

TYPES OF SIN  
PRESENTED BY  
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GREEN LAWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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OUR LESSON TONIGHT DEALS WITH THE SUBJECT "TYPES OF SIN," AND IT MAY SEEM RATHER ODD—IT DOES TO ME—THAT, WHEN YOU COME TO STUDY A LESSON DEALING WITH TYPES OF SIN AND YOU STUDY THAT SUBJECT FROM A BOOK WHICH IS WRITTEN TO TELL US ABOUT SIN AND HOW WE MAY BE REDEEMED FROM IT, YOU CANNOT FIND A TEXT WHICH DIRECTLY RELATES, WHICH LISTS ALL OF THE TYPES OF SIN THAT MEN MAY COMMIT. SOME MIGHT SUGGEST THAT WE TURN TO I JOHN 2:15,17 AND THERE WE WILL FIND AN ADEQUATE LISTING OF TYPES OF SIN. FOR JOHN THERE WROTE, "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. FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD, THE LUST OF THE FLESH, AND THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE, IS NOT OF THE FATHER, BUT IS OF THE WORLD. AND THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY, AND THE LUST THEREOF: BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF GOD ABIDETH FOR EVER." OTHERS MIGHT SUGGEST THAT WE GO TO I JOHN 3:4 WHERE WE FIND THAT "SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW," AND IF WE GO THEN TO THE FIFTH CHAPTER AND THE SEVENTEENTH VERSE WE CAN ADD ANOTHER OBSERVATION WHICH SAYS THAT "ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN." BUT WHEN YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AT THESE VERSES VERY CAREFULLY YOU DISCOVER THAT THERE IS NOT ONE OF THEM WHICH TELLS US KINDS OR TYPES OF SIN. THE FIRST ONE TELLS US THREE AVENUES THROUGH WHICH AND BY WHICH WE MAY BE TEMPTED. THE SECOND OF THE VERSES TELLS US THAT SIN IS TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW, TELLS US WHAT SIN IS, BUT NOT WHAT KINDS OF SINS MAY BE COMMITTED. THE THIRD OF THESE VERSES TELLS US THE NATURE OF SIN—THAT IS, THAT ALL SIN IS UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, ALL SIN IS BEING UNLIKE GOD—BUT STILL IT DOES NOT DELINEATE, IT DOES NOT LIST THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH MEN CAN SIN. SO I THINK IN OUR LESSON TONIGHT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO BEYOND SOME VERY BASIC STATEMENTS OF THIS NATURE. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE GENERAL, BUT YET SPECIFIC AND THAT IS PRETTY HARD TO DO. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK INTO THE SCRIPTURE AND FROM THE THINGS THAT IT DOES SAY ASCERTAIN THE VERY BASIC WAYS IN WHICH MAN CAN SIN.

CERTAINLY, WHEN WE LIST THE TYPES OF SIN, THE KINDS OF SINS THAT MEN CAN COMMIT, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE VERY, VERY BASIC, FOR IF WE ARE NOT, WE COULD MAKE A RATHER LENGTHY LIST AND WE COULD SPEND NOT JUST ONE LESSON, BUT I GUESS A THOUSAND LESSONS DISCUSSING ALL OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SINS THAT MEN CAN COMMIT. WE MIGHT END UP LIKE THE PREACHER WHO PRODUCED SUCH A LIST, AND ON HIS LIST HE HAD 360 WAYS IN WHICH MEN CAN SIN. HE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM ALL OVER THE NATION WANTING THAT LIST BY PEOPLE WHO, HEARING THAT HE HAD THAT AMOUNT, COULD FIGURE OUT A LESSER AMOUNT AND WERE AFRAID THEY WERE MISSING SOMETHING. THEY WANTED HIS LIST IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT BE DIRECTED INTO FULLER ACTIVITIES IN THE REALM OF SIN. SO WE ARE NOT AFTER THIS KIND OF SPECIFICATION. WE WANT TO LOOK AT THE VERY BASIC WAY IN WHICH MAN CAN SIN OR, IF YOU PLEASE, TO USE THE DEFINITION, THE BASIC WAYS THAT MEN CAN TRANSGRESS THE LAW OF GOD.

