

Theology 101

Sin

- I. What is Sin?
 - A. The simplest definition is that sin is the transgression of God's law - I John 3:4
 - B. Definitions by theologians:
 - 1. "The teaching of Scripture is that sin is any want of conformity to the character of God, whether it be an act, disposition, or state." - Lewis Sperry Chafer
 - 2. "...an inclusive definition of sin would be anything that does not conform to the glory of God. And, indeed, that is the standard against which sin is measured in the familiar verse, Romans 3:23." - Charles Ryrie
- II. Four Aspects of Sin Presented in Scripture
 - A. Personal Sin
 - 1. That which occurs in our daily walk as we fail to conform to God's Holiness
 - 2. Romans 3:23
 - B. Sin Nature
 - 1. That fallen, depraved condition of man that precludes mankind from holiness.
 - 2. Romans 5:19, Ephesians 2:3
 - C. Imputed Sin
 - 1. Think of this as a starting balance in our "sin account". Even though we have a sinful nature and will commit personal sin, we begin our account with God as a sinner.
 - 2. Romans 5:12-18
 - D. State of Sin
 - 1. This looks at the broadest aspect of man's state under the affects of sin. It is in some ways a classification but also the results, present and eternal, of sin.
 - 2. Romans 3:9-10
- III. The Penalty of Sin
 - A. God can not and will not let sin go unpunished or its price unpaid - Proverbs 11:21, Romans 2:1-11
 - B. It is described as a Death penalty:
 - 1. Physical death - Genesis 2:17, 3:19
 - 2. Spiritual death - Ephesians 2:1,5
 - 3. Eternal death - Revelation 21:14-15
 - C. For the Christian, though our sins may be covered by the blood of Christ, we still face practical and spiritual consequences for our sins. - Psalm 51, I John 1:6-10, Hebrews 12:5-7, Galatians 6:7