

Chapter 26
SIN AND REPENTANCE



The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation.

Martin Luther

The follies of youth become the vices of manhood and the disgrace of old age.

Henry Adams

The mad merry-go-round of sensuality is filled with millions awaiting their turn for initiation into iniquity. When wrong is so sweet a morsel, the sin soaked, sex-slain youth could not care less about doing right. One crowded hour of glorious life - so they argue - is worth a gamble on the speculation of the theologians' so called eternity.

Leonard Ravenhill

We bear with those vices we are accustomed to; we reprove new ones.

Publilius Syrus

You cannot run away from a weakness, you must sometimes fight it out or perish. And if that be so, why not now? and where you stand.

Robert Louis Stevenson

But ill he lived, much evil saw with men to whom no better law nor better life was known; deliberately and undeceived these wild men's vices he received and gave them back his own.

Billy Brunson

Sinful and forbidden pleasures are like poisoned bread; they may satisfy appetite for the moment, but there is death in them at the end.

Tyron Edwards

The Bible says there is pleasure in sin. Drunkenness, adultery, incest, drug abuse, embezzlement, rape, lying, stealing, can bring pleasure, but such illicit delights last a season. When the season is over, their pleasure turns to heartache and hardship.

Edwin Cole

A bucket of water is heavy on earth; in its own place it is not so. When men are merely natural, sin is in its own place, and the weight is not felt

Robert Bolton

Lord, often have I thought to myself, I will sin but this one sin more, and then I will repent of it, and of all the rest of my sins together. So foolish was I, and ignorant. As if I should be more able to pay my debts when I owe more: or as if I should say, I will wound my friend once again, and then I will lovingly shake hands with him but what if my friend will not shake hands with me?

Thomas Fuller

We make ourselves out of our vices if we trample the vices underfoot.

St Augustine

There are men who say they believe there is a God, but God is too merciful to punish sin. He is too full of compassion and love, and He could not punish sin. The drunkard, the harlot, the gambler, the murderer, the thief and the libertine would all share alike at the end. Suppose the Governor of your State was so tender hearted that he could not bear to have a man suffer, that he could not bear to see a man put in jail, and he should set all the prisoners free. How long would he be Governor? You would have him out of office before the sun set. These very men who talk about God's mercy would be the first to raise a cry against a Governor who would not have a man put in prison when he had done wrong.

D L Moody

The custom of sinning takes away the sense of it, the course of the world takes away the shame of it.

John Owen

To say that the sin of today has no parallel is without foundation. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." We find a graphic picture of Noah's time in Genesis 6:5, "God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of his heart was only evil continually." So it was, evil without exception; evil without intermission, evil continually. As it was, so it is. Sin today is both glamorised and popularised, thrown into the ear by radio, thrown into the eye by television, and splashed on popular magazine covers. Church goes, sermon sick and teaching tired, leave the meeting as they entered it, visionless and passionless.

Leonard Ravenhill

Compassion will cure more sins than condemnation.

Henry Ward Beecher

Abide in Jesus, the sinless one - which means, give up all of self and its life, and dwell in God's will and rest in His strength. This is what brings the power that does not commit sin.

Russell Sage

Think how often you have chosen sin because of its pleasure, when indeed, that pleasure was a root of bitterness to you.

Charles Spurgeon

The many headed monster of the pit.

Alexander Pope

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake.

Billy Sunday

Vice is a monster of such frightful mien. That to be hated needs but to be seen, but seen too oft, familiar with her face we first endure, then pity, then embrace.

Alexander Pope

Refuse to do wrong or do you imagine you are a lot wiser than you really are.

Gary Stewart

Be fearful of little sins. Take alarm at even an evil thought, wish, desire. These are the germs of sin - the floating seeds which drop into the heart, and, finding in our natural corruption a fat and favourable soil, spring up into actual transgressions. These, like the rattle of the snake and the hiss of the serpent, reveal the presence and near neighbourhood of danger. The experience of all good men proves that sin is most easily crushed in the bud, and that it is safer to flee from temptation than to fight it.

