

February/March 2007: The Deception of Sin

by Aaron Greenway

Sin is something diabolical. It always appears to be something attractive, promising everything, but delivering nothing except a bunch of trouble. Sin says, "You don't need God. I have the answers" and we believe the lie until we are left disillusioned. Sin is like a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is no respecter of persons. It looks for and finds the weak and then brings them down to destroy their lives; and when this finally happens, Sin blames the one who did the act, always trying to mock the grace of God. This is humanity's road, a life without hope because of Sin's destruction. Nevertheless, Jesus came once and for all to put a stop to the power of Sin. He came to live as a human being and then to die accepting the penalty of death in our place so that Sin would never again have the power it once had to destroy us.

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A short time ago my mother wrote me a letter telling me that God was working in the lives of our family. One of my dad's brothers, Robert, was going to have a very serious operation of the heart and before the surgery he gave his life to Christ. Then, his younger brother, George, gave his life to the Lord taking his children to church. Finally, we received the sad news that Jim, another brother, had died from a massive heart attack, but he had also come to know the Lord beforehand. For this reason, we see the hand of God working miracle after miracle in my family, things that have been matters of prayer for a long time.

In spite of all this, a question that lingers is this: Why didn't these men serve the Lord before they were faced with death or the possibility of death? It is because many wait until the last moment. Sin is very sneaky telling the person, "Try alcohol just this once" or "Stare at that woman just one time" until the devil has you in his clutches. A decision to sin in one instant becomes a trap for years to come, wasting valuable time. We also do this with just the daily grind, consumed with work and family that eventually when we turn around to see how we can serve, we realize that 20 years have gone by.

In Luke 21:34 Jesus talks about Sin but He also talks about "busyness". He describes it like this, "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap" (emphasis mine). Christ wants that we wait for His coming, that we serve while we still have time. Sin is specialized in putting us in situations where we waste time. And once time is lost, there is no turning back the clock. Finally, the person wakes up and sees this, and the only thing he can do now is wait for death. This is what happened to my uncles.

The time of salvation is today. The time to serve the Lord is now. The time to invest in our marriages and our children is now. If we let ourselves go with the moment, the moment could be a trap to rob our time and even our entire lives away from us — just because of something foolish or something that is not worth anything. I wonder to myself, "Why do we like to keep on with the same foolishness?" We could live the abundant life and yet, somehow, we don't want it. Maybe we think we are missing out on something, that God is not enough for us. Even the Apostle Paul said, "And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11-12).

What about you? Are you wasting the time that you could be serving? Have you stopped going to church because of a church argument? Are you trapped in some sort of sinful vice just to feel that God will never accept you again? These are lies from the Enemy, lies from Sin, so that you will stay where you are, so that you will wallow in the same slime pit, sickness and apathy of everyday life. God calls you saying that it is never too late for your life to change. Maybe you don't know the Lord. Your life can be changed as well, changed by His grace. Don't let Sin ruin you so that you lose all this time to serve Jesus. Because one day, we are going to give an account for every moment we either invested or wasted. Would you come and invest with me?

Something to ponder...

Your brother,

Aaron Greenway