

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

## Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

### Schedule Of Services:

<b>Lord's Day:</b>	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

#### *Our Elders:*

**Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis**

#### *Our Deacons:*

**Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Sawyers**

*Our Preacher:* **T. Sean Sullivan**

## The Gospel Plan

**HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16**

**BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6**

**REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9**

**OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD  
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS  
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

**LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9**

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The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## Some Misconceptions About Sin

### Introduction:

What is sin? Is there a definite answer to that question? There are some who would believe that there are many definitions of sin depending on who you are or what faith you tend toward. What we are seeking is a much higher understanding.

When we begin to take sinning lightly: We will jeopardize our hope (Hebrews 10:38). We will lose our ability to be the light in this world (Matthew 5:14-16). Then as a congregation collectively we will lose our Heavenly lamp light (Revelation 2:1-8).

In order to understand this subject better, we need first eliminate these misconceptions: Some believe sin is situational. Some believe they only hurt themselves by sin. Some believe that God's forgiveness is a loophole. Let's open our Bible to eliminate these particular misconceptions.

### Is Sin Situational?

When does sin become justified? Does sin depend on the "who"? Are there some who are above blame? The Corinthian brethren were allowing certain ones to continue in sin (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Paul rebuked them for this (vs.1-2) and he called for a cleansing (vs. 4-5). We must not allow sin by any mem-

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bers to go on unchecked.

Is sin justified depending on the “what”? God declares that sin is a generic category (Romans 6:23a). There are no comparative measurements of sinfulness—all sin condemns and earns separation from Him.

We like to justify ourselves by categorizing sins—small sins and big sins. To eliminate this idea we need to read and understand Revelation 21:27.

Is sin justified depending on “when” it is committed? We try to paint a picture where we “had to sin” to avoid “this” or “that”. For example someone might say, “I had to lie, to not hurt their feelings.” There is no timing excuse for sinful conduct—all sin needs to be taken seriously and needs to be avoided (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 1:15).

There is no valid excuse or justification for sin. When we have to scramble around looking for justification, it only proves our deed wrong. Righteousness needs no justification—it is always right (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The practice of truth—is always true (John 17:17; James 1:22-25). We must not “play favorites” or “blame fear” for refusing to call sin a sin. There must be no rationale given for unrighteousness.

### **Does Sin Only Hurt the Sinner?**

Some use the idea that if sin only harms self then it shouldn't be any one else's concern. Any number of sins have been associated with this excuse. This justification for sin is feeble and falls flat when any practical thinking enters the picture: only in a world where no one cares—where compassion for one's soul does not exist—there this idea may be correct. The justification that I am only hurting myself by sinning is not based on reality.

Who do sin effect? When we sin we effect: Our God (Psalm 139:1-6; Ephesians 4:25-30; Hebrews 10:34). We effect our own soul (Romans 6:16-18, 23b). Our sin effect our brethren (Ephesians 5:1-7). Our sins effect the world around us (Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-15).

### **Is God's Forgiveness a Loophole?**

We have a pattern of scripture that teaches that we can be

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freed from the guilt of sin: As an alien sinner—we can become a Christian (Acts 2:38-39) and as a Christian—we can come back to God (Acts 8:22-24). With this knowledge some have taken on the idea that: they can remain in sin until “someday” and then they can always become a Christian. Some believe that they can keep Acts 8:22-24 in their back pocket like the classic “get out of jail free card”. God's forgiveness on hold—the perfect loophole for sinning—or is it. What about planned forgiveness?

Paul posed a question in Romans 6:1, “*Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*” He immediately answered that question with—“Certainly not”. Some assumed that God's grace was provided because of sin and therefore they could have more grace by practicing more sin—this is not truth. He continues to explain how we should be a Christian (Romans 6:3-12). We should be dead to sin—not enticed to sin. We should walk in the newness of life—not seeking the old ways. This proper walk does not allow for sinful conduct—in any form.

### **Conclusion:**

What is sin? 1 John 3:4 says, “*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness*”—God defines it clearly. When we begin to take sinning lightly: We jeopardize our personal hope (Isaiah 59:1-2); we will loose our ability of being a light in this world (Matthew 5:14-16); and we as a congregation will loose our Heavenly lamp light (Revelation 2:1-8).

We need to eliminate misconceptions about sin. There is no such thing as justified situations for sinning; sin's effects are widespread; and we cannot continue in sinfulness, simply trusting that God will always forgive.

Are you living in sin? If you are, now is the time to seek change. The gospel plan of salvation is what you need. Be freed from the life of sin today. ~tss

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