

# Crime and Punishment

- I. Introduction:
  - a. Universal Law of Justice
    - i. (**Gal 6:7**) “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
    - ii. Justice – “just treatment; deserved reward or punishment.” (World Book Dictionary)
  - b. God is not mocked
    - i. Everyone will give an account to the things we sowed
      - 1. (**Eccl 12:13-14**) “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
- II. Definition of Sin
  - a. (**1 John 3:4**) “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
    - i. Sin = Crime against God’s Law
- III. Consequences of Sin
  - a. (**Rom 6:23**) “For the wages of sin is death”
    - i. The punishment for sin is death
    - ii. Death?
  - b. Adam and Eve in the Garden
    - i. We know that Adam and Eve suffered death because of their sin
      - 1. (**Gen 3:22-24**) “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of **the tree of life**, and eat, and **live for ever**: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to keep the way of the tree of life.**”
      - 2. They were separated from the tree of life because of their sin and in turn grew old and died as a result.
    - ii. God also promised death ‘in the day’ that they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
      - 1. (**Gen 2:17**) “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.**”
      - 2. Wasn’t a physical death – they lived and had children afterwards
      - 3. What kind of Death?
    - iii. Once they ate, their eyes were open.

1. (**Gen 3:7**) “And the eyes of them both **were opened**, and they **knew** that they **were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”
- iv. Without knowledge of God’s law they could not sin, but after they ate they had knowledge and could sin
  1. (**Rom 7:7-9**) “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. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was **alive without the law once**: but when the **commandment** came, sin revived, and **I died**.”
    - a. ‘alive without the law once’
      - i. Before the age of accountability
    - b. ‘commandment came’
      - i. When once he understood the commandment – just like Adam and Eve
    - c. ‘sin revived’
      - i. Sprang to life
    - d. ‘died’
      - i. Spiritually
- v. In sinning, as Paul said, they died!
  1. Death means Separation
    - a. Physical (**James 2:26**) “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
      - i. Body
      - ii. Spirit
    - b. Spiritual (**Isa 59:2**) “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

#### IV. Who has sinned?

- a. (**Rom 3:23**) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
- b. (**Rom 5:12**) “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:”
- c. (**1 John 1:8**) “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
- d. We have all sinned – all in danger of punishment
- e. Some argue that punishment of sin by everlasting hell is unjust
  - i. It does seem that way to us
    1. Who are we? – Sinner
  - ii. Reason for our inability to decide what is just or proper for our punishment
    1. If a man were to be tried for murder, would you place a convicted murder on the bench as judge? Would you have a jury full of murders?

- iii. Show's the seriousness of sin
  - 1. Punishment (whatever that may be) fits the Crime because God is just.
    - a. (**Job 4:17**) "Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his maker?"
    - b. (**Isa 45:21**) "There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me."
  - iv. The pleasures of sin have blinded our eyes to its enormity
- V. Punishment for our sins
  - a. Five question we will ask:
    - i. Is there any punishment for the wicked after death?
    - ii. If there is, when does it begin?
    - iii. Is there a future, final and universal judgment?
    - iv. What is to follow in the way of punishment, if anything, after that universal judgment?
    - v. How long, if there is such punishment after the judgment day, will it continue?
  - b. Is there any punishment for the wicked after death?
    - i. (**Luke 12:4-5**) "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them **that kill the body**, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath **killed** hath power to **cast into hell**; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."
    - ii. This verse from mouth of Christ shows that there is something that God may do to man that is worst than death.
    - iii. With this scripture our question is answered:
      - 1. Yes, there is punishment fro the wicked after death.
    - iv. Spoken by the one that will judge all men
      - 1. (**John 5:22**) "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son"
  - c. When does this punishment begin?
    - i. (**Luke 16:19-31**) The Rich Man and Lazarus
      - 1. It began immediately after his death
    - ii. Hades – the place of departed souls – Soul is separated from the Body – before the resurrected state
  - d. Is there a future, final and universal judgment?
    - i. Judgment is used in the scriptures in many ways describing God's dealing with man on earth
    - ii. Is there a scripture that tells us, without any doubt of interpretation, that there will be a final and universal judgment?
      - 1. (**Heb 9:27**) "It is appointed unto **men** once to **die**, but after this **the judgment**."
        - a. Just as universal as death itself
    - iii. (**John 5:28-29**) "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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.”

- iv. **(Matt 25:31-32)** “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:”
- v. Judgment will be after the resurrection – It will be a universal judgment
- vi. John’s Vision
  - 1. **(Rev 20:11-15)** “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”
- e. What is to follow in the way of punishment
  - i. **(Matt 25:41)** “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into **everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
    - 1. The most excruciating torture to the human flesh is used to represent this suffering after judgment
  - ii. **(Matt 25:30)** “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
    - 1. Outside and away of all light especially God
      - a. **(James 1:17)** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
  - iii. A Picture of Hell
    - 1. Suffering
    - 2. Departed from the One that gives us all good gifts and blessings
    - 3. Surrounded by the sound of ‘gnashing of teeth’ – Anguish and self-reproach
- f. How long will this punishment continue?
  - i. **(Matt 25:46)** “And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal**.”

1. everlasting and eternal – “αιωνιος” (ahee-o'-nee-os) “perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well)” (Strong’s)
2. Perpetual – “continuing forever” (Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary)

VI. Divine Pardon

- a. **(Rom 3:23-25)** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”
- b. Jesus took our place in this punishment that we have the opportunity to escape.
  - i. **(Heb 2:3-4)** “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
- c. We cannot escape the fate of Hell without Jesus Christ
  - i. **(Heb 5:8-9)** “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the **author of eternal salvation** unto all them that **obey him;**”
- d. Will you obey him?
  - i. He requires faith in him
    1. **(John 8:24)** “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
  - ii. He requires you to repent of your sins – Turn away from them
    1. **(Luke 13:3)** “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
  - iii. He requires you to confess Him to be the Son of God
    1. **(Matt 10:32)** “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”
  - iv. He requires baptism
    1. **(Mark 16:16)** “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

VII. Conclusion

- a. **(Gal 6:7)** “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”