THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF SIN

The outline for the following study titled "The Character And Nature Of Sin" is taken in its entirety from "Landmarks Of Baptist Doctrine"; Book III, pages 435-442, by Pastor Robert J. Sargent; Bible Baptist Publications; 1219 North Harns Road; Oak Harbor, Washington 98277. We have used their Bible Institute material for decades now and highly recommend it for training men for the ministry. It also makes for outstanding Sunday School material.

Sin is a fact that cannot honestly be denied. Apart from the abundant testimony of the Word of God, the effects of sin in the world are increasingly evident, as all too often personal experience confirms. The heinous nature of sin is no more clearly demonstrated than in the wrath of God and His hatred toward it. God hates sin because it is all that He is not. The cry of our Saviour from the cross *(Matthew 27:46)* is answered by *Habakkuk 1:13. Matthew 27:46* and *Habakkuk 1:13* state this:

> [46] And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *Matthew 27:46*

> [13] *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, And canst not look on iniquity: Wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *And* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he? *Habakkuk 1:13*

I. THE DESTRUCTIVE ENTRANCE OF SIN

We do not know exactly when sin was introduced to this universe; we do not fully understand how; but we do know it began within the angelic ranks prior to the fall of man.

A. The Fall Of Lucifer: *Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:12-19:*

> [12] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. [15] Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. [16] They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; [17] *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *That* opened not the house of his prisoners? *Isaiah 14:12–17*

> [12] Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. [13] Thou hast been in Eden the garden

of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. [14] Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. [15] Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. [16] By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. [17] Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. [18] Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. [19] All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more. *Ezekiel 28:12–19*

B. **<u>The Fall Of The Angels</u>:** *2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6:*

[4] For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; *2 Peter 2:4*

[6] And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. *Jude 6*

C. **<u>The Fall Of Man</u>:** *Genesis 3:1-6*, *Romans 5:12, Romans 5 19:*

[1] Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? [2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes

shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. *Genesis 3:1–6*

[12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: *Romans 5:12*

[19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. *Romans 5:19*

The result of Satan's rebellion was judgment, and the entrance of sin into this world has brought judgment upon every part of God's creation.

II. THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF SIN UPON THE HEAVENS

Today there is wickedness in the "high places" – *Ephesians 6:12:.*

[12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. *Ephesians 6:12*

In the unseen spirit world — the 'air' — Satan and his host hold considerable sway. *Ephesians 2:2, Daniel 10:12-13.*

[2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: *Ephesians 2:2*

[12] Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. *Daniel 10:12–13*

III. THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF SIN UPON THE EARTH

Sin has wrought havoc on the earth:

A. In The Ground: The ground and all that grows in it has been cursed — *Genesis 3:18:*

[18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; *Genesis 3:18*

B. **<u>In The Animal Kingdom</u>:** It is because of sin that animals are often wild and dangerous — *Genesis 3:14, Genesis 9:2:*

[14] And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: *Genesis 3:14*

[2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. *Genesis 9:2*

The fact is, all of God's creation groans and travails under the weight of sin. *Romans 8:22.*

[22] For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. *Romans 8:22*

IV. <u>THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF SIN UPON MANKIND</u>

A. **<u>The Progressive Effects Of Sin</u>:** Any honest person will admit that man's so-called progress has in reality been a 'degeneration' — rather than an evolution.

1. <u>Sin Has Affected The Longevity Of Man</u>. The antediluvian life-span was measured in centuries. Nowadays it is measured in decades, and that despite many marvelous advances in medical science.

2. <u>Sin Has Affected Man's Knowledge Of God</u>. Man has degenerated from a state of intimate knowledge of his Creator to one of indigent knowledge.

   In *Romans 1:18-32* we read of this departure. *Verses 21-23* give the downward steps:

   Knew God
   Became vain
   Heart darkened
   Became fools
   New gods

The increase in ungodliness has spiraled to the place where iniquity now abounds.

