Born in Sin
Titus 2:11-14

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

When God made man, did He ______ him good or evil? Some say people are born entirely in sin, but we want to ______ from the Lord. The Lord’s way is the way to abundant life on earth and eternal life in __________. Nothing is more important! Riches lose their luster, and health and youth fade, but God’s __________ grow sweeter and better day after day.

Years ago, I heard a preacher teach that every person from birth has a __________ that is totally corrupt, perverse, and sinful. Because of this inborn corruption, he said the natural man is totally ________ to do anything spiritually good. The sinner is so spiritually bankrupt that he can do __________ pertaining to his salvation. He cannot believe on his own or _________ of his sin. This natural man is enslaved to _____ he said; he’s a child of Satan, rebellious toward God, blind to truth, corrupt, and unable to save himself or prepare himself for salvation.

He said that when Adam chose evil in the garden, he plunged himself and the ________ human race into such spiritual ruin that mankind cannot choose spiritual good over evil. He no longer has ______ will. He said men inherited this ______ deprivitity. The only answer to these problems is a miraculous __________ from God; and once man is saved, he can ________ be lost. This doctrine also suggested that God arbitrarily chose from heaven who would be saved and who would be lost; that man has no ________ in the matter.

Over the next few weeks we will examine the Scriptures to see whether this doctrine is true or false. We want to know what God’s Word says because God’s Word is utterly reliable.

Our reading today comes from Paul’s letter to Titus 2:11-14.

We’re asking today what the Bible says about the __________ condition of the soul when a baby is born. Read Romans 7:7-11. Romans 7 teaches that people ______ from the commandments what is right and wrong. When we allow evil desires to cause us to break the commandment, we ______ against God and spiritually ________

Read James 1:13-15 that describes more specifically when spiritual death takes place. Sin is an _____ , not an inheritable trait. You can’t _________ the act of stealing, or the act of gossip, or fornication. People choose to act. Sin is accomplished after a __________ , not inherited.

God’s Word everywhere holds each person responsible for his or her _____ sins. Read the entire chapter of Ezekiel 18 for yourself. God clearly doesn’t hold children ________ for the sins of their parents or parents guilty for the sins of their children.

Some people think that children inherit the guilt of their __________ . Some say we, as children of Adam and Eve, have inherited their wicked ________ and are guilty of their sin. Some say an infant who dies is lost eternally; others say they go to limbo. You cannot find the
concept of limbo in Scripture; that’s made up; it’s of human origin. Little children who die aren’t lost; they haven’t inherited Adam’s guilt. Why? Ezekiel 18:20 says, “The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.” Babies don’t know right from wrong and they ________ sin. One can only be lost for his ______ sins.

Romans 14:12 says, “So then _______  ______  of us will give an account of himself to God.” You may be kin to the most godly person in the world, but that will not ______ you on Judgment Day. You can’t ________ someone else’s righteousness. Your father may be a preacher or an elder, and your mother may be a saint, but you cannot inherit salvation from your _________. You must choose to ________ the Lord yourself. You may be _____ to the most sinful person in the world, but God will not hold you responsible for what he or she has done. God will hold you responsible for your ________ actions. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must ______ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has ________ in the body, whether good or evil.”

We all tend to ________ to blame others for our sins or to look down on others for their wickedness. I received a touching card from a viewer who said, “As much as I would be astonished at the sins of others, with an ________ appraisal I am much more astonished and offended at my own.” If I’m lost on judgment day, I’ll have ________ to blame for my sinful life but me. I may have ________ to sin from other people, but it was my ________ to do it myself.

Spiritual death means a person is ____________ from the grace of God. Read what Isaiah 59:1-2 says. When people allow sin and iniquity in their lives, that’s when they __________ themselves from God. Sin means God turns His back on us and will not hear our ________.

Sin ________ animosity between God and man. Sin takes place when man selfishly says to God, I won’t live by Your ________; I will do what I want to do. Sin utterly ________ God and alienates us from God. James 4:4 says “whoever wishes to be a ________ of the world makes himself an ________ of God.” When you choose to embrace a sinful world and ________ God, you make an enemy of God. You didn’t start out an enemy, but you ________ one through your sin.

Paul preached to some pagan philosophers in Athens who didn’t ________ God at all. In spite of this, he said to them in Acts 17:29 that we are _____ “offspring of God.” Hebrews 12:9 reveals that God is “the Father of ________.” Whether you know God or not, the spirit that is inside you ________ from God. You are His offspring, created in His _________. God didn’t ________ you evil. You chose to do evil. Psalm 58:3 says, “Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies.” These are not newborn babies; these are people that have gotten a little older and they go astray; they’re not ________ astray.
The Scriptures do not describe us as totally depraved; rather they describe us as ________.

