

# *Where the Sinner Stands*

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Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

I. How can we win souls unless we win them from themselves?

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- A. This is no easy task because a sinner is committed to self-gratification as the end of all things.
- B. Because of this they are in rebellion against God.
- C. They are completely alienated from Him.
- D. They are intensely prejudiced against God and his people.
- E. They are entirely and firmly committed against Him.
- F. So the battle for a soul must begin here.
- G. A person must be brought to the knowledge and realization that they have set themselves against God.
  - 1. This will cause conflict because most people think they are submitted to God while the whole purpose of their life is to serve and please self.
- H. The hard thing for most of us is to present a balanced message to the lost sinner.
  - 1. The first step is for the sinner to see his true condition and standing before God.
  - 2. But at the same time Christ must be held up as the hope of their plight.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

- 3. What is surrendered to God is not wasted or lost, but is highly valued by God.

Leviticus 27:28 Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing is most holy unto the LORD.

II. Most people never truly get converted because they are never forced to truly see and understand their sinful state before God.

- A. People are free moral agents that are rational and accountable.
  - 1. Every person is free to choose, and they DO choose – YOU have chosen.
  - 2. Every person has the ability to think and reason, but that ability is affected by the influences and the knowledge that they have in their life.

- a) If their reasoning is wrong they will be deceived and lost.
- b) If YOUR thinking has made a way for you without surrendering your right to yourself then you have deceived yourself and are lost.
- 3. Every person is accountable – they will reap the rewards or pay the price for their choices in life, and concerning God and their soul.
  - a) To choose Christ and life brings reward.
  - b) To choose self-gratification and to place your sin-tainted opinions in authority over the Words of God brings condemnation, death, and great loss as you pay the price for your foolishness.

III. Until you side with God against yourself you are not even close to the kingdom of God.

- A. God is infinitely benevolent, loving, and kind.
- B. The unconverted soul is supremely selfish so that is radically opposed to God.
  - 1. The sinner’s commitment to self-gratification is described in the Bible as a “carnal mind” which is enmity with God.
- C. Since they are free moral agents this condition is the sinners choice.
  - 1. It is not some defect in their body, nor can it be blamed on any other cause than their own selfish, wicked choice.
- D. The only hope for the sinner then is to choose differently and this can only be accomplished by the preaching of the Word of God and by the working of the Holy Spirit of God.
- E. If we expect God to work in a soul then that soul must be brought under these influences.
- F. For a church to provide entertainment, fun, and a party atmosphere is to guarantee that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are not going to work in hearts to the saving of the soul.
- G. Thus, the great state of universal wickedness in our day can be explained by the lack of using the proper means to win souls.

IV. A sinner must be called a sinner and the line must be made clear.

- A. In most people’s minds now the word “sinner” has become ambiguous or meaningless – since we are ALL sinners, whether you are saved or not.
- B. We must understand that a sinner is someone who is not converted and is committed to self-gratification and selfish ends.
- C. We must understand that there are two classes of people:
  - 1. Those who have been crucified with Christ.
  - 2. And those who live for themselves and are therefore opposed to God and his law.
- D. The sinner loves what God hates, and hates what God loves.
- E. The sinner praises what God condemns and condemns what God praises.
- F. The sinner condones what God calls sin and condemns what God calls righteousness.
- G. What God calls abomination the sinner embraces and defends.
- H. The sinner will always side with other sinners against God and the righteous.
- I. The sinner calls truth a lie and calls a lie the truth.
- J. What God calls foolishness the sinner calls wise.
- K. The sinner defiantly refuses to oppose or abandon what God plainly calls sin, but rather defends, justifies, rationalizes it in himself and in others.
- L. The sinner cares more about what other people think than what God says.

- M. The sinner gives more authority to popular opinion and the contemporary moral climate than he does to God's law.
  - N. Much of the reason for all this is that the sinner is ignorant of God's law.
    - 1. He has a conscience, but that can be seared from willfully continuing in sin, and by the moral environment he in which he is living.
  - O. The modern gospel has left off the law of God and is now based upon some kind of "love" which is earthly and sensual and is not love at all.
    - 1. It is simply a cover for sin in oneself and in others.
    - 2. We don't condemn one another because we are all in the same boat.
  - P. When you hear the law of God and you resist and oppose it you can determine that you are an unconverted sinner.
  - Q. When God says "Thou shalt not..." and your heart starts rationalizing and making arguments you are a lost sinner.
  - R. When God says, "Thou shalt ..." and you do the same thing, then you can be sure that you are not born again.
  - S. The only answer of a true child of God is, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
  - T. The heart of a heart that has been converted to God is desiring to please God – not looking for an excuse to do what they themselves want to do.
- V. We all must examine ourselves to see where we truly are with God.
- A. We must resist the influence of this lying generation that makes everything ok and everyone going to heaven.
  - B. We must realize the seriousness and the mortal danger of lying to ourselves and letting others lie to us about sin and salvation – our eternity is at stake.