

## How Much Does Sin...

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*"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17 Also: Rom. 5:12.*

✠ Sin cost Adam and Eve fellowship with God. They were forced out of the Garden of Eden because of their sin.

*"Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man..." Genesis 3:23-24*

✠ Sin cost some innocent animals their lives. God killed some animals so He could clothe Adam and Eve. From the commission of the first sin, others have been hurt and affected by others' iniquities.

*"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."*

*Gen. 3:21*

✠ Sin cost this planet many changes. Because of Adam and Eve's transgression, there are now weeds, sweat, and death. Before the first sin was committed, those things did not exist.

*"And unto Adam he said, ... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of*

*it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. 3:17-19*

✠ Sin cost Cain an unhappy, lonely life after he killed his brother.

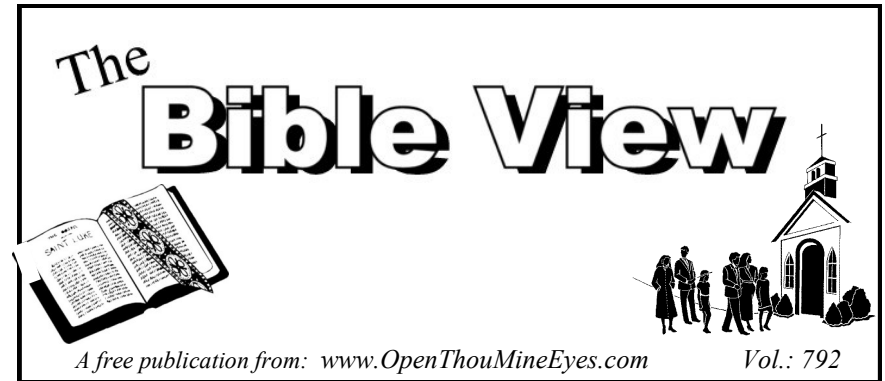
*"And now art thou cursed from the earth, ... When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear." Genesis 4:11-13*

✠ Sin by others cost Joseph a normal life with his family. Because of their sin of jealousy, Joseph's brothers threw Joseph in a pit, sold him into slavery, and caused Joseph's life to be much different than what it could have been. Sin often hurts the innocent. (Gen. 37:23-24)

✠ Sin cost Moses life in the Promised Land. God told Israel's leader to speak to a rock, and water would flow from it. In his anger, Moses hit the rock twice with his staff instead. Water came out. God still provided for Israel, but because of Moses' disobedience to God's command, the leader was kept from going into the Promised Land. He died just on the other side of the land he worked so hard to reach. (Num. 20:11-12)

✠ Sin cost Samson his eyesight and life because he disobeyed God. (Jud. 16:20)

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## It Ain't Free!

*Bill Brinkworth*

After using a piece of equipment for one day, I returned it to a local store as it stopped working. It should

have been a normal merchandise return, but an inconsistency alerted the clerk.

Apparently, a serial number on the item and the one on the box did not match. They suspected that I was trying to pull something over on them with some type of scam. Eventually, I proved to them that the return was legitimate, and they refunded the full amount of my purchase.

I was quite embarrassed and a little mad that they would accuse me of doing something dishonest. Soon, I realized the clerk most likely dealt with dishonesty much of her day. They did not know me, so how would they know that I was telling the truth?

My being accused of

something others do reminded me of how others' sins affect so many. Perhaps, the employee who packed the box was lazy and did not match up products with serial numbers. I was the one that paid the price for his lack of care that others may have been affected.

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## How Much Does Sin Cost?

*Author Unknown*

Sin is the breaking of God's commandments. He hates our sins, and our committing them has dire consequences.

No one sins and does not have to face its terrible wages. Here is a biblical study on what sin has cost others and what it can cost us:

✠ Sin cost Adam and Eve their lives. The first couple would not have died if they had not disobeyed God and sinned. Because of their transgression, the desire to sin was passed to all generations.

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## It Ain't Free!

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This error is nothing compared to how others are hurt by the sin of others. The iniquity of others has changed this world.

💰 Thievery from businesses costs mistrust of many customers. Eventually, it raises the prices of items in the store to cover the loss of stolen merchandise.