[18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19] Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. [20] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: [21] Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23] And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. [24] Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25] Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. [26] For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27] And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. [28] And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. *Romans 1:18–32*

B. <u>The Personal Effects Of Sin</u>:

1. <u>All Men Are Sinners</u>. *Romans 3:23:*

[23] For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of

God; *Romans 3:23*

We are not sinners because we sin — we sin because we are sinners! That is, all men are born with a sin nature — an inherent tendency to sin.

a. We are sinners by BIRTH! — *Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3:*

[5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me. *Psalm 51:5*

[3] The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. *Psalm 58:3*

b. We are sinners by NATURE — *Jeremiah 17:9*:

[9] The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? *Jeremiah 17:9*

c. We are sinners by CHOICE — *John 3:19*:

[19] And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. *John 3:19:*

d. We are sinners by DEED — *James 4:17*:

[17] Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin. *James 4:17*

2. <u>All Men Are Depraved</u>. The doctrine of the "depravity of man" is one which needs to be carefully understood. For some, the idea of depravity conjures up an image of men behaving as insane killers, or the like. The term is Calvinistic, and in that particular theology sees man as totally sinful to the extent that he cannot even respond to the Gospel.

a. <u>The Meaning a Depravity</u>.

i. All men lack original righteousness.

ii. All men are corrupt in nature, and have a bias toward evil.

b. The Extent of Depravity.

i. It does NOT mean:

— that every sinner is totally devoid of all qualities which are pleasing to men. *Mark 10:21, Matthew 23:23:*

[21] Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. *Mark 10:21*

[23] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. *Matthew 23:23*

— that a man commits or is even prone to commit every form of sin.

— that a man is as bitterly opposed to God as it is possible to be.

ii. It DOES mean:

— that every sinner is totally destitute of that love of God which is the fundamental requirement of the Law. *Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:35-38:*

[4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: [5] And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. *Deuteronomy 6:4–5*

[35] Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, [36] Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? [37] Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all

thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [38] This is the first and great commandment. *Matthew 22:35–38*

— that every man has a preference for self and an aversion to God. *Romans 8:7, 2 Timothy 3:1-5:*

[7] Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. *Romans 8:7*

[1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. *2 Timothy 3:1–5*

— that every faculty is corrupted so no thought, feeling, or deed can be fully approved of God. *Ephesians 4:18, Romans 7:8*:

[18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: *Ephesians 4:18*

[8] But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin *was* dead. *Romans 7:8*

c. <u>The Result Of Depravity</u>.

i. Depravity has produced a total spiritual inability in the sinner, in the sense that he cannot by his own volition change his character and life to make it conform to the law of God, nor change his fundamental preference for self and sin to supreme love for God.

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— All men, without respect of condition or class, are sinners before God. *Romans 3:9-10, Romans 3:22-23, Isaiah 53:6*:

[9] What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; [10] As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: *Romans 3:9–10*

[22] Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: [23] For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:22–23*

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Isaiah 53:6*

— This condition is a direct result of the sin of Adam. *Romans 5:12-19:*

[12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: [13] (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. [14] Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. [15] But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. [16] And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. [17] For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) [18] Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the*

free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.
[19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. *Romans 5:12–19*

— The whole world rests under condemnation, wrath, and curse.

— The unsaved are regarded as "children of the Devil," and not "Sons of God." *I John 3:8-10, John 8:44, 1 John 5:19:*

[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. [10] In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. *1 John 3:8–10*

[44] Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. *John 8:44*

[19] *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. *1 John 5:19*

— The entire race is captive to sin and Satan. *Romans 7:1-25, John 8:31-36, Ephesians 2:3:*

[1] Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? [2] For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. [3] So then if,

while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. [4] Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. [5] For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. [6] But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter. [7] What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. [8] But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin *was* dead. [9] For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. [10] And the commandment, which *was ordained* to life, I found *to be* unto death. [11] For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew *me*. [12] Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. [13] Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. [14] For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. [15] For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. [16] If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. [17] Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. [18] For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. [19] For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. [20] Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. [21] I find then a law, that, when I would

do good, evil is present with me. [22] For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: [23] But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. [24] O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? [25] I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. *Romans 7:1–25*

[31] Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; [32] And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. [33] They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? [34] Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. [35] And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. [36] If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. *John 8:31–36*

[3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. *Ephesians 2:3*

— The entire nature of man is affected by sin.

ii. The sinner can do one very important thing: that is, give attention to divine Truth.

d. <u>The Workings Of Depravity</u>.

