

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Not Perfect

One Can't Be Sinless

Bill Brinkworth

When I was younger, my mother once confined me to my room until supper time because of my bad behavior. While there, I was very upset about getting into trouble.

The guilt of not doing right and being punished was humiliating. Making my mother upset also lay heavily on my heart. I never wanted to disappoint her and have her punish me.

After retrieving my Bible from the bookcase and reading random passages from it, I felt even worse. Although I don't remember which passage affected me, I was reminded that my actions were sinful. Conviction made me feel worse.

Soon, I made up my mind that I would never sin again. In a short time, I don't remember what I did, but even though I was the only one in the room, I had sinned again. All alone, with no one to lead me astray, and I still sinned.

At that point, I realized that it was not possible not to sin. Now that I am saved, I understand that I was discovering my soul may not want to commit iniquity, but my weak flesh had a mind of its own if I let it.

As a Christian, we may be forgiven and may not sin as much as we did before being saved, but we are and always will be sinners, as long as we are in this body! We may not want to break God's commandments, but we can and too often will.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." I John 1:10

"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." Romans 3:9

Admitting one's sins is essential, but it is just a starting point for getting ALL one's sins forgiven and forgotten by God. The crucial next part to have ALL one's iniquities pardoned is to realize there is nothing anyone can do or pay to have their sins canceled. Good deeds and acts will not pay the great price the sinner owes God.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

There is only one payment that God will accept to cover our transgressions. Believing that God sent Jesus, His only Son, to pay our sin debt on the Cross is the only way. That personal realization and trusting what He has done for us will then free one from sin's ultimate penalty.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9 We can be saved from an eternity in a tormenting Hell.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12

Although we may still need to confess and repent of our sins daily to remain in fellowship with God, it does not mean we have to be saved again.

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30 “Sealed” indicates salvation is an official transaction that cannot be changed.

“Quench not the Spirit.” I Thessalonians 5:19

“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:29 A saved sinner will not lose one’s salvation.

If one is not saved, they will experience an eternity of regret. For those who are truly trusting Christ’s payment for their iniquities, you are forgiven. However, get it right with God and purpose to do your best to flee temptation and sin with God’s help.

“When one is saved all their sins are forgiven, but refusal to clean out current iniquity can halt God from working in one’s life.” — Brinkworth

I Stil Mak Mistaks

Bill Brinkworth

I have been writing Christian material for over 40 years. Thousands of articles have been produced. However, despite my best efforts, I still make many mistakes.

All articles have been read and reread. Each time I review the material, I find more errors and often discover a more effective way to express something.

My bookshelves have many grammar and writing books. I have studied them and try to adhere to the rules, but still, not one article I have written in all those years has been without error.

During and after writing, I carefully proofread what I have written. Sometimes, I reread the article more than five times before I handed it to my wife for her to check. Still, even with the two of us proofreading, there were still errors or improvements that could have been made.

Since she was unable to proofread my writing due to her illness, I use professional proofreading software to check the pieces I had written. Those programs still find mistakes. If I check the article with one program, another system will find errors that the other software did not detect.

Just before they are published, I reread them again. Still, I find mistakes or more efficient ways to make a statement.

It is very discouraging to me that, despite the effort I put into the material, I still do not write “perfectly.” The fact and truth of the matter is, no writer can proof their own work. Other proofreaders may also still find more mistakes.

One printing company I am familiar with has put each of its publications through a rigorous 12+ point barrage of proofreaders. Most have still found errors.

As hard as I try, I will always make mistakes in what I write.

Likewise, a person, saved or lost, will also make “mistakes,” however, their deeds are often sins. Sin always has grievous side effects and usually regrets. It must be avoided,

Try as the sinner may, iniquity will always be around the corner. It is very difficult not to sin, especially in this God-rejecting environment.

None of us is “good.” We may have better moments, but sin can hijack one’s thought life or behavior.

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.” Galatians 3:22

Because of an inherited sin nature, no thanks to Adam and Eve’s disobedience, we will always sin. Those who claim they do not sin are either ignorant of what iniquity is, are dishonest, or should be checked for nail prints in their hands (Jesus was the only person who never sinned and His hands were nailed to a Cross).

“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:” Romans 5:12

Because one will always sin, that does not give anyone the license to continue transgressing God’s commandments, nor does one need to stop trying to halt iniquity. “Why, I keep messing up, so why try?” some mutter in exasperation.

When a born-again child of God sins, one does not lose one’s salvation. No one has earned their salvation; it is a free gift of God, and He does not take back what He has given.

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,” II Timothy 1:9

Sin needs to be confessed to God, and with God’s help and one’s watchful attempts, it can be curtailed. Draw closer to Him. He will patiently help you get untangled from sin’s stranglehold. You can succeed.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:” I John 2:1

We cannot be perfect because of our temporary, weak bodies. However, one day we will not have to battle our sinful flesh and be discouraged by our sin. God will one day give saved people a new body that will not sin. Until that time, carry on doing his will and way.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“Real Christians are forgiven, but sin can still ruin one’s walk with Christ and make one’s life miserable.” — Brinkworth

Guilty?

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Romans 1:22-32