

THE PRICE OF SIN (part 2)

Greeting precious people, this week we are going to take a second look at the subject “The price of sin”. I feel compelled to do this for many reasons with the major reason being the high level of willful ignorance that exist within and without the church concerning the reality of this matter.

I have found that the vast majority of people do not consider that the price of sin is something they need to be concerned with. This is due in part to the mercy of God. This may sound somewhat strange but let me explain. Because God is so merciful (not giving us what we deserve immediately) for He delights in Mercy, Micah 7:18, “Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, ***because He delights in mercy.***”

This lack of concern on people’s part concerning the price of sin is also due to the patience of God. In the Word of God the Bible we read Psalm 145:8, “The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.” 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Because God is patient; kind; merciful; longsuffering; gracious; slow to anger and much, much more, people have the tendency to misunderstand these qualities. Some think that God does not “see” their sin; others believe that God does not care about the “little sins” that they are guilty of; still others are under the delusion that because God does not act swiftly and precisely that God condones their sin. All are terribly wrong and an approach to the character of God.

The Bible is clear on an immutable law of God that proclaims: “The wages of sin is death; All have sinned and come short of the glory of God; The soul that sins must die.” The Bible is full of examples of those who found this to be so the hard way.

King David had an extra marital “affair” with a woman by the name of Bathsheba, (doesn’t “affair” sound nicer than what it really is, adultery?) You can read of the entire account in 2 Samuel 11 & 12. I will give a brief synopsis.

After David’s tryst with Bathsheba, she sent word to David of her pregnancy. Rather than confess and repent of his sin immediately, David sought to hide his sin and excuse himself by doing some “good deeds”. David thought nobody knew what he had done, nobody but God that is. In his attempts to “cover his sin” he brought back Bathsheba’s husband who was out fighting in David’s war and enticed him to go enjoy his wife for a few days. But Uriah could not enjoy himself like this when his fellow soldiers were out on the battle field risking their lives. So David got him drunk two times which still didn’t work. Finally David had Uriah killed on the battlefield. How dastardly!

But you see dear ones; this is the nature of sin. One sin begets another sin, often times worse than the first. David then invited Bathsheba into his home to be his wife. Everyone thought this was so extra generous of their king, everyone but God. The baby was born and David thought he was home free.

David would soon begin to learn the price of his sin. God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David in his sin. This was a risky thing for Nathan because David could have Nathan killed by just saying the word but he didn’t.

Part of God's judgment upon David for his sin would be that his son with Bathsheba would die. There would also be strife and contention and further death and despair in David's family all the days of his life. Quite a heavy price for just a few minutes of unbridled passion, wouldn't you say? I don't say this to bring into question the fairness of the consequences rather to impress upon you the reality of the high price that is attached to sin. God is just and true in all of His judgments.

God did forgive David of his sin when he confessed and repented for God is faithful to do what He said. But He is also faithful to His Word to allow us to experience the consequences of our sin.

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or ccalpine@juno.com