

SIN, SLAVERY AND FREEDOM

I. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A. The United States has been a prosperous country, both spiritually and physically. There's no doubt that the material and economic blessing we have experienced in this country is, in large part, due to our strong spiritual foundation.

B. At this time, our country is in spiritual decline, and the main reason is sin. Sin is a person's primary problem, and a country's primary problem.

II. THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN AND WORSHIP – Romans 1:18-23

A. Man sins when he rejects the truth about God, truth that is seen in creation and, more importantly, in His Word. Instead of loving and worshiping God, people love and worship the creation, and this is sin, is idolatry. The result is that people are spiritually blinded. Romans 1:19-23; John 1:4, 8:12; Ephesians 4:17-18

B. People are made to worship, and we are made to worship God, not people and things. We are not to exchange God's glorious truth for a despicable lie. Jeremiah 2:4-5, 11-13; Isaiah 46:5-7; Colossians 3:5-6; Psalm 96:5

III. GOD GIVES SINNERS OVER TO... – Romans 1:24-28, Acts 7:41-42, Matthew 7:24-29

A. God gave them over to impurity. Sexual sin, impurity and immorality, is one of the first, apparent, and obvious sins resulting from rejecting God. Romans 1:24

B. God gave them over to degrading passions, to homosexuality, to a sexual sin that's not normal, not natural, men with men and women with women. There are consequences for sexual sins, individually and in entire countries. Romans 1:26; Genesis 1:27, 2:23-24; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:20-29

C. God gave them over to a depraved mind. Romans 1:28. When you hear people saying or doing wicked and evil things, then it's likely that God has given them over to a depraved mind. Their problem is indeed a mental problem, but at the root is a spiritual problem, for they have rejected God. They are irrational, insane, mentally unbalanced, crazy and out of their minds. Eph. 5:3-7, Daniel 4:16, 36; Acts 12:20-23

D. All kinds of branches of sin result from this root sin of rejecting God. Romans 1:28-32, Mark 7:21-23, Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:2-5

IV. SIN STARTS IN YOUR OWN HEART - James 1:13-15

Sin is not just a temptation or wrong desire, but a knowing willingness and mindset to think, say or do something wrong. Romans 8:5-8

V. SIN STARTS SMALL, BUT IT OFTEN GROWS AND GETS WORSE - James 1:13-15

The big sin of murder often results from the small of sin of being angry at someone.

VI. SIN RESULTS IN DEATH - Genesis 2:17, Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:4

Sin results in your own physical and spiritual death. Sin is very destructive.

VII. SIN RESULTS IN GUILT – Psalm 51:1-4

Guilt is good in that a person needs to know and feel that he has done wrong. People often try to absolve themselves of guilt by blame-shifting. Genesis 3:12-13

VIII. PEOPLE WHO SIN BECOME A SLAVE TO SIN - Romans 6:12-18

When a sin reigns in your body, then you become a slave to that sin. That is, sin is your master, and not God. Addictions are usually not just mental or physical problems, but spiritual problems. Proverbs 5:23

IX. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET REAL VICTORY OVER SIN

John 3:16-21, John 4:7-30, Romans 3:21-26, Romans 6:23, Titus 3:3-7, 1 John 2:1-2

JESUS WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS,
HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES;
THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL BEING FELL UPON HIM,
AND BY HIS SCOURGING WE ARE HEALED.
ALL OF LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY,
EACH OF US HAS TURNED TO HIS OWN WAY;
BUT THE LORD HAS CAUSED THE INIQUITY OF US ALL TO FALL ON HIM.
Isaiah 53:5-6

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How do you think our country is doing, spiritually speaking? Give reasons.
3. What is the number one sin? How does sin relate to worship?
4. What three things does God give people over to? Why?
5. How do people get a depraved mind? What does this mean, spiritually speaking?
6. Think about how sin can start small and grow big. Is this a problem in your life?
7. What is man's answer to sin? What is God's answer to sin? Why?