

The Ordo Salutis

The Order of Salvation

A Study

As of: 4/18/2021

Step 5: The Person and Finished Work of Jesus

As soon as Mary had told Joseph that an angel from God had visited her and that she had become supernaturally impregnated with the long-awaited Messiah- his first thought was to end the Engagement and “put her away”. And as he was pondering this- he fell asleep and dreamed. And in his dream an angel appeared to him and said,

Matthew 1:20b&21

20 ... "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

And that was the Mission of Jesus- to “save”; “rescue”; “heal”; or “deliver” God’s people from their Sins. Jesus Himself described His Mission when He said,

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Okay, but exactly what does it mean when the Bible speaks like this? What is “Sin”? What does it mean to be “Lost”? And why do we need to be “saved” from our Sins?

What is Sin?

The Bible defines Sin this way:

1John 3:4

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

So, Sin is defined by the infallible Word of God as being “Lawlessness”. So, what is “Lawlessness”? Technically, “Lawlessness” is living “without Law” or living our lives- in *contradiction* to the Law of God. So, Sin is “transgressing”, or living in contrast or contradiction or rebellion or opposition to the Law of God. What is the Law of God? The Law of God is defined in the Bible as:

Deuteronomy 6:4&5

4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

So, the Law of God is loving God- *perfectly*. But why do we need to love God perfectly? Because of Who God is. God is the most glorious Being in the Universe. He is perfect Love; wrapped up in perfect Beauty; Who has perfect Power; distributed with perfect Wisdom; to the End of perfect Justice. Therefore, God is the most *lovable* Being that could ever be. So, loving God is right. It is the only *reasonable* Conclusion to Who God is. And because that is true- is it wrong; it is contradictory on a fundamental level NOT to love God.

But what does *loving* God look like? Loving God looks like “Worship”. So, worshipping God IS loving God. But what does *worshipping* God look like? It looks like *enjoying* God; *delighting* in God; and *celebrating* God. So, Worship is when we struggle against the lusts of our flesh; by the Power of the Holy Spirit; to be humbly and joyfully submitted to the Authority of Scripture in our daily lives- all to the Glory of God. But what does that struggle look like? It looks like Obedience to the Ten Commandments. What are the Ten Commandments?

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

5 “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

11 “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

The first three Commandments show us what loving God looks like. The fourth Commandment shows us what “resting in God” looks like; while the other six Commandments show us what loving people, who were made in the Image of God, looks like. But later on, Jesus expanded on what God gave to Moses and He said,

Matthew 5:17-48

17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool', shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

23 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

26 Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';

28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';

32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

**34 But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF
THE GREAT KING.**

36 Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil. 38

**"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A
TOOTH.'**

**39 But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek,
turn the other to him also.**

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

41 Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

**42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from
you.**

**43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate
your enemy.'**

44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise
on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

**46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax
collectors do the same?**

**47 If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the
Gentiles do the same?**

48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

So, "keeping the Commandments" is what *loving* God looks like. And keeping the Commandments of God- or *loving* and *worshipping* God- displays the Worth and the Value and the Importance of God. This is why Jesus said,

John 14:15

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

So, violating the Commandments is what Lawlessness or Sin looks like. Because violating the Commandments *devalues* God; it *insults* and *belittles* God- because if God is as glorious as the Bible says He is- then why would we NOT love and worship and obey Him?

But trying to keep God's Commandments is NOT enough. You cannot separate God's Commandments from Who God is. Therefore, if we do not keep ALL of God's Commandments- we are still sinning.

James 2:10&11

**10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of
all.**

**11 For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT
MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become
a transgressor of the law.**

So, not merely that we “keep the Commandments”- but that we keep ALL of God’s Commandments. But we’re not finished. Because we must keep ALL of God’s Commandments- ALL the time. But we’re still not finished. Because we must keep ALL of God’s Commandments- ALL the time- *perfectly*. Remember what worshipping God looks like:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might

... and later on, Jesus *enlarged* this Standard to say,

Mark 12:30

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

So, we must love God- *perfectly*. Yet that is still not a full description. Because we must love God- perfectly- *all the time*. So, we must love God- without any fault- constantly- or else we are transgressing God’s Law and are Lawless or sinners. And this has the net effect of making us all sinners- because NOBODY loves God like this.