I BELIEVE WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE THAT THESE WAYS OR KINDS OF SINS THAT MAN CAN COMMIT CAN BE READILY REDUCED TO THREE BASIC WAYS IN WHICH MAN CAN TRANSGRESS THE LAW OF GOD. ONE OF THESE, AND PERHAPS THE MOST OBVIOUS OF THESE, IS SIMPLY, WE TRANSGRESS THE LAW OF GOD BY DOING THAT WHICH IS WRONG. THIS IS WHAT WE COMMONLY REFER TO AS A SIN OF COMMISSION, THAT IS, SOMETHING WHICH IS SINFUL BECAUSE OF CERTAIN ACTS WHICH WE ARE COMMITTING, CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE ARE DOING. THERE ARE SOME BASIC OBSERVATIONS WHICH NEED TO BE MADE RELATIVE TO THIS TYPE OF SIN AND ONE OF THEM IS THAT WE CAN SIN, WE CAN TRANSGRESS THE LAW OF GOD POSITIVELY EVEN THOUGH IT IS DONE IN IGNORANCE. IGNORANCE OF THE DIVINE REQUIREMENTS DOES NOT RELIEVE MAN FROM BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEED. INDEED, I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE SAFE TO SAY THAT IGNORANCE OF THE DIVINE REQUIREMENTS ON THE PART OF MOST INDIVIDUALS IS IN AND OF ITSELF A SIN. I THINK THIS IS ESPECIALLY



TRUE IN MY CASE, AND I THINK IT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN YOUR CASE. FOR YOU AND I SIT TONIGHT AS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONSTANT OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY AND BE LED IN THE STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD. I WOULD HATE TO GO TO HELL FROM LUBBOCK, TEXAS, SIMPLY BECAUSE IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS, WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS GREATER THAN SOME AREAS, BECAUSE WE ARE EXPOSED TO MORE RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES THAN MAN MIGHT BE IN OTHER AREAS, AND BECAUSE WE ARE SITTING IN THE MIDST OF OPEN BIBLES. WHILE THE IGNORANCE OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOU HAVE AND I HAVE, MAY SERVE AS AN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE, THOUGH NOT ONE THAT WOULD BRING TO THEM FORGIVENESS, THIS WOULD NOT OPERATE IN MY CASE AND IN YOURS. FOR IN MY CASE AND IN YOURS, WHERE WE ARE SO MUCH EXPOSED TO THE WORD OF GOD, IGNORANCE ON OUR PART IS MORE THAN LIKELY A WILLFUL IGNORANCE OF THE WORD. WE FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY WHICH THE APOSTLE PETER DESCRIBED WHEN HE SAID OF SOME WHO DENIED THE RESURRECTION SAYING THAT IT WAS PAST ALREADY, THAT THESE THINGS THEY ARE WILLFULLY IGNORANT OF. SOMETIMES I THINK THE REASON THAT WE CONTINUE IN IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD IS BECAUSE SOMEHOW WE FEEL THAT IF WE TURN OUR EYES AWAY FROM IT AND WE DON'T LEARN IT, THEN WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. THIS IS NOT SO. SOME OF YOU STUDENTS BEFORE LONG ARE GOING TO MEET JUDGMENT DAY. IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE THAT IS CALLED FINAL EXAMINATION. WHEN YOU GO INTO THE CLASSROOM TO TAKE YOUR FINAL EXAMINATION, IT IS NOT GOING TO DO TOO MUCH GOOD FOR YOU, AT LEAST IT NEVER DID FOR ME, TO GO UP TO THE PROFESSOR AND SAY, "WELL, NOW PROFESSOR, I HAVEN'T READ THE TEXT, I HAVEN'T BEEN EXPOSED TO WHAT IS IN IT, THEREFORE I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT." YOU HAD THE TEXT. IT WAS IN YOUR POSSESSION, AND YOU JUST DIDN'T GO TO THE TROUBLE TO READ IT. AND YET, SOMEHOW WE SEEM TO FEEL THAT WHEN WE GO TO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, THAT GREAT FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE SOULS OF MEN, THAT WE CAN GO INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND SOMEHOW, BECAUSE WE HAVE KEPT OUR BIBLES CLOSED, BE EXCUSED FROM ANY EXAMINATION ON THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I THINK SOMETIMES THE REASON FOR OUR IGNORANCE IS MORE INDIFFERENCE THAN PERHAPS ANYTHING ELSE. BUT IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

WHAT ABOUT IGNORANCE THAT IS DUE TO A LACK OF OPPORTUNITY? WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE IGNORANT IN SPITE OF OPPORTUNITIES. WHAT ABOUT IGNORANCE WHERE THERE IS A LACK OF OPPORTUNITY, WHERE A MAN DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST? THE ONLY ANSWER I CAN GIVE IS THAT WHICH IS GIVEN IN LUKE 12:41-48 WHICH SAYS THAT WHEN PUNISHMENT IS METED TO THOSE WHO DID NOT THE MASTERS WILL THAT THAT SERVANT WHO KNEW NOT HIS MASTER'S WILL AND DID IT NOT SHALL BE BEATEN, BUT WITH FEW STRIPES. IT DOES SAY THAT THERE ARE SOME EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NOT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IGNORANT EVEN THOUGH HE LACKED OPPORTUNITY WILL BE RECEIVED INTO THE BOSOM OF HEAVEN. WE CAN SIN POSITIVELY, EVEN THOUGH IT IS DONE IN IGNORANCE.

