

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT MAN, SIN, AND SALVATION

Lesson 11: Sin's Curse

This is the fourth of six lessons on the biblical doctrine of sin (hamartiology, from Greek *hamartia*, sin).

Lesson 11 – Central Truth Q and A

Question: How does sin affect man's relationships?

Answer: Man's relationships with God, others, and creation are cursed because of sin.

Lesson 11 – Memory Verses

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.*

Romans 8:20-21 *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

Lesson 11 – Outline

After God completed the seven days of creation, He saw everything He created and pronounced that it was very good (Genesis 1:31). There was no pain, no death, and no problems of any kind. Everything existed in harmony and abounded in fruitfulness according to God's will. But when Adam sinned, all of this changed. When sin entered the world through Adam, death came as a result (Rom. 5:12). God also placed a curse upon Adam, Eve, and Satan. Every area of life was affected by sin, and ever since the Fall, mankind has lived under the consequences and curse of sin. The tragic consequences of Adam's sin were devastating and lasting:

The fall of man was a major turning point for humanity. In Eden, Adam and Eve lived a life far different from ours. They were at home in their world, happy in their marriage, blessed in their life and work, and at peace with their God. Guilt and shame, disease and death, lust and longing, heartache and loss, and enmity and danger were unknown. There was no thorn to prick them, no thistle to mar the beauty of their garden home, no sweat upon their brow. Everything changed when they succumbed to the lies of the serpent and defied the law of God.... Let us ask God to show us ever more profoundly the tragic results of our fall, that we might understand ever more profoundly the amazing wonders of the gospel.¹

1. Man Was Separated from God Because of Sin

Sin severed man's relationship with God. God is holy and will not dwell with evil or look upon it with favor (Hab. 1:13; Ps. 5:4; 15:1-2). As a result of sin, God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23-24). Sin created enmity (hostility) between God and man (Rom. 5:10). This hostility means God's wrath toward mankind due to his sinful rebellion against God (Rom. 8:7). God's wrath is a present reality (Ps. 5:5-6; 7:11). His wrath is now "revealed" (Rom. 1:18) and "remains" upon all who

¹ "The Fall of Man" in *KJV Study Bible*, Joel Beeke, gen. ed. (Bloomington, IL: Christian Art Publishers, 2021), 12.

are disobedient to Christ (Jn. 3:36). All people are “children of wrath” while they are dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-3). Because of their sin, God refuses to hear the prayers of the ungodly (Isaiah 59:2; Ps. 66:18). Nevertheless, God’s wrath is restrained by His patience which is designed to lead sinners to repentance (Rom. 2:4). One day, God will unleash His wrath against sin (Rom. 2:5-6; Rev. 19:15), but now there is a Savior to satisfy God’s wrath (propitiation), to change the sinner’s rebellious heart (regeneration), and to establish peace with God (reconciliation).

2. Human Relationships Were Corrupted Because of Sin

The entrance of sin corrupted human relationships on every level. Initially, Adam demonstrated sin’s corruption when he blamed Eve for his sin (Gen. 3:12). God’s curse on Eve included hostility in the marriage relationship. The wife’s desire would be to rule over her husband, but instead he would dominate her (Gen. 3:16; 4:23). The curse of sin upon Eve also included pain in childbirth. Soon after Adam and Eve’s sin in the Garden of Eden, Cain killed his brother Abel out of anger (Gen. 4:8). Strife within families is evident throughout Scripture, and war between nations and ethnic groups abounds. This corrupted pattern was on full display just before the universal flood when the whole earth was filled with violence (Gen. 6:11). Clearly, if God had not restrained evil to some degree, man was capable of destroying himself. In the early chapters of Genesis it becomes obvious that sinful man needs a Savior who will redeem him from sin’s corruption and bondage.

3. Creation Was Cursed Because of Sin

Creation itself was cursed because of Adam’s sin. God said to Adam, “Cursed is the ground because of you” (Gen. 3:17). Romans 8:20 states that “the creation was subjected to futility” against its will. The cursed earth brought forth thorns and thistles which made work much more difficult. God’s curse on sin was also the cause of other problems in the physical world. Earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, local floods, tsunamis, and famines are all the result of Adam’s sin and God’s curse. Man needs a Savior who will eventually reverse the curse upon the world and bring in the new heavens and new earth. The bad news is that man cannot save himself from the curse, but the good news of the gospel is that Christ has “redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us” (Gal. 3:13). When Christ returns, He will bring the freedom of the glory of the children of God, and “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Rom. 8:21). In the meantime, Christians are “waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:13). Christ became a curse as a substitute for sinners, and all who believe in Him will be set free from sin to live with Him forever. John MacArthur comments on the future glory of creation and its connection to the believer’s destiny (Rom. 8:20-21):

Nature’s destiny is inseparably linked to man’s. Because man sinned, the rest of creation was corrupted like him. Likewise, when man’s glory is divinely restored, the natural world will be restored as well. Therefore, Paul says, there is hope even for the natural creation itself which will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. In other words, just as man’s sin brought corruption to the universe, so man’s restoration to righteousness will be accompanied by the restoration of the earth and its universe to their divinely-intended perfection and glory.²

² John MacArthur, *MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1-8* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1991), 455.