The Fall Ruined Our Love for God

But why don’t we love God like this? Is the lack of our Love for God caused by a lack of effort? No, we don’t love God like this because we are “fallen”. What does it mean to be “fallen”? Being “fallen” means that we were born after the Fall. What is the Fall? The Fall is when Adam and Eve sinned against God. God said,

Genesis 2:16&17

16 ... “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

... and then Eve was tempted.

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!

5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

... and at that very moment- Adam and Eve died- *spiritually*- and became “fallen”. And because they were directly created by God- it took nearly 1,000 years before they *physically* died. But every child born after this moment (the Fall) were born- “in sin” or “fallen”.

Genesis 5:1-3

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.

3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

Later, David infallibly wrote,

Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Now this Statement does NOT mean that David’s mother committed Adultery. David was referring to what Theologians call, “Original Sin”. And the Apostle Paul confirmed this Truth when he said,

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Now Paul taught several things here:

- He taught that Sin entered the world “through one man” (Adam)
- He taught that Death entered the world through Sin
- He taught that ALL people physically die
- He taught that All people die- because ALL people sin against God

... and this is fairly- straight forward. Yet Paul omitted several key Issues:

- He never mentions Eve in this Teaching
- He includes ALL of Humanity as dying because they have sinned- yet he doesn’t explain HOW babies and mentally impaired people sin against God

James taught how we are tempted to sin:

James 1:13-15

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

**14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.**

... and the Temptation that James describes here involves certain human faculties like: conscious, cognitive Reasoning; Comprehending; and Thinking. And satan gives us an opportunity to “act” on the internal Lusts we already have. So, Temptation is us being presented with an Opportunity to do what we already want to do anyway.

The Problem

The Problem created by what both James and Paul taught is that babies, infants, and mentally impaired people CAN'T use their conscious, cognitive Reasoning; or their Comprehension; or even their Thinking- because those things either have not been fully developed yet or they are severely impaired with an organic problem.

And yet, babies, infants and even mentally impaired people die. And Paul teaches that they die because of Sin- just like everyone else. Yet these people were not capable of making rational Decisions. So, how and why did they die- if Death comes by way of Sin?

The Solution

The Solution is that there are two Issues of Sin that cause physical Death:

1. Our own personal Sins that we voluntarily commit
2. The “Original Sin” of Adam

As the Problem with Paul's and James' Teachings became apparent- false Teachers rose up to take advantage of this apparent fallacy. One of the most notable of these Heretics was Pelagius. And this created the NEED for the Church to respond to the false Teaching. And God used Augustine to respond to the Heresy of Pelagius.

And God used Augustine to “hammer out” the “Doctrine of Original Sin”- which is comprised of two parts:

1. The fallen and rebellious “Sin-nature” of Adam is imputed to every generation through the seed of the Father
2. Each individual is personally guilty of the Sin of Adam

... and it is this biblical Truth that precipitates the Need that we all have for a Savior.

When Augustine taught that every single human born of woman after the Fall is imputed the fallen and rebellious “Sin-Nature” of Adam- he meant to say that because we all have that “Sin-Nature”; or “Fallen- Nature”; or “Adamic- Nature”- as soon as the child is able to cognitively reason within themselves pertaining to Sin- or as soon as the child is ABLE to sin- they WILL sin.

In other words, until the child develops his ability to think and make cognitive Choices- he does not PERSONALLY sin against God. But as soon as that Ability is developed- every single child WILL sin against God. Now why is that? The Bible teaches:

1Kings 8:46

“When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near;

Romans 3:9-19

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Augustine taught that every child born of Woman after the Fall has within themselves the fallen and rebellious “Sin-Nature” that Adam had after he fell. And this is what the Apostle meant when he said,

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

... and this is why we must be “born again”. We are NOT sinners because we periodically sin. No, we periodically sin because we are already sinners- “by nature.”