💰 Speed limits had to be placed on highways because so many drove recklessly, endangered, and hurt innocent drivers. Signs had to be purchased, and employees were hired to make and install the warnings. Innocent taxpayers had to pay for the cost because of selfish, inconsiderate, often impatient drivers.

💰 Because of being too lazy to work, those that do work have to pay higher taxes for those that refuse to be employed while the slothful collect welfare and other forms of government handouts. There is no such thing as "free" money. Someone somewhere is paying for others' "free" rides!

💰 The sin of adultery destroys many marriages when unfaithfulness is discovered. The innocent spouse is left without a mate and, in most cases, must financially and mentally suffer because of the other's selfish infidelity.

***"There is a terrible price on ALL sin that no one wants to pay when the 'bill' is due!"***

Children in the family also suffer because of not having both parents, and in most cases, have their lives turned upside down.

💰 Killing babies by abortion destroys innocent lives and emotionally scars the mother. It may also pave the way for others to do the same when they have an unexpected pregnancy; "My friend got an abortion, so it must be okay, so I'll get one too because of my situation," or "I want to have premarital sex, and if I get pregnant, I'll just abort the baby. No big deal."

💰 Many politicians assure themselves of their jobs by making laws that pay and encourage others' wrong actions, law-breaking, and immorality to get more votes to keep themselves in office. Societies have been destroyed by years of self-serving officials who were more concerned about their prosperity rather than how their governing affected others.

💰 Drunkards drive under the influence of alcohol and kill innocent pedestrians.

On and on the list could go of how sin affects and hurts others. No one gets away with sin. All sin has repercussions. It ultimately hurts the one committing the iniquity but hurts so many others. No wonder God hates sin! Avoid sin like the plague because it spreads and hurts so many others, and its price tag is more than any want to pay.

***"To live for self or the Lord is a decision all make."***

*— Author Unknown*

## How Much Does Sin...

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☘ Sin also cost others much, including Miriam, Abel (killed by his brother), Absalom, Ahab, Barabbas, Bathsheba, David, Eglon (oppressed Israel), Herod, Jezebel, Jonah, and others. Sin hurts all of us!

☘ Sin can cost each of us life in Hell and ultimately the Lake of Fire unless we accept Jesus' payment for our sins! (Rom. 5:12, I Cor. 15:21, Rev. 20:11-14)

☘ Sin always has consequences. No one ever gets away without someone paying for their sin! (Rom. 6:23)

☘ Sin costs us our freedom. When one lies, often another lie is needed to cover the first lie. When one steals one thing, it is usually easier to steal again. One alcoholic drink is often followed by another. Sin leads to more iniquity, and soon we are enslaved by sin.

☘ Sin costs one his self-respect. Most have lost much self-esteem when they discover they went down a terrible, regrettable road where their sins led them.

☘ Sin costs us our joy. Sin's consequences often rob one of much happiness and brings pain



and suffering into one's life.

☘ Sin costs having God not guiding and directing one's life. Because sin can break our fellowship with God, He may not direct our lives. In Romans 1, it cost many because they did not do what they knew God would have had them do. Their wickedness was so great that God gave up on them. (Rom. 1:24)

☘ Sin can cost one a life God intended one to have. (Prov. 29:1)

☘ Sin cost Satan a life in Heaven and eventually will cost him an eternity in the Lake of Fire. (Rev. 2:10)

☘ The sin of others cost Jesus His life on Earth. He paid for our sin debt with His blood. (II Cor. 5:15)

☘ Sin will cost this Earth its existence. (Rev. 21:1)

The most expensive thing on this Earth is not gold or even precious gems. The most costly item is one's sin. Payday for sin's commission may not be today, but its wage will be someday. That is why God warns us repeatedly to stay away from the tenacious tentacles of sin. It is not that He wants to rob any of us of our "fun." It is because God knows that there is always a terrible price for sin.

*If you are a Sunday school teacher or preacher and would like to teach this lesson, I can send you a free Powerpoint presentation of this lesson if you have Microsoft's Powerpoint. E-mail me your request to [brinkworth@frontier.com](mailto:brinkworth@frontier.com), and I will send it to you.*