

Christ the Cure for the Universal Curse

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Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.—Romans 5:30.

Sin is a universal disease. It has so completely swept across this earth until no living creature has escaped its withering blight. One of the famous utterances of God's Word is, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." The universality of death attests the universality of sin. Death immediate and eternal is the finished product of sin. All other disease, sorrow, heartache, loss, waste, unhappiness, are the by-products of sin, with death as a finished result. The human race has been the prime object of sin's devastation. A trail of blood, carnage, waste and woe testifies to the relentless encroachment of sin upon all men for nearly 6000 years. Its stain has been so deep, its wound so incurable, that nothing less than divine intervention by the Holy Trinity could lift the curse from a lost and a dying world.

By a thousand texts from God's Word, the universality of sin is a proven fact. There is no place on this terrestrial ball, however remote and isolated, but has felt the deadening stroke of sin's blighting hand and experienced the withering, poisonous blasts of its foul breath. Sin has charted every continent, scaled every mountain, landed on every island, penetrated every jungle and marked its winding serpent's trail across every desert. Far out on the Eastern rim of Persia stretches the great Afghanistan desert and table land, a barren land of rocks, mountains, and shifting sands. Out in this stretch of waste land a large uninhabited city has been recently discovered; a city that has not heard the ring of a human voice for eight hundred years. The only form of life in all that great Metropolis was a desert snake. A writhing poisonous reptile had survived the waste of centuries that even

in this God forsaken place it may symbolize the universality of sin.

In that first transgression in the garden, the old serpent of sin sunk his poisonous fangs into the throbbing heart of the first man and woman, and down across the unnumbered years from that day till this, the serpent's venom has polluted the blood stream of the human race. I want to give you a definition of sin in action; "Sin is the heart of the devil put into the heart of men." Sin is waste, terror, misery, and woe. It has only one motive—to defile, corrupt, and destroy. Sin wrecks manhood, defiles womanhood, and destroys youth. If sin could have its way, it would turn every flower garden into a grave yard, every church into an almshouse, and every hospital into a hog pen. It would silence every preacher of righteousness, burn every Bible, and hang a crepe on every door. It would fill every highway with a funeral procession, break up every home and start a wail of woe that would turn the joys of Heaven into sobs of the night. It would wipe the smiles from every face, choke the laughter from the lips of every child, and send this old world reeking down the rim of ruin, until every man, woman, boy, and girl had made their bed in hell.

Sin is a serpent coiled in the breast of every sinner. It is a poison coursing down the blood stream of every unregenerated man on God's earth. The universality of its scope and the deadening effect of its nature calls for a remedy that only a divine being could produce.

Here are a few illustrations of how God has dealt with sin, and they show you the extremes that Heaven has gone to settle the sin question in the human heart. At first the waters of the flood deluged the world, but they could not wash away the dreadful stain of sin. The fire fell from heaven, but it could not burn out the

accursed plague. The earth opened up her mouth, but could not swallow up the monster sin. The law thundered forth its threat from the thick darkness of Sinai, but could not restrain sin. Ten thousand victims died on a Jewish altar, until their blood trailed like a river across time, but that blood could not take away sin. Sin had made its scar so deep, its wound so incurable, until nothing less than the life's blood of the God-man himself, streaming from His riven side, as He hung on dark Calvary, could wash all sin away. Our text means this: "Where sin abounded to condemn, grace hath much more abounded to justify. Where sin abounded to corrupt, grace hath much more abounded to extinguish the flame and heal the wound. Thank God, grace hath abounded greater than all sin. The honest man who will forsake his sin, and open his heart to the grace of God, that grace will come into his heart, and take the place of every sin and abound to eternal life. There will be in his heart instead of wretchedness, a joy unspeakable and full of glory, and instead of his soul being dead in sin, immortality will be walking among the tombs.

Any man who says that you cannot get rid of all sin, is turning back the scheme of redemption of six thousand years, making the Bible a lie, and testifying to the eternal ages that Calvary was a failure, that the death of Jesus Christ was a farce, and that God can't do what He said He would. You are making the testimony of tens of thousands of sleeping saints a fairy tale, robbing the resurrection of its glory and deepening the shadow that enshrouds the tomb.

If you say that you have to sin, you are placing the devil above God in power; you are hanging a wreath of glory on the gates of hell and draping the Cross of Calvary in ignominious shame.

If the blood of Calvary cannot take away your sin today, it cannot take it away in death. If the blood of Calvary cannot take away your sin today, it cannot take it away in the grave. If the blood of Calvary cannot take away your sin today, it cannot take it away at the judgment. But thank God, where sin has abounded, grace has much more abounded.

"There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that
flood
Lose all their guilty stain."