The Divine Diagnosis: We are Spiritually Dead

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Now this is what is called in the Greek language- a “Universal Statement”. Paul is including every single human being, who is Lost, in what he says in these three verses. Now notice the words he used here:

... you were dead in your trespasses and sins

So, before anyone is born again- they are in a State called, “Spiritual *Deadness*”. Now please notice that Paul did NOT say that lost people are “Spiritually *Sick*”; or “Spiritually *Impaired*”; or that we were simply “*Separated from God*”. No, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Apostle to infallibly write that ALL lost people were “**dead**” in their trespasses and sins. So, as far as God Himself and the “things of the Spirit of God” are concerned- ALL lost people are, *spiritually* speaking- stone cold dead. There is NO spiritual Life in any Lost person. None. No Spark; no Glimmer; and no Essence. Lost people are dark and cold and deaf and blind and completely dead- in a spiritual sense.

And then Paul goes into what this “Spiritual Deadness” looks like:

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

So, six things. All Lost people have these six things in common with each other. Paul said:

[They ALL] **walked according to the course of this world**
[They ALL walked] **according to the prince of the power of the air**
[They ALL were] **of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience**
[They ALL]... **lived in the lusts of our flesh**
[They ALL] **indulg[ed] the desires of the flesh and of the mind**
[They ALL] **were by nature children of wrath**

Now the word, “**walked**” here has to do with how we live our normal, daily lives. And the way that Lost people live their daily lives- is “**according to**”; or “in accord with” two things:

- 1. the course of this world**
- 2. the prince of the power of the air**

Notice that there is NO desire to love Jesus and to joyfully strive to obey Him. No, ALL Lost people live “in accord with” satan (the prince of the power of the air) and the rebellious, fallen World *System* that was created by and is *dominated* by this prince.

And when Paul said that ALL Lost people are “OF” **the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience**- he is referring to satan himself.

And to be “OF” satan means: We are born of him. We belong to him. And we are part of him. So, as Lost people- we are entirely a “Child of satan”.

Then Paul said that ALL Lost people: **live[d] in the lusts of our flesh**- meaning we are cruelly *driven* by our fleshly Lusts. So, instead of being graciously “led” by God the Spirit- ALL Lost people are slaves to their Lusts.

And this is why ALL Lost people: **indulg[ed] the desires of the flesh and of the** [carnal, unconverted] **mind**. So, Lost people may have the ability to *temporarily* resist the Lusts of the Flesh- but there is NO long- term Victory over what their unconverted Flesh craves- unless they have been born again.

Now what is the Summary Statement that Paul gives here that sums up all that he has taught in this Passage? He said that ALL Lost people are:

... by nature children of wrath ...

Now the phrase, **“by Nature”** that the Apostle uses here has to do with what is “normal” and “natural” as a Fallen human being. So, it is absolutely Normal; and it is perfectly Natural for ALL Lost people to be a “child of Wrath”- meaning that ALL Lost people exist- **CONSTANTLY**- underneath the Wrath of God. And nobody has to teach them to do this. They are, “by nature” children of Wrath- meaning there is NOT a single second; of a single minute; of a single hour; of a single day- that a LOST person exists in any other Condition other than under the Wrath of God. This is what it means to be “Fallen”.

And the Question that arises is: *“How do people, who have these Characteristics, ever get to a place of being saved and of loving Jesus and of striving to obey Him?”* There is NOTHING in people like this that would allow them to EVER repent and trust in Jesus. NOTHING exists in them that they could capitalize on that would ever bring them to Jesus. And this is WHY Jesus said that ALL Lost people need to be “born again”. Because without FIRST giving people like this- new, spiritual Life- they are doomed.

To teach that lost people must first believe in order to be saved assumes that lost people have both the desire and the power to do that. But the Bible clearly teaches that lost Man does *not* have either the will (the inclination/desire) to do of God’s good Pleasure nor the Ability (or Power) to do of God’s good Pleasure until and unless God moves in us FIRST to give us what we do not naturally possess.

Matthew 19:25&26

25 When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?"

26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:63-65

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The correct way to look at this is, “Yes”- we do “choose” to believe the Gospel; repent of our sins; and trust in Jesus for Salvation. But the only reason that dead, blind, deaf, stony hearted, fallen, and depraved sinners desired to choose to do these things- is because:

- They *first* been chosen by God from before the foundation of the world
- They *first* had all of their sins completely paid for by the Life; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- They *first* had the Spirit draw them to Christ (against their will)
- They *first* were given eyes to see; ears to hear; and a heart to believe
- They *first* had the Old nature; the Adamic nature replaced with a new, divine nature.

