

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Sin

"If you do not want the fruits of sin, stay out of sin's orchard." – Anonymous

"The knowledge of sin is the beginning of salvation." – Epicurus

"It is right to hate sin, but not to hate the sinner." – Giovanni Guareschi, *The Little World of Don Camillo*

"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." – Dwight Moody

It is said that Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States (1923-1929), once had returned from church services where upon his wife asked him what the sermon was about. He abruptly said, "Sin!" The wife wanted then to know what the preacher had to say about it, and Coolidge gave the famous reply, "He was agin it!"

Sin may be a word of only three letters, but the force and consequences of it are far from insignificant. It can bring terrible consequences in this life, and can keep us from enjoying that which is yet to come (Rev. 21:27).

Nothing can bring out the horrendous nature of sin like the Holy God of Heaven. In our finite minds, it is hard to grasp that there is a God who is absolutely holy. He has never sinned, and in fact is so righteous and holy that He cannot even look upon sin (Hab. 1:13). We might illustrate His nature by thinking of the whitest thing we have ever seen. So white and pure in fact, that even the smallest blemish would stand out unable to be hidden.

There is perhaps no better illustration of this than with the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah saw the Lord in a powerful vision. "...I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim...And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!'...So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts'" (Isa. 6:1-5).

Have you ever seen snow on the ground that has been there for a couple of days? And then comes a new fallen snow that makes the other on the ground look dirty. So it is with us. We may think we are pure, but without the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from our sins, we can never be as white as the new fallen snow (Isa. 1:16-18).