


Everlasting Gospel

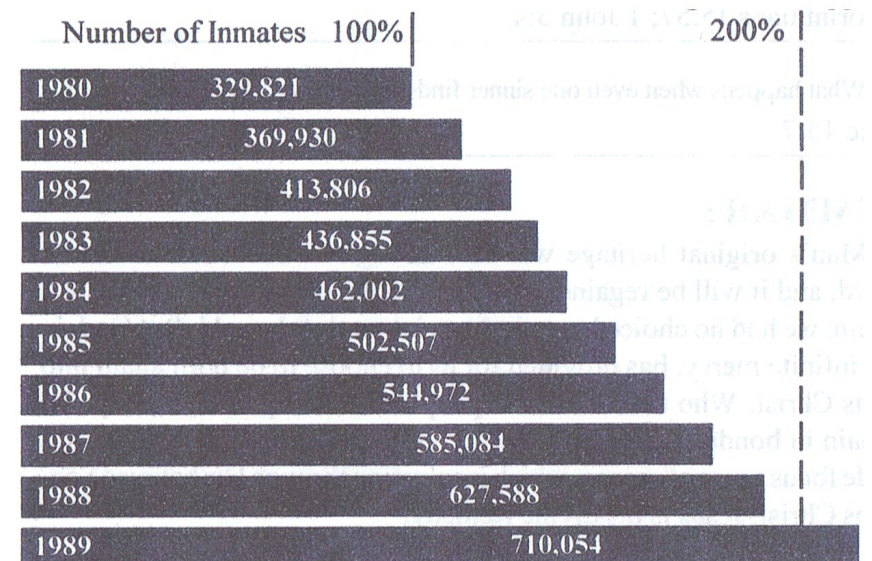
Bible Studies

Lesson 4

MANKIND'S HELPLESS DILEMMA



Many people sense that our planet is hurtling toward self-destruction and we are powerless to intervene. Unfortunately, few identify the pivotal cause of this dilemma: sin. Arnold Toynbee identifies the universal problem: "I am convinced, myself, that man's fundamental problem is his egocentricity [selfishness and sin]" (quoted by Karl Menninger in *Whatever Became of Sin?*, 227). What else could cause such violent crimes as we are witnessing in our world today? The world is experiencing skyrocketing increases in the size of its prison population and the cost of incarcerations. In the United States alone the following statistics apply:



The crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor-vehicle-theft..



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A. THE ORIGIN OF SIN

1. What is the biblical definition of sin? 1 John 3:4

NOTE: The Greek of this text is often translated "sin is lawlessness," implying that sin goes beyond the act of transgression to include an attitude or condition. It has always been, and will always be possible to disobey God. But the audacity to do so, the rebellious heart is our condition; it is our legacy from Adam. As the Christian matures, he will see that the rebellious heart itself is sin, a breaking of the commandment to love God with all our heart and soul and mind (Matthew 22:37), and that an overt act of sin against another human is only the inevitable consequence of this attitude. God knows our hearts, and even our most secret thought may thus be a sin.

2. Where, and with whom, did this sin problem originate? Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-18

NOTE: In many cases in the Old Testament, names had a specific meaning. As people matured, character was distinctly evidenced by the name. Before Satan fell, his name Lucifer meant light-bearer or brilliant one. After his fall he could no longer retain this name because of the change in his character. Therefore he was given other names as indicated in Scripture.

3. What other names were given Lucifer? Revelation 12:7-9

4. How was sin introduced into the world? Genesis 3:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:3

~ NOTES ~

20. What happens when even one sinner fords victory over the bondage of sin? Luke 15:7

SUMMARY

Man's original heritage was lost through disobedience to God's Word, and it will be regained only by obedience to His Word. Unlike Adam, we had no choice but to be born into a sinful world. But God, in His infinite mercy, has provided for us to choose to be born again into Jesus Christ, Who makes us new people with the power to obey. To remain in bondage to Satan is certain doom, but praise God Who has made for us away of escape, which is salvation through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the divine Remedy.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today I recognize my sinful condition and, realizing that I am powerless to overcome sin in my own strength, I give permission for Jesus Christ to come into my life.

Signed: _____

5. What were some of the effects of sin on the earth?
Genesis 3:16-19

B. RESULTS OF SIN

6. What was God's response to the wickedness within the world before the Flood? Genesis 6:5-7

NOTE: God was greatly grieved, to the point of being ready to destroy His own creation. But as is described in Genesis chapters 6-8, He instructed Noah how this sin dilemma would be handled. He would save only those who had faith in Him, which was to be demonstrated by entering the ark.

7. How many people after the Flood continued to sin? Romans 3:23

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8. What is said of those who did not admit to their guilt of sin?
1 John 1:8, 10

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9. What do we risk in continuing to break God's commandments because of our desire to sin? Revelation 22:14-15;
Galatians 5:19-21
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10. How deep-seated is sin, as Jesus showed it to be? Mark 7:21-23

**11. What is the condition of the natural human heart?
Jeremiah 17:9**

NOTE: In an earlier lesson, we learned that obedience to God comes from the heart. Romans 6:17. Because obedience to God and obedience to Satan cannot come from the same source (James 3:10-12), only a heart [mind] that has been transformed by Jesus will be able to render acceptable obedience. Romans 12:1-2

C. PUNISHMENT OF SIN

12. Because a loving God does not leave us in ignorance, what does He warn is the result of sin? Romans 6:23

13. Is it sin to be tempted? James 1:15; Hebrews 4:15

NOTE: God carefully discriminates between the natural desires he has given us and the consequences of their abuse or overindulgence. James tells us here that when we allow lust (for food, money, power, etc.) to govern us, it conceives (leads us to sin); and it is the sin which conceives death in us.

14. What ultimately becomes of the wicked? Malachi 4:1

NOTE: Having revealed to us the origin, history, present reality, and future demise of sin, our all-loving God has provided for us the perfect solution. In His infinite mercy He has prepared a way of

salvation for us.

**15. How helpless are our own efforts to overcome our own sin?
John 15:5**

16. To what extent has God, through Christ, provided power to overcome sin in our lives? Hebrews 7:25; Philippians 2:12-13; Jude 24

17. If the sinner departs from his wicked course, what will God do for him? Isaiah 55:7

NOTE: as the repentant sinner embraces the saving power of the everlasting gospel in the fear of God, he will receive pardon and mercy.

18. Where should we look to find a remedy for sin? Hebrews 12:2; Titus 2:13

19. Through whom can we find victory? 1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 5:4