WE MAY SIN POSITIVELY BY DOING SOMETHING THAT IS NOT WRONG IN AND OF ITSELF BECAUSE WE ARE SINNING AGAINST CONSCIENCE. IN ROMANS 14:23 WE READ THIS RATHER STRONG LANGUAGE, "AND HE THAT DOUBTETH IS DAMNED IF HE EAT, BECAUSE HE EATETH NOT OF FAITH: FOR WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN." I THINK SOME OF MY BRETHREN HAVE MISAPPLIED THAT VERSE. THEY HAVE SAID THAT IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT IN THE BIBLE, YOU CAN'T DO IT. OTHERS REDUCE THAT TO THE ABSURD BY SIMPLY SAYING, "THEN YOU CAN'T HAVE NEWSPAPERS, YOU CAN'T HAVE CHURCH BUILDINGS, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT IN THE BIBLE AND IF FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD THEN THESE THINGS ARE NOT OF FAITH AND YOU CAN'T USE THEM." BASED UPON THE REASONING THAT WAS PRESENTED TO THEM, THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. BUT IF YOU WILL GO TO ROMANS THE FOURTEENTH CHAPTER, YOU WILL NOT BE TOO LONG IN ASCERTAINING THAT THE FAITH WHICH IS SPOKEN OF HERE IS NOT THE FAITH OF THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS NOT THE SYSTEM OF FAITH THAT WAS DELIVERED BY JESUS CHRIST. IT IS NOT THE PERSONAL FAITH THAT ONE HAS IN CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD. IT IS HIS PERSONAL FEELING, HIS CONSCIENCE IF YOU PLEASE, BY WHICH HE DETERMINES WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG. PAUL IS SAYING THAT IF YOU DOUBT, IF ACCORDING TO YOUR CONSCIENCE IT IS WRONG TO DO THIS THING EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE MORALLY PERMISSIBLE, THEN



FOR YOU IT IS A SIN. WHY DOES THE LORD MAKE IT A SIN TO SIN AGAINST YOUR CONSCIENCE? WHEN YOU BELIEVE A THING THAT IS RIGHT IS WRONG, WHY, WHEN YOU DO THAT RIGHT THING, DOES IT BECOME WRONG FOR YOU? WHY DO YOU SIN AGAINST YOUR CONSCIENCE? SIMPLY BECAUSE THE CONSCIENCE WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU IS ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS THINGS THAT YOU HAVE OF GOD, AND THAT CONSCIENCE MUST BE PROTECTED, THAT CONSCIENCE MUST BE KEPT PLIABLE SO THAT WHEN YOU LEARN THE WORD OF GOD, WHEN YOU HEAR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, THAT CONSCIENCE WILL RESPOND. WHEN A MAN SINS AGAINST HIS CONSCIENCE, HE HASTENS THE DAY OF WHICH PAUL WROTE IN I TIMOTHY 4:2 WHEN HE DESCRIBED SOME AND SAID THEIR CONSCIENCE WAS SEARED AS WITH A HOT IRON. IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR CONSCIENCE HAD BECOME SO HARDENED THAT IT COULD NOT RESPOND ANYMORE. IT NO LONGER APPRECIATED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG. YOU POSITIVELY DO EVIL WHEN YOU SIN AGAINST THE CONSCIENCE THAT GOD GAVE YOU.

YOU COMMIT A SIN OF COMMISSION WHEN YOU ARE ENGAGED IN THAT WHICH MIGHT BE DEFINED AS DOCTRINAL ERROR. THERE ARE THOSE IN OUR WORLD WHO BELIEVE THAT A MAN'S DOCTRINE DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, WHO BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS A MAN IS SINCERE AND HONEST, THIS IS ALL THE LORD REQUIRES, IF HE LIVES A GOOD MORAL LIFE. AND IF HE LIVES A GOOD, MORAL LIFE THEN THERE CAN BE NO SINS OF COMMISSION. THIS IS NOT WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES. IN II JOHN 9, JOHN SAID, "WHO-SOEVER TRANSGRESSETH, (THERE IS THE WORD, THAT IS THE WORD WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, THE TRANSGRESSION OF SIN) AND ABIDETH NOT IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, HATH NOT GOD. HE THAT ABIDETH IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, HE HATH BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON." WRONG DOCTRINE CAN RENDER EVERY OTHER THING THAT MAN WOULD OFFER, UP TO AND INCLUDING WORSHIP, UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FATHER. MATTHEW 15:9, "BUT IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN." WE CAN, THEN, SIN POSITIVELY BY ACCEPTING DOCTRINAL ERROR.