The Apostle Paul often used the term "flesh" in contrast with "spirit." In this sense, the 'flesh' means the human nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God. The Bible regards the flesh as the seat of the sin principle, *Romans 7:18.*

This sin principle drags the higher man (soul and spirit) down into the realm of the flesh, and trough the passions, appetites, etc., and leads

the whole man into thoughts, acts, and courses of sin.

Paul never says the flesh is evil, but that it is the "open field" where the sin principle operates.

3. All Men Shall Reap Sin's Wages.

a. Physical Death.
Already the body is weak, prone to sickness, dying. Physical death is certain. *Romans 5:12-14, Hebrews 9:27:*

[12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: [13] (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. [14] Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. *Romans 5:12–14*

[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: *Hebrews 9:27*

b. Spiritual Death.
The unsaved man is spiritually dead to God. *Ephesians 2:1, Ephesians 4:18:*

[1] And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; *Ephesians 2:1*

[18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: *Ephesians 4:18*

c. Eternal Death.
Matthew 10:23, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Revelation 14:11, Revelation 20:15:

[23] But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be

come. *Matthew 10:23*

[8] In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: [9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; *2 Thessalonians 1:8–9*

[11] And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. *Revelation 14:11*

[15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:15*

4. <u>All Men Are Enslaved By Sin</u>.
Sin robs a Samson of his strength, a David of his character, a Solomon of his wisdom, a Judas of his discipleship. Every unsaved soul is a slave to sin.

C. <u>The Penal Effects Of Sin</u>.
From the very first, sin has carried with it a penalty: *Genesis 2:16-17, James 1:15, Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23***:**

[16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. *Genesis 2:16–17*

[15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. *James 1:15*

[4] Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. *Ezekiel 18:4*

[23] For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

1. <u>The Penalty For Sin Is Presently Abiding Upon The Unsaved</u>.
According to the Word of God the unbelieving sinner is at this very moment:

a. Condemned Already — *John 3:18*:

[18] He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:18*

b. Under The Wrath Of God — *John 3:36*:

[36] He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. *John 3:36*

c. Without Eternal Life — *I John 5:11-12*:

[11] And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. *1 John 5:11–12*

d. Lost — *Luke 15:4-10, 17, 24, 32; 2 Corinthians 4:3*:

[4] What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? [5] And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. [7] I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. [8] Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find *it*? [9] And when she hath found *it*, she calleth *her* friends and *her* neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. [10] Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. *Luke 15:4–10*

[17] And when he came to himself, he said, How many

hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! *Luke 15:17*

[24] For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. *Luke 15:24*

[32] It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. *Luke 15:32*

[3] But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: *2 Corinthians 4:3*

e. Spiritually Dead — *Ephesians 2:1-5, 1 Timothy 5:6*:

[1] And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) *Ephesians 2:1–5*

[6] But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. *1 Timothy 5:6*

f. Guilty — *James 2:10*:

[10] For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. *James 2:10*

g. Alienated — *Ephesians 2:12*:

[12] That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers

from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: *Ephesians 2:12*

2. The Penalty For Sin Will Be Enacted Upon The Unsaved. According to the Word of God the unbelieving sinner faces:

a. Everlasting Punishment — *Matthew 25:46*:

[46] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. *Matthew 25:46*

b. Eternal Judgment — *Hebrews 6:2*:

