

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

12 9 25 V1n31 JESUS came to 'Save HIS PEOPLE from their SINS!' (Matthew 1:21)

IMMEDIATELY, WE HAVE A PROBLEM: Multitudes DENY the serious problem of sin! BELOW are 3 influencers encouraging denial that SIN is our chief problem!

*** I. Popular preachers deny the problem of sin! Larry King:**

"You don't call them (those to whom he preaches) sinners?" Joel Osteen: "I don't." Larry King: "Is that a word you don't use?" Joel Osteen: "I don't use it. I never thought about it. But I probably don't ... I don't go down the road of condemning." (Joel Osteen, "Larry King live," Aired June 20, 2005)

RELATED PROBLEM: Multitudes who will quickly reject Osteen's misguided ways; **nevertheless**— FLOCK to feel-good sermons and grand, dramatic, entertaining PERFORMANCES and manmade traditions; and stay away from the Word of God which convicts of sin, of righteousness, and coming judgment! (John 16:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

BIBLICAL CONTRAST: *** "And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name Jesus, **for He shall save His people from their sins.**" (Matthew 1:21)

*** "And ye know that He [JESUS] was manifested (appeared in human form) **to take away our sins.**" (1 John 3:5)

*** "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save SINNERS;** of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15)

TRUTH: The Bible message of 'Jesus saving His people from their sins,' **is not condemnation**, but the ONLY way out of the condition of ALREADY being under HOLY and JUST condemnation, Romans 5:7-10. **In John 3:18, Jesus says:** "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is **condemned already...**"

**** 2. ANOTHER VOICE, REJECTING THE BIBLE TRUTH OF SIN BEING OUR CHIEF PROBLEM, NAMELY—**

BEHAVIORS, (which are clearly defined by the Holy Spirit in the Bible as being sin) — **are now re-named and 'packaged as MENTAL ILLNESS or DISORDERS.** Then, psychotropic drugs are developed and often sold as the solution to PROBLEMS OF BEHAVIOR.

QUESTION: Can these drugs 'change' feelings, emotions, various body chemical levels; and CAN THEY give RELIEF? **YES!** Sometimes. For a while. Sometimes for longer periods.

HOWEVER, as many have testified, complications often arise — such as a growing refusal to take responsibility for behavior;

and/or a growing spiritual dullness; and/or a deepening dependency upon more and more drugs; and/or the drug ads themselves often warn of increased SUICIDE dangers.

NOTE: IF YOU BELIEVE, (that as a result of taking psychotropic drugs), you or someone you know is having some **positive relief and help with behaviors like those listed in Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, etc. —**

TAKE ADVANTAGE of that relief; and simultaneously FLEE to Christ and his cross! Hide God's Word in your heart!

BE INFORMED: Many of today's 'mental disorders or mental illnesses', (WHICH USED TO BE BEHAVIORAL SINS!), are set forth in and determined by a book called the **Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, (DSM)**. The DSM-I, from 1952, listed 106 DISORDERS; The DSM-III, from 1980, listed 265; The DSM-IV has 297.

BE INFORMED: The DSM is the 'Bible' of psychiatry. **Here is now a 'disorder' gets listed in the DSM:**

(1) Behaviors are observed, discussed, described, given a name, and VOTED ON; and

(2) the behaviors with enough votes get put in the latest DSM.

NOW,

(3) IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE a patient is asked a lot of questions, some behavior may be observed ... or reported by a family member; then,

(4) BASED upon the DSM, a diagnosis is given; and drugs are prescribed based on matching up with the DSM.

THANKFULLY, some Psychiatrists are coming forward to give 'inside information' about a number of the 'Mental Illnesses' and the drugs which Psychiatrists are prescribing!

THEY CONFESS,

a. "There are no objective tests in psychiatry - no X-ray, laboratory, or exam finding that says definitively that someone does or does not have a mental disorder." "There is no definition of a mental disorder." — Dr. Allen Frances, Psychiatrist and past DSM-IV Task Force Chairman.

b. "Despite more than two hundred years of intensive research, no commonly diagnosed psychiatric disorders have proven to be either genetic or biological in origin, including schizophrenia, major depression, manic-depressive disorder, the various anxiety disorders, and childhood disorders such as attention-deficit hyperactivity.

At present there are no known biochemical imbalances in the brain of typical psychiatric patients— until they are given psychiatric drugs.” — Dr. Peter Breggin, Psychiatrist

c. “When people come to me and they say, ‘I have a biochemical imbalance,’ I say, ‘*Show me your lab tests.*’ *There are no lab tests.* So, what’s the biochemical imbalance?” — Dr. Ron Leifer, Psychiatrist

d. “**Unlike medical diagnoses** that convey a probable cause, appropriate treatment, and likely prognosis-- the disorders listed in DSM-IV [and ICD-10] are terms arrived at through peer consensus.”— Tana Dineen Ph.D., psychologist

URGENT: Most psychiatric drugs can cause withdrawal reactions, sometimes including life-threatening emotional and/or physical withdrawal problems. Withdrawal from psychiatric drugs should only be done carefully under experienced clinical supervision. Methods for safely withdrawing from psychiatric drugs are discussed in *Dr. Peter Breggin's books, Brain-Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry; and Medication Madness: The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in cases of Violence, Suicide, and Crime.*

THE CONNECTION of all this with the BIRTH OF CHRIST! **Much of the Psychological Industry is rooted in a blatant DENIAL OF the True and Living GOD; and a blatant denial of GOD’S revelation about SIN and the consequences of sin.** **AND THUS,**

a blindness to and a rejection of the PROFOUND REASON JESUS CAME!