BUT GENERALLY WHEN WE SPEAK OF SINS OF COMMISSION WE BEGIN TO ASSOCIATE THESE POSITIVE ACTS WITH THAT SIN WHICH IN THE BIBLE IS CALLED PRESUMPTUOUS SIN. I WANT TO GO TO THE OLD TESTAMENT AND READ TWO VERSES FROM NUMBERS 15:30,31, "BUT THE SOUL THAT DOETH OUGHT PRESUMPTUOUSLY, WHETHER HE BE BORN IN THE LAND, OR A STRANGER, THE SAME REPROACHETH THE LORD; AND THAT SOUL (THAT IS THE SOUL THAT SINNETH PRESUMPTUOUSLY) SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM AMONG HIS PEOPLE. BECAUSE HE HATH DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND HATH BROKEN HIS COMMANDMENT, THAT SOUL SHALL UTTERLY BE CUT OFF; HIS INIQUITY SHALL BE UPON HIM." THE PSALMIST DAVID IN PSALMS 19:13 SAID, "KEEP BACK THY SERVANT ALSO FROM PRESUMPTUOUS SINS; LET THEM NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER ME: THEN SHALL I BE UPRIGHT, AND I SHALL BE INNOCENT FROM (AND HE IS SPEAKING HERE REMEMBER OF PRESUMPTUOUS SIN) THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION." I KNOW THAT WE HAVE SAID, AND SAID CORRECTLY, THAT WE CANNOT, AS IT WERE MEASURE SIN, THAT WE CANNOT SAY THAT THESE SINS ARE GREAT AND THESE SINS ARE SMALL BECAUSE SIN COMMITTED AGAINST GOD IS SIN, PERIOD, NOT SIN GREAT OR SIN SMALL. BUT YET THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH WE MAY SAY THAT THERE IS A GREAT TRANSGRESSION AND A LESSER TRANSGRESSION, AND IT DOES NOT HAVE TO DO WITH THE ACTS. THE SAME ACT MAY IN ONE INSTANCE BE A GREAT TRANSGRESSION AND THE SAME ACT ON ANOTHER OCCASION MAY BE A TRANSGRESSION THAT IS NOT GREAT. WHAT THEN MAKES THE DIFFERENCE? THE ACT DOES NOT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. THE THING THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IS THE ATTITUDE WITH WHICH THE ACT IS COMMITTED. WHEN THE ACT COMMITTED IS DONE PRESUMPTUOUSLY IT IS A GREAT TRANSGRESSION. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS GREAT TRANSGRESSION? IN THESE VERSES THAT WE READ THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION SET FORTH FOR US. ONE OF THEM IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A POSITIVE BREACH OF THE LAW OF GOD. DAVID HAD BROKEN GOD'S COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND CHARACTERISTIC IS CONTEMPT OF THE WORD OF THE LORD. DAVID HAD DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD. HE HAD DESPISED THE WORD OF GOD'S COMMANDMENT BY DISREGARDING ITS AUTHORITY. HE HAD DESPISED THE WORD OF PROMISE BY DISREGARDING THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT IT GIVES TO OBEDIENCE. HE HAD DESPISED THE WORD OF THREATENING BY SETTING AT NAUGHT ITS DESIGN AND ITS POWER TO DETER INDIVIDUALS FROM SIN. THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC OF PRESUMPTUOUS SIN IS THAT IT IS BLASPHEMY AGAINST