Saying humans have a weakness to sin is not the same thing as saying they’re totally ________
to do any good. The Lord Jesus told the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is ________, but the flesh is ________” (Matthew 26:41). We want to do good, but we often find ourselves doing wrong.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” This is not the tree of the knowledge of evil and evil; it’s the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve received __________ of good as well as evil. They were not totally ________ in knowledge. Though they sinned, they had a knowledge of ________.

The Lord God said, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s ________ is evil from his youth (not from the birth, but from youth)” (Genesis 8:21). All of us have these same selfish, evil desires inside of us. Yes, they ________ us to sin against God. We have to ________ them all of our days, but that doesn’t mean that we cannot also do good.

In the parable of the sower, there are different ________ of soils or hearts. The Bible says, “But the seed on the good soil stand for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the ________, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop” (Luke 8:15). This good and honest heart belongs to a person who’s not yet a Christian, not yet _________. Remember Cornelius, the first Gentile convert. The Bible says that Cornelius, though not saved was nevertheless “devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly” (Acts 10:2).

The apostle Paul spoke of this spiritual ________ going on inside of him, that goes on inside of all of us. Read what he said in Romans 7:21-23. We all, everyone of us, face this battle of ________ to do right and often finding ourselves doing the evil things that we ________. But this doesn’t mean that we are totally ________ and incapable of believing.

Let me ask some questions for those who believe we are totally depraved and incapable of good. Hebrews 11:6 says, “without ________ it is impossible to please God.” Why would God demand faith from all men when He knows that men are ________ of believing what is written in His Word? The Lord Jesus said, “unless you ________, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). Why would Jesus Christ condemn people for failure to repent if they’re incapable of repenting or doing any good thing toward their ________?

Read Luke 18:15-17. How can this be if infants are ________ wholly corrupt and unable to do good? Why would the Lord speak so glowingly of babies if they were so bound up in ________?

At this point, someone is probably asking, “Phil, don’t you know about Psalm 51:5?” Here the NIV reads “Surely I have been a ________ from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” Doesn’t this ________ that we are born in sin? The NIV translates poorly here. Literally, David’s words would be translated: “Behold in iniquity I was born and in sin my mother conceived me.” David is saying he was born in an evil and sinful ________. Let’s remember that sin is an ________; it’s a transgression of God’s law. Sin is not an inherited trait; it’s _________ and acted out.
I am speaking English because I was ________ in an environment that speaks the English language and I learned it. In Acts 2, the apostles spoke with the miraculous gift of tongues to people from ________ nations. When they heard the apostles, they marveled and said, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were ________?” (Acts 2:7-8). People are born in a language. One learns a language by being born into an environment that ________ it. In the same way, one ________ sin by being born into a world that practices it.

To make this passage say that David was born depraved and sinful as a baby would make it contradict what David said in Psalm 22:9-10. “Yet You (God) are He who brought me forth from the womb; You (God) made me ________ when upon my mother’s breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother’s womb.” From the time he was little, David ________ both good and bad, both trust in God and later on, sin.

God didn’t ________ us totally evil and incapable of believing or incapable of repenting. We’re all weak, but we can ________. Thank God for that!

Second Corinthians 5:19-20 says, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not ________ their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Why do Christians ________ others to be reconciled to God? The word “reconcile” means “to bring back into ________.” A reconciled husband and wife were once in harmony, then they separated, and later ________ to harmony. If an infant is born utterly in sin, he cannot be reconciled because he was ________ in harmony with the Lord in the first place. God’s answer to man’s sin came in the form of ________ the cross of Christ, telling people what God did for them so that they might believe, repent, and obey. We’re not totally depraved. Infants are born spiritually ________; they separated from God when they ________ and now need to be reconciled to God by responding to the ________.

The Lord God gave up His Son Jesus to ________ for our sins, and offered the gift of salvation to those who ________ in faith, love, and obedience. Even in our sins we can respond to the gospel. Because of God’s ________, we can change.

Believe Jesus is the Christ! Turn your heart from sin to the Lord. Confess Jesus the Christ as the Son of God. And be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ________ of your sins. “Be saved from this ________ generation.” God made you ________ of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. You don’t have to ________ in sin. In Acts 2:41, those who gladly received the ________ were baptized. All through the book of Acts, lost people ________ to preaching; they believed it and they ________. And my friend, you can, too!