*** 3. YES, Multitudes DENY the core human issue of having a SIN problem! HERE IS a 3rd influencer, pulling many away from the truth! **NAMELY, LAME EXCUSES** which deny the root problem of the UGLINESS of SIN and the destructiveness of sin!

HOW MANY spoken or unspoken LAME excuses did I make this past week... all seeking to deny my sin and/or my responsibility for my sin?

How many Smoke-screens did I send out; how much 'blame-shifting' did I do— **RATHER THAN take FULL RESPONSIBILITY for my attitudes, words, and actions?"**

HERE IS SERIOUS REALITY:

No one ever sees, or values, or experiences the beauty, the power, the impact and the life transformation that comes from the amazing wonder of the BIRTH OF CHRIST WITHOUT FIRST seeing and owning up to personal sin!

BEWARE of anyone or anything that would move you even in the slightest, away from OWNING UP TO THE ROOT PROBLEM OF SIN!

WE MUST FACE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE POWER AND DEADLINESS OF SIN!

BECAUSE OF SIN, human relationships tend toward strife, greed, selfishness, LUSTS, and/or hate.

BECAUSE OF SIN, EVERY PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD HAS BEEN BROKEN!

SIN has left every human under the just and holy wrath of God.

It is SIN that BRINGS WORLDWIDE CHAOS.

IT IS SIN THAT DESTROYS HOMES and EVEN CHURCHES. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death."

WE SHOULD BE UTTERLY AMAZED and exceedingly grateful that GOD SENT JESUS TO EARTH TO specifically deal with THE SIN PROBLEM IN HUMANS!

WHEN WE look at the birth of Christ—

we must understand that

AT the heart of THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

is the problem of the ugliness of sin!

These things being true:

*** Why do we love sin? *** Why do we JOKE about sin?

*** Why do we joke about others who have been slain by sin?

GOD DOES NOT LAUGH AT SIN!

Sin is the incurable leprosy of the soul:

MOREOVER, LET US BE REMINDED that sin is hated by God:

"God does not resist a man because he's poor ... OR rich or educated. God does not resist PEOPLE because they are ignorant or crippled or ill or despised by the world or limited in ability or because they seem to have little to offer."

There's only one thing that alienates a person from God and that is sin. WHY?

HERE'S WHY:

"God is holy; and the sinner is sinful!"

THEREFORE, THE QUESTION ABOVE ALL QUESTIONS: how can God and a sinner be brought together in fellowship, in the same family?

1. Only when sin is eliminated.
2. Sin's penalty must be paid.
3. Sin's power must be broken.
4. And that is done by the work of Jesus Christ who came to PAY THE SIN DEBT OF HIS PEOPLE: [and thou shalt call His name Jesus, **for He shall save His people from their sins.**"]
(Matthew 1:21)

MOREOVER, REMEMBER: SIN IS HARD WORK: Jeremiah 9:5, "They weary themselves committing iniquity." Prov. 13:15, "THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD!"

The REALITY of sin is that it is a GRINDING, BINDING, BLINDING SLAVERY! WORST OF ALL: Sin makes a person an object of God's wrath. (Ephesians 2:3) In Revelation, chapter 20, it says in the end at the Great White Throne Judgment, the Lord will gather all the unbelieving and cast them into the lake of fire that burns forever. **That is the ULTIMATE COST OF THE UGLINESS OF SIN!**

ASTOUNDING GOOD NEWS:

The only free person is one who has had his sin covered BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST; and is free AND EMPOWERED BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT to do what is right. **A LOST sinner is not free.** He is under the total domination of sin and the control of Satan. Ephesians 2:2— the Holy Spirit reveals that the sinner walks in his daily conduct according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit working in the children of disobedience. **Satan is at work. He is in control. Only, if JESUS makes you free are you free!**

THUS, The beauty of THE BIRTH OF CHRIST is that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

NO ONE can understand or experience the beauty of CHRIST'S BIRTH without first seeing, and owning the ugliness of SIN! The beauty of Christ's birth is that Christ came to cure the ugliness of SIN.

Unless you understand the ugliness of your own sin YOU WILL NEVER embrace Jesus Christ who alone by His death and resurrection can save you from that sin.

DO YOU NEED TO FLEE TO CHRIST?

“O GOD, I AM A SINNER!” “PLEASE BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER... HERE ARE ALL THE KEYS TO MY HEART... INCLUDING EVERY CLOSET!”

You may be a Christian and LIKE KING DAVID OF OLD— there is some REPENTING to do! JESUS comes once to save, but daily He keeps us clean: Psalm 51; Psalm 32. [Portions of this article developed from notes from John MacArthur, on the UGLINESS OF SIN.]

www.southsidegallatin.org

Abundant Grace to all! James Bell

SUNDAY SERVICES: DECEMBER 14, 21, 28:

[1] Sunday School at 9:30am: Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

[2] WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!

SPECIAL SERVICES:

***** DECEMBER 21, INSTEAD OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, A CHURCH-WIDE ‘BRUNCH!’ /// AND ... LORD’S SUPPER, at close of Morning Worship**

***** December 28, Fourth Sunday Evening worship; 5:00pm:**

EVERY SATURDAY* 8:00 AM**, — Men's Bible Study! *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)*

(December 13; Romans, chapter 4)

NEXT Ladies Bible Study, JANUARY, 2026 @ 11:00 AM

*****TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00AM**

Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— ** Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service

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***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:** SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>