GOD, FOR THE WRITER SAID IN NUMBERS THAT "THE SAME REPROACHETH, (OR WE MIGHT ALSO TRANSLATE, THE SAME REVILETH OR THE SAME BLASPHEMETH) THE LORD." HE BLASPHEMES AGAINST GOD. HE BLASPHEMES THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD AS IF GOD EITHER DID NOT OR COULD NOT KNOW. HE BLASPHEMES THE HOLINESS OF GOD, AS IF GOD DID NOT CARE. HE BLASPHEMES THE TRUTH OF GOD AS IF, HAVING SPOKEN, GOD WOULD NOT KEEP THE PROMISE THAT HE HAD GIVEN. HE BLASPHEMES THE POWER OF GOD AS IF GOD DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO REACH OUT, AS IF HIS ARM WERE SHORTENED AND HE COULD NOT STRIKE. HE ACTS AS THOUGH THE COMMANDS OF GOD WERE HARSH, AS IF HIS AUTHORITY WAS OF NO ACCOUNT, AS IF THE FAVOR OF GOD IS LITTLE TO BE PRIZED AND AS IF THE PUNISHMENT OF GOD IS LITTLE TO BE FEARED. SURELY WE CAN SEE AS WE LOOK AT THESE CHARACTERISTICS OF PRESUMPTUOUS SIN THAT THIS IS INDEED A GREAT TRANSGRESSION, THAT IT IS INDEED A HEINOUS ACT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. IT INVOLVES BOLDNESS IN EVIL. HE WHO DOES IT DOES NOT FEAR. IT INVOLVES ARROGANCE IN EVIL FOR HE WHO DOES IT ELEVATES HIMSELF AGAINST GOD. INDEED, IT ALMOST SEEMS THAT HE EQUATES HIMSELF WITH GOD AND RAISES HIS HAND AS IT WERE TO GOD IN COMMITTING THE SIN AGAINST HIM. IT INVOLVES IRREVERENCE TOWARD GOD, A LACK OF GODLY FEAR. AND SURELY IT INDICATES THAT HE WHO COMMITS IT HAS CONFIDENCE THAT HE CAN ESCAPE THE PUNISHMENT THAT GOD WILL INFLICT. BUT SUCH HE SHALL NOT DO. THE WRITER OF NUMBERS ALSO SAID THAT PUNISHMENT FOR THIS PRESUMPTUOUS SIN SHALL BE DEATH. II PETER 2:10. IN THE NINTH VERSE PETER HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOME WHOM GOD IS ABLE TO RESERVE UNTO JUDGMENT THAT THEY MIGHT BE PUNISHED. THEN HE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBES SOME, AND IN THE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH HE GIVES THEM IN THE TENTH VERSE HE SAYS, "...PRESUMPTUOUS ARE THEY, SELF-WILLED; THEY ARE NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITIES." SO HERE WE HAVE THE FACT THAT THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN PRESUMPTUOUS SIN SHALL DIE ETERNAL DEATH. GOD DEFIED WILL VINDICATE HIS AUTHORITY. HIS THREATENINGS DESPISED, GOD WILL TERRIBLY EXECUTE THEM AGAINST HIM WHO DESPISED THEM. GOD'S MERCY DESPISED WILL INVOLVE THOSE WHO DESPISE IT IN FEARFUL RETRIBUTION.

THE SECOND TYPE OF SIN, AND WE'LL NOT SPEND MUCH TIME HERE FOR THIS REALLY PRECEDES THE FIRST, IS THINKING WRONG. IN MATTHEW 15:18,19 JESUS SAID, "BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH PROCEED OUT OF THE MOUTH COME FORTH FROM THE HEART; AND THEY DEFILE THE MAN. FOR OUT OF THE HEART PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS, MURDERS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, THEFTS, FALSE WITNESS, BLASPHEMIES." JESUS HAS SAID HERE THAT WRONG THINKING INEVITABLY RESULTS IN WRONG DOING. HERE AGAIN MANY OF US MAKE A FATAL, AN ETERNALLY FATAL ERROR, FOR SOMEHOW WE SEEM TO FEEL THAT IF WE CAN KEEP WITHIN THE CONFINES OF OUR MIND OUR WRONG AND OUR EVIL THOUGHTS, IF SOMEHOW WE CAN KEEP THEM FROM BLOSSOMING FORTH, FROM BEARING THEIR NATURAL FRUIT WHICH IS THE EVIL DEED, THAT WE HAVE NOT SINNED. YOU SEE OUR MISTAKE IS THE MISTAKE THAT GOD'S PEOPLE MADE IN THE LONG AGO, NOT SIMPLY THINKING THAT GOD IS LIKE MAN, BUT IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE SCRIPTURE, "THINKING THAT GOD IS ALTOGETHER LIKE MAN." FOR WE CAN HIDE OUR THOUGHTS, YOU SEE, FROM ONE ANOTHER, AND THINKING THAT GOD IS ALTOGETHER LIKE MAN, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN HIDE OUR THOUGHTS FROM GOD. BUT SUCH IS NOT THE CASE. THE WRITER OF PROVERBS IN CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR AND VERSE NINE SAID, "THE THOUGHT OF FOOLISHNESS IS SIN." AND THE THOUGHT OF FOOLISHNESS COULD NOT BE SIN UNLESS GOD HAD THE CAPACITY TO LOOK IN UPON THE MIND DOING THE THINKING AND SEE THE THOUGHTS. FOR GOD WOULD NOT KNOW OF THE THOUGHT TO CHARGE IT TO HIM WHO THOUGHT IT UNLESS HE HAD SUCH ABILITY.

