

## How God Sees Sin Psalm 32:1-5

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

For many the subject of sin is dead, but God doesn't see sin the \_\_\_\_\_ we do. Today we're going to think about \_\_\_\_\_ God sees sin. The topic for our study today is \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone who reaches the age of accountability eventually sins. Romans 3:23 simply says, "for \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." First John 1:8 says, "If we say we have no sin, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Verse ten says, "If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him (that is, Jesus) a liar, and His \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us." Every one of us must \_\_\_\_\_ the reality of our sins. If we ignore our sins, we'll only cause ourselves great \_\_\_\_\_ in this life and in the life to come.

Not everyone takes sin against God \_\_\_\_\_. Thirteen percent of Americans say there is \_\_\_\_\_ such thing as sin. Nearly forty percent of Americans think sin is an obsolete word. Many today simply don't know sinful behavior is \_\_\_\_\_ and could cause them to be lost eternally. The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is still spiritual death. Though society thinks differently, \_\_\_\_\_ hasn't changed His mind.

**Our reading today is a Psalm of David, Psalm 32:1-5.** People have always thought the concept of sin should be \_\_\_\_\_. People today don't \_\_\_\_\_ about sin because they don't like making judgments. Some think the words "sin" and "sinner" are outdated and uncouth; but the \_\_\_\_\_ uses the word "sin" and its synonyms – "iniquity," "transgression," "wickedness," or "error" – hundreds of times. While we don't like to talk about it, sin still exists. So we ask, "how does God see sin?" God \_\_\_\_\_ us; He's our heavenly Father. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ what He thinks. The Lord often sees things \_\_\_\_\_ than we do. He will not excuse or dismiss the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives so quickly. If God sent Jesus to die for "sin," He must take it very \_\_\_\_\_. Let's not be too quick to \_\_\_\_\_ the concept of sin because God hasn't.

You can only find someone saying, "I have sinned," a \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Bible; yet Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." People don't \_\_\_\_\_ being called or being considered "sinners." They \_\_\_\_\_ their sin a mistake, an error in judgment, a disappointment, an inappropriate act, a problem, a disease, or an addiction. They think of it as anything \_\_\_\_\_ sin. We would rather \_\_\_\_\_ sin or act like it never happened.

Others take a different approach. They \_\_\_\_\_ society, parents, or circumstances for their sins so they don't have to be responsible. Adam, after he ate of the fruit of the tree of the

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knowledge of good and evil, blamed \_\_\_\_\_. Adam said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate" (Genesis 3:12). Verse 13 says: "Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The \_\_\_\_\_ deceived me, and I ate.'" Both Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_ to someone else, but God didn't accept their excuses. That very day they were \_\_\_\_\_ out of the garden. Blaming others for our sins doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1 Samuel 15, Samuel told Saul to go strike the Amalekites, \_\_\_\_\_ every person and all they possess. Saul, however, saved King Agag and the best of the sheep and oxen for the people to \_\_\_\_\_. Saul knew that he had not kept the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, but he was weak to the pressure of the people. Samuel asked Saul, "Why then did you not \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the \_\_\_\_\_ took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal." Saul gave in to the pressure and he \_\_\_\_\_ the people.

What Samuel said to Saul ought to instruct us about \_\_\_\_\_ God sees things. Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD? Behold, to obey is \_\_\_\_\_ than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king" (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

God has never accepted the \_\_\_\_\_ of blaming other people. Romans 14:12 says, "So each one of us will give an account of himself to \_\_\_\_\_." Regardless of what others do, say, or think, we are responsible for ourselves. We must \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility for our words, attitudes, and behavior. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God and blame others.

When blaming doesn't \_\_\_\_\_, people tend to rationalize away their sin. We often hear phrases like, "Just once won't hurt"; or "Everyone's doing it"; or "I can quit when I want to"; or "Times have changed! People don't think that way now!" I have a book in my library subtitled, "37 Ways Not to Handle Guilt." It tells of all the ways people try to \_\_\_\_\_ their sins. The book says clearly not one of these 37 ways \_\_\_\_\_. Some try to \_\_\_\_\_ the morals and teaching of the Bible; they make rules for themselves and imagine God will \_\_\_\_\_.

Some think God is \_\_\_\_\_ to a vote or to opinion polls. God's will doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ with the times. Some react to the firmness of God by getting \_\_\_\_\_. It is easy to get angry at God; it is easier to do that than it is to \_\_\_\_\_. People get angry and charge God with being unfair or unloving to call their behaviors sin, but God is no \_\_\_\_\_. God knows how sin

\_\_\_\_\_. He opposes sin because it \_\_\_\_\_ lives and families. When God makes a law, it is always for the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people. When people violate that law they end up \_\_\_\_\_ themselves or others. It is arrogant to think that we know \_\_\_\_\_ about right and wrong than God does. God has witnessed the cruelties and heartaches of \_\_\_\_\_ for thousands of years.

