

Free the Slaves

Continued from Page 3

The most dangerous and ever present threat to anyone, even a saved person, is commission of sin. It always has a price tag that no one ever dreamed would come with the commission of that sin. The charge for the sin usually continues for longer than anyone would ever want to pay. Its wage often comes due at a time that the sin's commission is forgotten, but there is always a payday for sin. No one avoids its cost.

When a believer sins, he can always go to the Father in prayer, seek forgiveness, and plead with God for strength not to commit the trespass again. The guilt may be gone, and of course he will not have to answer for the sin; however, its temptation will often appear in one's life again, and be a future difficulty he must battle to avoid.

An unsaved person can also go to God in prayer. However, unless one realizes and admits one's sin and fully trusts that Christ's death on the cross is the only payment God will recognize to cover one's sin, the eternal payment for sin will not be removed. All the good intentions and halting of sin's commission will not remove sin's payment one day. Without God's help one will still be a slave to sin. You must be born again (John 3:3) to have the free pardon from all sin.

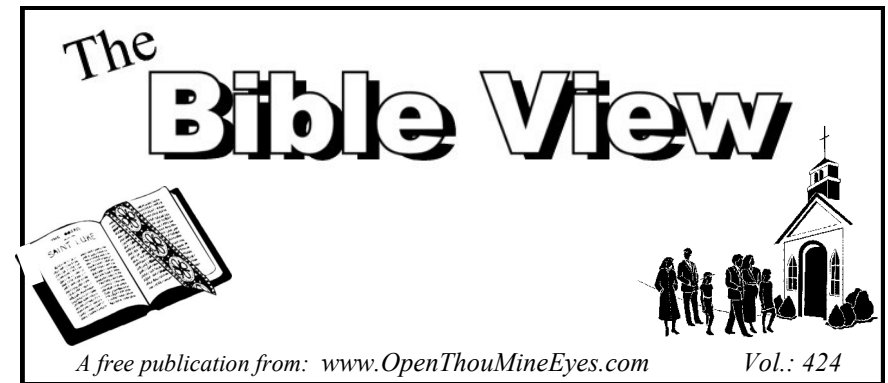
Do you realize that your sin is against what God desires for your life? Confess it to God (He knows about it already, but wants you to humble yourself and admit it), and seek to live the way God commands in His Word, the Bible. Serving God, and living the way He desires you to live, will break the chains of sin that are keeping you in bondage to it. You can be free. There is hope!

To see the uncondensed version of this lesson, go to: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/lessons/slave.html>

Sin's Damage

Continued from Page 1

*crocodile,
It seems to love, and promises no wile,
It hides the soul, and hates when it vows most love.
It plays the tyrant most by gilded pills (unpleasant people),
It secretly ensnares the souls it kills.
Sin's promises they all deceitful be,
Does promise wealth, but pays us poverty;
Does promise pleasure, but doth pay us sorrow;
Does promise life today; pays death tomorrow.
No thief so vile, nor treacherous as sin,
Whom fools do hug, and tame much pleasure in.*



Free the Slaves

Bill Brinkworth

When speaking of slavery, most immediately think of those taken against their will from Africa and other countries in the early-to-mid 1800's. However, forced labor still continues today and is more prevalent than that which occurred in the 1800's.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates today 20.9 million men, women, and children around the world are "forced to work for little or no pay and at the complete mercy of their 'employer'" (www.antislavery.org). Some estimates make the count at closer to 30 million.

The numbers of those forced to work in mental or physical slavery, or owned or controlled by an "employer" are not even close to the numbers of those in bondage in a different, less obvious way. Those in this type of slavery outnumber the 30 million many times over. To make matters worse, those in this popular type of bondage do not

even know they have lost their freedoms!

The Bible has much to say about this type of oppression:

✞ There are two choices in this world. One can serve himself and his own selfish desires, which are often sin and sometimes the devil's destructive desires for him, or he can serve God. There are only these two choices, whether man realizes it or not.

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [the self-serving desires of our own flesh]." Luke 16:13 Also Matthew 6:24.

Continued on Page 2

Sin's Damage

Keach

*Sin is composed of nought but subtle wiles,
It fawns and flatters, and betrays by smiles;
'Tis like the panther, or the*

Continued on Page 4



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Continued from Page 1

- ☞ Although sin is always an individual's own choice, it soon becomes "addictive" and leads to more sin. Soon sin controls one's thoughts, and is a decisive force in one's life.

Lying and deceitfulness lead to more lies and alienation from others, as one becomes mistrusted. Bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, and jealousy rob many of peace and good relationships. Drinking, drugs, pornography, and most sins never fulfill one's lust and often lead one to committing more of the sin in hopes that their cravings will be satisfied. Sexual sins ruin lives and families, wreck relationships, but still leave the committer with a feeling of loneliness and failure.

On and on goes the list of the consequences of sin. No one gets away without paying the horrible cost to one's life because of sin. Sins leave one's life changed, and often physically damaged from its commission. Iniquity never does anything but rob and destroy what could be good in one's life. Sin's grasp

robs one of joy and makes one a slave. The committer of sin is led by his desires and loses his freedoms.

- ☞ When one chooses to do his own thing and ignore the life God desires him to have, he will not only reap the terrible consequence of sin, but will alienate himself from God.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15
Also: James 4:4, Gal. 1:10.

- ☞ Jesus addressed a group of saved Jews, and told them that they could be free (John 8:31-32). Their reply was that they were not in any type of bondage. They thought they were free.

"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

John 8:33

- ☞ Then Jesus pointed out to them that they were indeed slaves to the sins they had committed.

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

John 8:34

- ☞ Those given over to sin,

have no permanent desire to live a life that pleases the Lord.

"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness." Rom. 6:20

- ☞ Trusting Christ's payment for all our sin is the only way one can be free of sin's control and from the ultimate payment for sinning — hell!
"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

Also: Rom. 8:2.

- ☞ The choice is always up to the individual! He does not have to serve sin any longer; although many, even the saved, often freely choose to continue in sin. We have the opportunity not to be forced to serve sin. We have the liberty to do right.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1

"For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant."

I Cor. 7:22

- ☞ When free from the desire to sin, you will have the desire to live righteously, although the longer one is involved in sin, the harder the battle will be against the temptations it will bring. Sinful lifestyles can give way to one that is

pleasing to God.

"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Rom. 6:18

Also: Rom. 6:22, Mat. 12:18.

- ☞ One freed from the desire to sin has the opportunity to freely serve God, and in so doing, one should get their sights off themselves and desire to serve others.

"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." Mark 10:44

- ☞ Although one may choose to serve God, it is servitude out of gratitude and love, not out of forced control. When one chooses to surrender his control of his own selfish desires and live the way God commands, he will have a life that is blessed and honored by God! God looks at his servant not as a bond slave, but with special love — as a friend.

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." John 15:15
Also: John 12:26.

Continued on Page 4



The way to keep the heart quiet is to keep ourselves in the love of God and to do nothing to offend him."

— Henry

"Sin will keep you from the Bible. The Bible will keep you from sin

— D. L. Moody