WE SIN BY DOING WRONG, WE SIN BY THINKING WRONG, AND THIRDLY THERE ARE THOSE SINS WHICH ARE CALLED SINS OF OMMISSION. JAMES 4:17, "THEREFORE TO HIM THAT KNOWETH TO DO GOOD, AND DOETH IT NOT, TO HIM IT IS SIN." NOW AS WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SINS OF COMMISSION AND ABOUT THINKING WRONG, YOU HAVE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND I APPRECIATE IT, BUT I WANT YOU TO LISTEN EXTRA CAREFULLY HERE, AND I HOPE THE PREACHER WILL LISTEN TOO. I BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO SHALL BE TURNED AWAY FROM THE GATES OF GLORY IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WILL BE TURNED AWAY, NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY HAVE NOT DONE. THIS IS HOW WE GENERALLY MEASURE OUR GOODNESS. WHEN PEOPLE ASK US HOW GOOD WE ARE



WE GENERALLY START TELLING THEM WHAT WE DON'T DO. "I DON'T DO THIS, I DON'T DO THAT, I DON'T DO THE OTHER, AND I AM NOT GUILTY OF THAT OTHER THING." SOMEHOW WE THINK BECAUSE THERE IS IN US THIS KIND OF NEGATIVE GOODNESS THAT WE ARE SAILING ON A SMOOTH SEA TO GLORY, BUT SUCH IS NOT THE CASE. WE ARE LIKE JONAH. WE ARE DOWN IN THE HOLD OF THE SHIP ASLEEP AND WE DON'T KNOW THE STORM IS GOING ON. SOMETHING NEEDS TO COME TO WAKE US UP, TO IMPRESS UPON US THAT THERE AREN'T GOING TO BE ANY PEWS IN HEAVEN TO BE FILLED, THAT A MAN WHO HAS CALLUSES ONLY WHERE HE SITS FROM WORSHIP AND NOT CALLUSES ON HIS HANDS WHERE HE LABORS FOR THE LORD IS A MAN WHO DOESN'T HAVE MUCH HOPE OF GLORY. HOW THIS IS IMPRESSED UPON US IN THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS WHEN THE MASTER DISTRIBUTED THEM TO HIS SERVANTS. EACH OF THEM RECEIVED SOMETHING. THAT OUGHT TO TELL US SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY. SOME OF US SAY, "WELL, WE DON'T SERVE BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT." DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS WAS MISTAKEN WHEN HE SAID THAT EVERY SERVANT RECEIVES SOMETHING? ONE THING IS TRUE, EITHER YOU ARE MISTAKEN OR HE IS, AND IF YOU ARE RIGHT, HE IS WRONG. IF YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING, "I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT," AND YOU BELIEVE IT IS TRUE, THEN YOU BELIEVE JESUS LIED IN THAT PARABLE. THAT IS WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO. NOW IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT CONCLUSION, WHICH IS THE CONCLUSION WHICH WE MIGHT GATHER FROM YOUR FORMER POSITION, THEN CHANGE YOUR POSITION. BEGIN TO LOOK FOR THE TALENT THAT THE MASTER GAVE TO EVERY SERVANT. EVERY SERVANT HAD SOME AND WHEN THE MASTER RETURNED THE SERVANT WHO RECEIVED JUST THE ONE WASN'T CONDEMNED BECAUSE THAT WAS ALL HE HAD. HOW MANY SERMONS HAVE WE HEARD WHICH IMPRESSED UPON US THAT HE WAS CONDEMNED BECAUSE HE DID NOT USE THAT WHICH THE LORD GAVE TO HIM. CHRISTIANS WILL BE CURSED FOR DOING NOTHING. AFTER ALL, DO YOU BELIEVE TONIGHT THAT YOU ARE BETTER THAN THE SON OF GOD? JESUS SAID IN JOHN 9:4, "I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME." IN JOHN 5:17 JESUS SAID, "MY FATHER WORKETH HITHERTO, AND I WORK." SOMEHOW I AM CONSTRAINED TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOTHING SHORT OF BLASPHEMY FOR US TO STAND UP IN THE FACE OF GOD AND SAY, "I DON'T HAVE ANY WORK TO DO." SOMEONE RESPONDS AND SAYS, "WELL, NOBODY EVER TELLS ME WHAT TO DO. OH, I'M WILLING TO WORK, BUT NOBODY EVER PUTS ME TO WORK. I'M JUST STANDING BY ON THE BENCH WAITING FOR THE COACH TO SEND ME IN." MAY I IMPRESS UPON YOU THAT THE COACH SENT YOU IN IN THE FIRST CENTURY WHEN HE SAID, "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE." FROM THE VERY MOMENT THAT YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE BALLGAME, AND IT IS NOT A GAME WHERE WE ARE LIMITED TO 11 MAN TEAMS AND THE 11 MEN WHO ARE SELECTED GO OUT AND THEY LABOR IN THE FIELD WITH OCCASIONAL SUBSTITUTIONS WHILE THE REST JUST SIT ON THE BENCH IN CASE THEY MIGHT SOMETIMES BE NEEDED.