People \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves about their sin! They don't realize \_\_\_\_\_ sin can deceive, enslave, and harden them. **Read Hebrews 3:12-13.**

Some criticize and condemn other people's sins but they \_\_\_\_\_ their own. They forget God \_\_\_\_\_ their sins too. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping \_\_\_\_\_ on the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

Other people deceive themselves by thinking they won't be \_\_\_\_\_ to sin. Many years ago a man who had quit drinking told my father he could walk into a bar and \_\_\_\_\_ take a drink. It didn't matter that others were drinking or that he would smell the liquor; he was sure that he could \_\_\_\_\_ sober. My dad told him, "You can't walk through the \_\_\_\_\_ and not get muddy." The Bible says, "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Associating with \_\_\_\_\_ will corrupt you even if you have the \_\_\_\_\_ of intentions.

Sin always \_\_\_\_\_. It damages us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. **Read Galatians 5:19-21.** Sometimes the \_\_\_\_\_ is physical as with assault, or rape, or murder. Drunkenness and drug abuse have killed and ruined more than a few \_\_\_\_\_. Many diseases come from \_\_\_\_\_ immorality. One who commits violent crimes \_\_\_\_\_ himself up to violence or imprisonment. Sometimes the pain is \_\_\_\_\_. Broken homes hurt everyone. The compulsive gambler may bankrupt his \_\_\_\_\_. The liar will find that no one \_\_\_\_\_ him or her. People will \_\_\_\_\_ the gossiper and the complainer; they don't want to be around him; they don't want to hear it. One cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the pain, the guilt, and the regret of sinful behavior.

God simply doesn't look on sin the \_\_\_\_\_ that we do. What seems insignificant to us isn't insignificant to God. Perhaps you remember Uzzah who tried to steady the Ark of the Covenant when it was in the oxcart, and the Ark nearly upset. God struck him dead. People wonder why? Didn't Uzzah have good intentions? The priests were to carry the Ark in a prescribed manner, not on the oxcart. Uzzah was never to touch it. This may seem insignificant to us, but it was irreverent and very offensive to God according to 2 Samuel 6:7.

Why is God offended? If we're the \_\_\_\_\_ of a crime, we see that crime differently than the one who committed the crime. How would you \_\_\_\_\_ if someone robbed you at gunpoint? He's pointing the \_\_\_\_\_ at you. He's stealing your \_\_\_\_\_ and threatening your \_\_\_\_\_. That \_\_\_\_\_ this matter incredibly dangerous and offensive!

We have to understand every sin that we commit is \_\_\_\_\_ a crime against God. If you sin against your \_\_\_\_\_, you also sin against \_\_\_\_\_. **Read 1 John 4:20-21.** How we treat \_\_\_\_\_ is how we treat God. This is \_\_\_\_\_ all sin is offensive to and a crime against God.

**Read what God said in Exodus 20:3-6.** Some think God has no feelings, but God \_\_\_\_\_ when we sin. It breaks His heart. God \_\_\_\_\_ us, and He won't give us up to an idol or to serve Satan. God is jealous in the sense that is positive, in the sense of being unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_ what is rightfully His. Sin \_\_\_\_\_ us from God. We shouldn't be surprised that God despises sin, because sin \_\_\_\_\_ Him of the people that He loves. God often calls sin an abomination. **Read Proverbs 6:16-19.** Yes, God hates sin!

Sin ultimately destroys us. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_, but the free \_\_\_\_\_ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Death is a separation. In physical death our \_\_\_\_\_ are separated from our \_\_\_\_\_. Spiritual death takes place when we are separated from the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. **Read Isaiah 59:1-2.** Our sin will separate God from us, is a barrier that blocks our prayers, and will cause us to be lost eternally. We may \_\_\_\_\_ what theologians, church leaders, opinion polls, or our society thinks is right and wrong; but the Lord Jesus has the \_\_\_\_\_ word and the \_\_\_\_\_ word that counts in eternity. Will you listen to Him?

We all commit sin that \_\_\_\_\_ God; but because God is rich in love, mercy and grace, He makes His forgiveness available to us. He \_\_\_\_\_ us by sacrificing His son Jesus for our sins. God knew how sin would \_\_\_\_\_ our lives here on earth and would keep us out of heaven, so Jesus bore the punishment for our sins so that we could \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness. God doesn't want us to continue in sin, but to \_\_\_\_\_ from wickedness and \_\_\_\_\_ Godly lives. Punishing people for their sins \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Ezekiel 33:11).

God has always \_\_\_\_\_ people to repentance. The opportunity to repent is a great \_\_\_\_\_ that blesses everyone. Repentance means that we can \_\_\_\_\_ our lives, that we don't have to be trapped in sin but can become people who live for righteousness. Don't ever let anybody tell you that you \_\_\_\_\_ change; of course, you can! God can and will \_\_\_\_\_ you change. God didn't create you for sin; He created you for righteousness. First Timothy 2:4 says God wants you "to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Will you come to the Lord?

To become a Christian, \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ of every sin and turn to the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_ in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water. Philip baptized the Eunuch in water (Acts 8:38); and Saul of Tarsus was told in Acts 22:16 to be baptized and wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Won't you respond today to be saved from sin?