

# Baptist hour messages

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## VICTORY OVER SIN

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Scripture: Luke 12:32

When we speak of sin we refer to a malignancy which affects the life of every man. The scriptures say, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)

"All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (I John 1:8)

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (I John 1:10)

This terrible malignancy means a life of bondage for Jesus said, "Everyone that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin." (John 8:34)

Paul said, "The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23) Ezekiel said, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:20)

### GRACE OF GOD

Although every life has been touched by the malignancy of sin, it is possible to

know victory over sin through the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we trust Christ for salvation, God deals graciously with our sin. We are accepted in the sight of God for Christ's sake.

We can never stand before God on the basis of our own record. The scriptures say, "By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight." (Rom. 3:20) The only way we can ever come unto God is on the basis of Christ's atonement for our sins. He died that we might live. He gave himself the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God. He loved us and loosed us from our sins by his blood. (Rev. 1:5) When we trust in Christ our sins are forgiven. They are removed as far as the east is from the west. They are completely blotted out. They are forgotten by God. We read in Isaiah 1:18, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

We read again, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while

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**"And they remembered his word, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest." (Luke 24:8-9)**

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he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

When we trust Christ for salvation, our hearts are inclined to the love and service of Christ. The terrible bondage we have known to sin is broken. Jesus said, "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

When we trust in Christ we are born again. We become a new creation in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away and all things are become new. Whereas we were blind, we are able to see. Whereas we were in the dark, now we are in the light. Whereas we were thirsty, now we are refreshed. Whereas we were hungry, now we are filled. God puts a new nature within us and new power is made available to us so that we can be what he wants us to be.

God can straighten out the tangled cords of our lives. Through our sin we have brought confusion and dismay into our living. Psalm 103 tells of the wonderful grace of God in which he is able to do so much for those who put their trust in him. Psalm 107 indicates that God is able to show mercy upon those who have destroyed and ruined their lives by their own folly and sin.

Although we find in Christ such great blessing when we come to him by faith, the struggle with sin is a life-long struggle. We are still in mortal bodies. This great treasure is placed in earthen vessels. We inhabit bodies of flesh and blood. We are weak. Our spirits are willing but our flesh is weak, and our bodies become the occasion of much humiliation and of much temptation.

#### **WEAKNESS HAS VARIETY**

There are weaknesses peculiar to every period in life. Childhood has its peculiar perils. Youth, middle age, and even old age have their peculiar temptations.

There are weaknesses which are felt under different circumstances of life. The rich man has particular problems to face. The poor man has other types of weaknesses to face. Those who are highly educated run into various perils in their thought, and those who do not have education are easily confused.

There are weaknesses peculiar to individuals in temperaments. What is a problem for one person may not be a very severe problem for another. We need to be always sympathetic one with the other because of the particular nature of our weaknesses and the fierceness of our personal temptations.

This life-long struggle is made all the more difficult because satan is armed with many devices to deceive a person. Many times he can disguise sin so as to make it very difficult to recognize. He delights in making an evil wear the garments of virtue.

One of satan's most clever devices is to trip a person into some sin and then accuse him and mock him, saying that he no longer should undertake to serve Christ or have any part in the things of God.

This struggle against sin goes on all the way, and we are unrealistic if we think that satan will leave us alone and give us no more trial as long as we are in the world.

#### **BIBLICAL ADVICE**

The Bible gives clear counsel concerning our battles with sin.

We are clearly advised to make a clean break with the past. Jesus said to those whom he blessed, "Sin no more."

It is wise for a person when he has received Christ in his heart to make a clean break with whatever is evil in the past. He should come boldly out before his friends and associates and let them know that a new course has been embarked upon. He should not undertake to turn away from his sin gradually, but make a clean break with it and begin to serve the Lord.

We should also make a bold courageous stand against satan's temptations. We are told in the scriptures that we should resist the devil, and he will flee from us. We are wise to resist him with the words of scripture. Jesus resisted satan's temptations by quoting from the scripture.

We are to abide in Jesus Christ as the branches abide in the vine and let his wonderful power flow through us, so that we have the spiritual energy to resist satan.

In our battles with sin we are to have a right attitude toward our bodies. We are to remember that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and they are not to be yielded as instruments to unrighteousness, but rather are to be yielded unto God.