthew 5:23-24. “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Clearly, God wants you to do whatever is within your ability to seek reconciliation with others.

In addition, consider the simple fact that other people will not know that you have repented of your sin unless you confess your sin to them! Particularly, the Christian who has committed public sin may have been withdrawn from by a local church (as instructed by 1 Corinthians 5 and 2 Thessalonians 3). How will that local church know that you have returned to the Lord if you do not confess your sin to them? James wrote, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

Therefore, the Christian who has committed sin should seek to make the confession of his/her sin

as public as the sin itself. If the sin is a private matter that is only known between the Christian and God, the confession only needs to be to God. If the sin is known to God and another person, confess that sin to God and to the other person involved. And, if the sin is known to God and a group of people, confess that sin to God and to that group of people. As much as it is possible, make the confession as public as the sin itself so that all will know that you are seeking forgiveness of the sin and trying to live for the Lord.

Bear the fruit of repentance

True godly sorrow and repentance will not end with the “Amen” of your prayer and your public confession (in the case of public sin). Instead, you will work diligently to produce fruit of your repentance. For instance, Matthew 3:8 says, “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.” And, in Acts 26:20, Paul said that he preached and told people “that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

So, whenever you repent of your sin, confess it to God, and ask God to forgive you, your life should be conducted in a different way in the future. You should not continue living in the same selfish and sinful ways you had been living in. Instead, your life should be focused on serving God and doing the things He wants from you.

Then, whenever you repent of your sin that may have negatively impacted another person (or multiple people), you should bear fruit of repentance for them to see as well. Sometimes, this even means trying to repair the damage you have caused. So, if you have stolen something from another person and it is still in your possession, you should give it back. Or, if you have caused emotional suffering to another, you should help the other deal with the suffering. Whatever the case, those who know of your sin should be able to see that you are committed to living in a different way than you had lived previously.

Conclusion

Christians can and do sin. Therefore, it is essential for Christians to recognize what their sin means for them spiritually and what they have done to God so that they can make the necessary corrections and be forgiven of their sin. Jesus’ blood is the only thing that is powerful enough to wash away the stain of sin. But, He only washes the sins away of those who come to Him. So, if you are a Christian who has sinned against God, you must obey what He has required of you in order to be forgiven and be saved! If you do not, there is a great punishment waiting for you that you will not escape!

Please recognize that there is nothing and no one who is worth selling your soul for! Jesus asked, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Matthew 16:26)? Do not sell your salvation for anything or anyone!

Study Questions

Does Satan try to lure Christians away from Christ? Explain.

1. A Christian Can Sin

Does John teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

Does Paul teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

Does Peter teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

Does James teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

Does Jude teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

Does the Hebrew writer teach that it is possible for a Christian to sin?

2. What It Means When The Christian Sins

What does it mean for the Christian's sin to displease God?

What does it mean for the Christian's sin to disqualify him/her and cause him/her to fall from grace?

What does it mean for the Christian's sin to re-crucify Jesus?

What does it mean for the Christian's sin to deserve to be punished?

What does it mean for the Christian's sin to re-entangle him/her in impurity and cause him/her to be defeated?

How Erring Christians Return To The Lord

What is godly sorrow? Why is it necessary to experience godly sorrow?

What is repentance? Why is it necessary to repent?

What confession must be made? Why is it necessary to make this confession?

How do you ask God for forgiveness? Why is it necessary to ask God for forgiveness?

What sin should be confessed publicly? Why is it necessary to make this public confession?

What is the fruit of repentance? Why is it necessary to bear fruit from repentance?