

SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

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Most would agree that the world is in terrible shape. Civil unrest is evident all over the earth. Crime continues to increase. There is deep concern about growing drug usage.

Some insist that the answer must be found in a radical change in governments. Others claim that vast sums of money must be committed to work necessary change for those in poverty. People must be assured adequate education, housing and other necessities of life. Only then will there be a change for the better.

What so many refuse to see is that there is here a 'heart problem.' This 'heart problem' can be traced back to its beginning in the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve. These two were created perfect and capable of loving and serving God without sin.

However, Adam sinned in eating of the fruit of the forbidden tree (Genesis 3). Our first parents listened to the lie of the devil who came in the serpent (Revelation 12:9). Man believed Satan that he could "become as God..."

The threat of God now fell on Adam: he died. This death was a separation from God's favour. It affected his physical existence, ending in the grave, and it would result in everlasting punishment in hell - except a way of Deliverance were provided.

The consequences of this sin of Adam have had a devastating effect on all of mankind. Adam was the representative and first father of all mankind. His one sin brought death upon all mankind (Romans 5:12). The sad result is that all are born dead and thus incapable of doing any good (Romans 3:10-19).

This 'heart problem' has otherwise been called 'total depravity,' that is, the inability to do anything right in God's sight. Scripture speaks of the "heart of stone" (Ezekiel 11:19) and an "evil heart" (Jeremiah 16:12).

The above has important implications concerning man's salvation as well. If there is to be true life - that is, a new or 'clean' heart (Psalm 51:10) to solve his 'heart problem' - that life must originate from God Himself. Except a person is first born again, he cannot even see the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3).

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It is further true that God's Word must be preached to all nations (Matthew 28:19), so that where God has given new life there would be seen the proper response: true conversion. The Word of God declares: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). That is the promise of the gospel which has never yet failed, nor ever will!