[2] Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. *Hebrews 6:2*

c. Everlasting Destruction — *2 Thessalonians 1:9, Philippians 3:19, Romans 9:22, Matthew 7:13*:

[9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; *2 Thessalonians 1:9*

[19] Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) *Philippians 3:19*

[22] *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: *Romans 9:22*

[13] Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: *Matthew 7:13*

d. Perdition — *Philippians 1:28, Hebrews 10:39, 2 Peter 3:7.* The word *"perish" — John 3:16 —* means:

Pass
Eternally
Ruined
Into
Sinner's
Hell

[28] And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. *Philippians 1:28*

[39] But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. *Hebrews 10:39*

[7] But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. *2 Peter 3:7*

[16] For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

e. Eternal Damnation — *2 Peter 2:3, Matthew 23:33, Mark 3:29, John 5:29.*:

[3] And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. *2 Peter 2:3*

[33] *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? *Matthew 23:33*

[29] But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: *Mark 3:29*

[29] And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:29*

There is no *second chance* — there is no *purgatory.* The Bible teaches that after physical death comes the Judgment — *Hebrews 9:27* – that between Heaven and Hell is a *"great gulf fixed"* — *Luke 16:26* – and that a man's spiritual condition in this life remains unaltered in the next – *Revelation 22:11:*

[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: *Hebrews 9:27*

[26] And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. *Luke 16:26*

[11] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. *Revelation 22:11*

V. THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Every effect of sin upon mankind applies to every human being and that includes new born babies. Regardless of what the deceived infant baptizers and many wicked Calvinists teach, the Bible clearly teaches that a just God does not hold infants personally liable for their sins. However, there obviously comes a time when an individual does become accountable to God for their sin — hence the term, the *"Age of Accountability"*. This doctrine of accountability is based upon the following Biblical facts:

A. All Children Have A Sin Nature: *Psalm 51:5:*

[5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me. *Psalm 51:5*

B. All Children Manifest Their Sin Nature Immediately: *Psalm 58:3, Proverbs 20:11:*

[3] The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. *Psalm 58:3*

[11] Even a child is known by his doings, Whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right. *Proverbs 20:11*

C. <u>Little Children Cannot Discern Between Good And Evil</u>: *Deuteronomy 1:39:*

[39] Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. *Deuteronomy 1:39*

Therefore, they are not accountable. This does not necessarily mean that they cannot respond in obedience to parental authority. Discernment is a learning process.

D. <u>Little Children Do Not Sin Wilfully</u>: *Romans 5:14:*

[14] Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. *Romans 5:14*

The phrase, *"...even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression..."* indicates that little children do not wilfully disobey God's law (as did Adam) — they only *naturally* disobey.

E. <u>Little Children Who Die Are 'Safe' In Jesus</u>: *2 Samuel 12:23:*

[23] But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. *2 Samuel 12:23*

David's child died shortly after birth. David, who was a saved man, had the assurance that he would one day see his son alive in Heaven — demonstrating the fact that infants who die go to be with the Lord.

F. <u>Children Become Accountable From Their 'Youth On Up'</u>: *Genesis 8:21, Matthew 19:20:*

[21] And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. *Genesis 8:21*

[20] The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from

my youth up: what lack I yet? *Matthew 19:20*

As to exactly when this point occurs, the Bible is silent. The "age of accountability" no doubt varies with each child, and depends to some degree upon external influences. In godly homes, where the Bible is taught this can be at a very early age. See also: *2 Chronicles 34:1-3; 2 Chronicles 36:9; 2 Timothy 3:15:*

[1] Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. [2] And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined *neither* to the right hand, nor to the left. [3] For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images. *2 Chronicles 34:1–3*

[9] Jehoiachin *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD. *2 Chronicles 36:9*

[15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *2 Timothy 3:15*

G. **<u>Accountability Involves Understanding God's Law</u>:** *Nehemiah 8:2-3:*

[2] And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law. *Nehemiah 8:2–3*