So, even though it is true that we “freely choose” to believe- we must understand that our Choice to believe was the result of our Loves and Desires being supernaturally altered. And our Loves, Wants, and Desires are *predicated* on our nature. And since God has already sovereignly changed our nature- we choose to believe!

What is Grace?

The Greek word that was translated into English as “Grace” is “*charis*” which means: *unmerited favor; unearned love; or undeserved special treatment*. By definition, Grace is not merited and cannot ever be merited- or else it isn’t Grace. When God chooses someone to save them- God “sets His Love” upon that individual- not based upon anything that they did or did not do- but based solely on God’s Own good Pleasure.

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

A Gift Versus a Wage

So, by definition, Grace is a free Gift of God that is undeserved and unearned. A Wage, however, is something that has been worked for and is earned. The Bible does *not* teach that Grace is a Wage- but rather a free gift- which is something that, by definition, *cannot* be earned or deserved. Grace is free and Grace is a Gift from God to unworthy sinners.

The only thing that the Bible says is a Wage or something that Man has earned and is entitled to receive by what he did- is Death- which is the proper Payment (Wage) for our Sin.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wages are always deserved and earned and are the rightful response or reward for labor that has already been expended. Works earn Rewards (Wages). But he who has no Works to cause the Reward (God's Favor) must then cry out for Grace.

Romans 4:4&5

4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

We Are Sinners

All of this has the effect of making us to be sinners. We are born with Original Sin- but we have also engaged in our own personal Sins. And that combination makes us to be transgressors of the Law and guilty of Sin. But what makes Sin to be so terrible?

Sin Dishonors God

Through the Centuries- many have taught that Sin is Wrong; Bad; Evil- because of the negative effect it has on us. And Sin DOES have a negative effect on us. Sin makes us Sick; it costs us Time and Money; it destroys our Reputations; and it hurts our Families. Many times, Sin puts us in Jail; and there are times that Sin even costs us our lives. So, yes- Sin absolutely does negatively affect us.

And while all of that is terrible- that is NOT the main reason why Sin is Bad; Terrible; and Evil. And it is NOT why God is so angry with Sin. What we have to try to comprehend is that Sin, at its core- dishonors God. Sin belittles God. Sin makes God look far less that Who He really is.

Romans 3:9-26

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;
20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Now several years ago- I was deep into a nine year and nine month “journey” through **Romans**. And the above Passage jumped out to me as one of the best Statements found anywhere in the entire Bible that illustrates at least, six things:

1. What it means to be “Sinful” (Fallen)
2. Why God gave the Law
3. Why the Glory of God is connected to our Sin
4. Why Paul brings up Righteousness in this Passage
5. What “Propitiation” means
6. How guilty sinners are justified before God

1. What it means to be “Sinful” (Fallen)

Romans 3:9-18

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

10 as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

Now aside from the obvious- why is this a good illustration of what it means to be Sinful? Look again at verse 9:

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

“Both Jews and Greeks are all under sin”. Now the word, “Greek” as used by Paul has to do with the pagan Gentiles- who lived their entire lives apart from God’s Law- that He gave to Moses. So, to Paul- the Greeks- encapsulated all Gentiles from every nation under heaven- who were non-Jews. And Gentiles had a distinct *disadvantage* from the Jews- as it pertained to God.

In Chapter 9- the Apostle went to great lengths to list all the Advantages that Jews had over Gentiles. And Paul said:

Romans 9:4&5

4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,
5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

So, nine things:

1. Who are Israelites
2. To whom belongs the Adoption as sons
3. The Glory
4. The Covenants
5. The giving of the Law
6. The Temple Service
7. The Promises
8. Whose are the Fathers
9. From whom Christ came

... and then at the beginning of Chapter 3- Paul gives us the main Advantage that the Jews had:

Romans 3:1&2

1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?
2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

... yet as it pertains to Sin- Paul said in **Romans 3:9**:

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

... so, in spite of all of their Advantages- both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles) are “sinners” before God.

Now because Paul included both Jews and Gentiles- he is then speaking about the entire human race. And this means that ALL of the *entirety* of humans are sinful- which is simply another way of saying, “fallen”.