HOW MANY PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IMPRESS UPON US THE NECESSITY OF BEING BUSY? PAUL TOLD THE CORINTHIANS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 16:10 THAT TIMOTHY DOES THE WORK OF THE LORD. AND IN THE 15TH CHAPTER AND THE 58TH VERSE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THAT HE IMPRESSED UPON THEM THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALWAYS ABUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD. PAUL WROTE TO THE EPHESIAN BRETHREN AND IN THE 10TH VERSE OF THE SECOND CHAPTER IT SAYS, BRETHREN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CREATED IN JESUS CHRIST UNTO GOOD WORKS. WHEN HE WROTE UNTO HIS SON THE GOSPEL TITUS HE SAID UNTO HIM IN CHAPTER 3:1, TITUS YOU TELL THESE BRETHREN THAT THEY ARE TO BE READY TO EVERY GOOD WORK. BACK IN THE SECOND CHAPTER AND THE FOURTEENTH VERSE HE TOLD TITUS TO IMPRESS UPON THEM THAT JESUS DIED IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS IN THEIR WORKS. IN MATTHEW 25 JESUS PAINTED A PICTURE OF A JUDGMENT SCENE AND THE BASIS OF THE SEPARATION WAS THAT ONE GROUP DID AND ONE GROUP DID NOT. YOU CAN READ THAT PASSAGE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND THAT IS THE ONLY DISTINCTION YOU ARE EVER GOING TO COME UP WITH. THE GROUP CLASSIFIED AS THE GOATS WENT INTO THE JUDGMENT SCENE AND THE LORD TOLD THEM, "I WAS IN ALL OF THESE CONDITIONS AND YOU DIDN'T MINISTER UNTO ME." AND THEY SAID, "LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU IN THOSE CONDITIONS? DON'T YOU KNOW LORD THAT IF WE HAD SEEN YOU IN THOSE CONDITIONS WE WOULD HAVE MINISTERED UNTO YOU?" BY COMPARISON WE MAY ASCERTAIN THAT WHILE THEY



HAD BLINDED THEMSELVES TO THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH LAY ALL AROUND THEM, THAT THOSE DENOMINATED AS THE SHEEP HAD BEEN SEEING OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAD BEEN GOD-SENT AND WHICH LITERALLY SURROUNDED THEM. FOR JESUS SAID, "IN AS MUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YOU HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME." AND I KNOW AS I STAND HERE AND AS I LOOK AT THIS AUDIENCE OF GOOD PEOPLE, THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF YOU THAT KNOW THAT YOU OUGHT TO BE DOING SOME THINGS FOR THE CAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST. EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED PROGRAM, THAT IS NOT THE IMPORTANT THING, THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF ORGANIZED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE. YOUR CONSCIENCE IS HURTING YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT DOING IT. AGAIN, HEAR THE WORDS OF JAMES AND KNOW WHAT HAS CAUSED THE HURT, "FOR UNTO HIM THAT KNOWETH TO DO GOOD AND DOETH IT NOT TO HIM IT IS SIN." THINK YE NOT TO SAY WITHIN YOUR HEART, "IT SHALL BE WELL WITH ME FOR I AM NOT GUILTY OF THESE EVIL DEEDS," FOR I SUGGEST TO YOU TONIGHT THAT ONE OF THE MOST EVIL DEEDS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS TO SIT IDLY BY IN THE FACE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD, TO TEACH THE GOSPEL, TO TELL OF JESUS CHRIST, AND NOT TO DO IT.

WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT YOU NEED TO ACT ON WHAT YOU KNOW. WE ALL KNOW MORE THAN WE LIVE UP TO. EVERY ONE OF US SEES CHRISTIANITY MUCH MORE CLEARLY IN OUR INTELLECTS THAN THOSE WITH WHOM WE ARE ASSOCIATED SEE IT IN OUR LIVES. THERE IS NOT A ONE OF US BUT THAT OUR CONSCIENCE IS AHEAD OF OUR CONDUCT. THERE IS NOT A ONE OF US BUT THAT OUR KNOWING IS AHEAD OF OUR DOING. I THINK IT IS RATHER REMARKABLE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE STATE OF THINGS, THAT ALL OF OUR EFFORTS SEEM BENT ON INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE, RATHER THAN IMPROVING OUR CONDUCT. WE ARE ALL INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE, BUT SEEMINGLY VERY FEW OF US ARE INTERESTED IN DOING MORE. FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER MEN WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT CHRISTIANITY BEFORE THEY WILL EVEN ACT ON THE A,B,C'S THERE-OF, AND I AM CERTAIN THAT, AS A PREACHER, I MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THAT ATTITUDE. MOST SERMONS ARE DIRECTED AT INCREASING YOUR KNOWLEDGE INSTEAD OF INCREASING YOUR OUTPUT. BUT WHENEVER WE EMPHASIZE THE KNOWING OVER THE DOING, (I AM NOT SAYING THAT THE KNOWING IS NOT IMPORTANT BECAUSE YOU CANNOT DO UNTIL YOU KNOW, BUT I AM SAYING THAT WHEN WE EMPHASIZE THE KNOWING TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE DOING) THAT WE ARE IGNORING AT LEAST TWO FACTS. ONE OF THEM IS THAT THE END OF KNOWLEDGE, THE VERY PURPOSE OF KNOWLEDGE, IS TO BE ENACTED, AND IF I JUST LEARN SOMETHING FOR THE SAKE OF LEARNING IT, HAVING NO WAY TO PUT IT TO PRACTICAL USE WHEN I BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN AN EDUCATED FOOL. IT IGNORES THE FACT THAT TO PRACTICE WHAT WE KNOW IS THE BEST WAY OF EXTENDING OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE WANT TO KNOW MORE. THE WAY TO KNOW MORE IS TO DO MORE AND BY DOING YOU LEARN. BY DOING YOU BUILD A FIRM AND SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH YOU CAN THEN BUILD A HIGHER AND GREATER KNOWLEDGE. JAMES SAYS IF YOU DO NOT, IT IS SIN.

KNOWLEDGE ENTAILS IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY. THE VERY MOMENT YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN YOU ENTAILED A RESPONSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO WERE NOT. AND EVERY OMISSION OF KNOWN DUTY THAT WE HAVE DONE UNFITS US FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES UNTIL FINALLY BY ATROPHY WE HAVE LOST THAT TALENT WHICH WE POSSESS. SOMEONE HAS SAID, AND I THINK HE HAS SAID WELL, THAT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SOUL ARE CLOGGED BY DISUSE. THINK ABOUT THAT A MOMENT. THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SOUL ARE CLOGGED BY DISUSE. WHEN WE FIND OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES BOGGED DOWN, GENERALLY WHAT WE WIND UP DOING IS LOOKING AT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION, POINTING AN ACCUSING FINGER. WE SAY "LOOK THERE, THEY HAVEN'T PROVIDED ANYTHING FOR US TO DO. IT IS THEIR FAULT THAT WE ARE SO BOGGED DOWN," BUT WHAT YOU AND I NEED TO LEARN IS THAT IT IS NOBODY'S FAULT BUT OUR OWN, FOR IF MY SOUL IS CLOGGED BECAUSE OF DISUSE IT IS BECAUSE I HAVE NOT USED IT, AND I WOULD SAY TO YOU TONIGHT THAT WHILE IT IS GOOD THAT LEADERS IN A CONGREGATION PROVIDE ACTIVITIES WHEREIN INDIVIDUALS CAN EXERCISE THEIR SOULS, I CANNOT FIND FROM MATTHEW TO REVELATION ANY DIRECT COMMAND TO ELDERS OF A CONGREGATION TO HAVE ANY KIND OF ORGANIZED PROGRAM. NOW, LET'S DRAW A CONCLUSION. THE CONCLUSION IS THAT WE HAVE SOME RATHER ERRONIOUS NOTIONS, AND THE ERRONIOUS NOTION IN THIS RELATIONSHIP IS THAT SOMEHOW WE ARE WORKING FOR THE ELDERS. I SUGGEST TO YOU TONIGHT THAT THAT IS



JUST NOT SO. I AM A PREACHER SUPPORTED BY THIS CONGREGATION AND I AM NOT WORKING FOR THE ELDERS. I AM WORKING UNDER THEIR OVERSIGHT, AND YOU LABOR IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST UNDER THEIR OVERSIGHT, BUT I WORK FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND SO DO YOU. AND WHEN A MAN STANDS BACK AND SAYS THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO DO, HE IS IN ESSENCE SAYING THAT JESUS HASN'T GIVEN HIM ANYTHING. AND BRETHREN, THAT IS NOT TRUE. WHEN YOUR SOUL IS CLOGGED BECAUSE OF DISUSE, DON'T LOOK AT THE ELDERS, DON'T LOOK AT THE PREACHER, DON'T LOOK AT THE DEACONS, DON'T LOOK AT OTHER MEMBERS, LOOK INTO YOUR OWN HEART AND THERE YOU WILL FIND THE PROBLEM. TONIGHT, THERE MAY BE SOME WHO NEED TO DO SOME LOOKING.

WAYS IN WHICH WE SIN. BY DOING WRONG, BY THINKING WRONG, AND BY LEAVING UNDONE THAT WHICH IS RIGHT. IN ANY OF THESE WAYS, YOU MAY BREAK THE PRECIOUS RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN. IF YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN, THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN ESTABLISHED AND YOU NEED TO COME TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TONIGHT, THAT, EXERCISING YOUR FAITH, YOU MIGHT LAY HOLD, LAY CLAIM UPON THE GIFT OF SALVATION WHICH IS OFFERED TO YOU. IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO COME, WHO ARE MOVED BY JESUS TO COME TONIGHT, WILL YOU COME AS WE STAND AND SING.