Okay, but what are the Characteristics of being “Sinful” or “Fallen”- Paul wrote:

Romans 3:10b-18

10... “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

13 “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

14 “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

15 “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

18 “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

So, being “Sinful” or “Fallen” means:

- We are not Righteous
- We don’t understand (God)
- We don’t seek after God
- We have turned aside from God
- The totality of our Value is that we are useless
- We aren’t “Good”
- Our mouths are filled with evil and destructive things
- Violence comes easy for us
- We do not know the path of Peace
- We do not fear (respect) God

Now notice that you don’t see the “normal things” that are usually listed to describe what being “sinful” means (i.e. drugs, sex, lying, etc.). Paul is describing how our Nature has been radically and negatively decimated by the Fall and these Characteristics are the result of that.

So, we should ask, “*Why* are we not Righteous”? *Why* don’t we understand God? *Why* don’t we seek after God? *Why* have we turned aside from God? *Why* are we not “Good”? *Why* don’t we fear God? *Why* are we prone to Violence?

And the Answer is NOT that we don’t put forth enough effort; or that we need to try harder; or that we need to make the right Choice or Decision. No, our problem is much deeper and much more profound than that. As fallen creatures- we don’t love God. We see no Value in God. And we are no longer satisfied with God.

So, what it means to be Sinful (Fallen) is NOT defined by the various wrong Acts we engage in. Those are simply the symptoms of a much larger Problem. So, what being Sinful means is that God stands before us- in all His pristine Beauty and Wisdom and Power and Glory and Magnificence- and our hearts and minds are NOT impressed with Him- and we see nothing in

God that would make us happy. And so, we “set our Affections” on something else (anything else) besides God. And the “setting of our Loves” on something else- besides the Being, Who is, by definition, the most lovable- and seeking to find the fullness of our Joy in that- is what being Sinful means.

When Jesus was asked,

Matthew 22:36

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?

... Jesus did NOT get into the various outward Acts that we do or don't do. Instead Jesus went to Love and said,

Matthew 22:37b-40

37 ... "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

38 This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

... and these Words of Jesus reflect what God said in the very beginning:

Deuteronomy 6:4&5

4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

... and ...

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

And when loving God is the foremost thing- our actions will reflect that. And so, when NOT loving God is what dominates our lives- our actions will reflect that also. So, being “Sinful” (Fallen)- at its core- is NOT loving God... **WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'**

2. Why did God give the Law?

Romans 3:19&20

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

So, God gave the Law for two reasons:

- 1. So that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God**
- 2. Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.**

Now why is it important to God for Him to close every mouth? What is the mouth speaking that God doesn't want to hear? Part of what it means to be "fallen" is that we don't think we are fallen. And so, lost people honestly think they are "good". In fact, lost people think they are gods- and that is why the Prophet Samuel said,

Judges 21:25b

... everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

But as we have seen- fallen Man is NOT Good- and has no desire to be Good in God's Eyes. And so, in their lost State- people do what is right in their own eyes. In other words, since they are gods- they determine "Right" from "Wrong" and they take God's Place as the Originator of Morality.

And so, lost people protest their own Goodness. They defend themselves as being wonderful people- people who do Good and people who DESERVE eternal Rewards. The Law closes their mouths by the simple progression of Reality:

Question: Have you loved God perfectly?

Answer: No.

Question: Have you made idols for yourself?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you set your Affections on things besides God?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you taken God's Reputation (Name) in vain?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you rested in Jesus Christ?

Answer: No.

Question: Have you always honored your Father and Mother?

Answer: No.

Question: have you ever hated someone?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you ever lusted?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you ever taken anything that didn't belong to you?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you ever engaged in Gossip?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have you ever coveted?

Answer: Yes.

So, by your own Confession- you are a God- hating; idolatrous; blasphemer; who has not always honored his parents; who has hated and stolen; and a person, who has lusted and spread rumors; and who has coveted. Why in the world do you think you're "Good"? You're NOT

“Good”- you’re a Sinner. You are Evil and Wicked and Rebellious and in complete Disobedience to God. So, why in the world would you think God would allow a person like that to go to Heaven?

So, the Law not only closes the mouth- but it also has the effect of making the entire world guilty before God.

... to be continued