Guthrie

We can not understand the depth of the Christian doctrine of sin if we give it only a moral connotation. To break the basic laws of justice and decency is sin indeed. Man's freedom to honour principles is the moral dimension in his nature, and sin often appears as lawlessness. But sin has its root in something which is more than the will to break the law. The core of sin is our making ourselves the centre of life, rather than accepting the holy God as the centre. Lack of trust, self-love, pride, these are three ways in which Christians have expressed the real meaning of sin. But what sin does is to make the struggle with evil meaningless. When we refuse to hold our freedom in trust and reverence for God's will, there is nothing which can make the risk of life worth the pain of it.

D. D. Williams

The burden of sin is the wrath of God.

Edward Marbury

Be sure your sin will find you out.

Numbers 32:23

Pleasure soon exhausts us and itself also, but endeavour never does.

Richter

Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.

Martin Luther

Double minded men waver between right and wrong. Because they are undecided, they are constantly tempted to yield to evil. They profess to hate sin, but have a lingering love for it. As a result, they do not have a right understanding of good and evil, which is absolutely necessary to battle the world, the lusts of the flesh and the devil.

Edwin Cole

Sin: a thought, a form, a fascination, a fall.

St Augustine

I couldn't live in peace if I put the shadow of a wilful sin between myself and God.

George Eliot

Nothing will stop your song quicker than your sins.

Robert Pullar

The ingenuity of self-deception is inexhaustible.

Hannah More

A man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows.

Galatians 6:7

The inward area is the first place of loss of true Christian life, of true spirituality, and the outward sinful act is the result.

Francis Schaeffer

All sins tend to be addictive, and the terminal point of addiction is what is called damnation.

W H Auden

Men are not punished for their sins, but by them.

Elbert Hubbard

Broadly speaking, I learned to recognise sin as the refusal to live up to the enlightenment we possess: to know the right order of values and deliberately to choose the lower ones: to know that, however much these values may differ with different people at different stages of spiritual growth, for one's self there must be no compromise with that which one knows to be the lower value.

Margaret Bondfield

Get alone with Jesus and either tell Him that you do not want sin to die out in you - or else tell Him that at all costs you want to be identified with His death.

Oswald Chambers

Understand this law and you will then know, beyond room for the slightest doubt that you are constantly punishing yourself for every wrong you commit and rewarding yourself for every act of constructive conduct in which you indulge.

Napoleon Hill

Sin is nothing else than that the creature willeth otherwise than God willeth, and contrary to Him.

Theologia Germanica

The gospel of Jesus Christ must be the bad news of the conviction of sin before it can be the Good News of redemption. The truth is revealed in God's Holy Word; life can be lived only in absolute and disciplined submission to its authority.

Charles Colson

Sin always promises to please and serve, but in reality it always enslaves and dominates.

Edwin Cole

No man ever arrived suddenly at the summit of vice.

Juvenal

Take heed of secret sins. They will undo thee if loved and maintained: one moth may spoil the garment; one leak drown the ship; a penknife stab and kill a man as well as a sword; so one sin may damn the soul; nay, there is more danger of a secret sin causing the miscarrying of the soul than open profaneness, because not so obvious to the reproofs of the world; therefore take heed that secret sinnings eat not out good beginnings.

Jeremiah Burroughs

Consider what two petitions Christ couples together in His prayer: When my body, which every day is hungry, can live without God's giving it daily bread, then and no sooner shall I believe that my soul, which daily sinneth, can spiritually live without God's forgiving it its trespasses.

Thomas Fuller

Pleasure is the bait of sin.

Plato

If there is no sorrow for sin, there will be no joy in salvation.

Gloria Friend

If God bores you, tell Him that He bores you, that you prefer the vilest amusements to His presence, that you only feel at your ease when you are far from Him.

Francois Fenelon

Vain are the dreams of infatuated mortals who suppose that the only punishment to be endured for sin is in the present life.

F L Dagg

Oh, how horrible our sins look when they are committed by someone else.

Chuck Smith

Quit trying to see how close you can live to the world and still be saved. It is time to get the sin out of our lives.

Rod Parsley

The overwhelming recognition of human sin controls the Old Testament and the New Testament alike, and no understanding of our Lord's words and actions is possible if we persist in denying it.

Sir Edwyn Hoskyns

When sin lets us alone we may let sin alone; but as sin is never less quiet than when it seems to be most quiet, and its waters are for the most part deep when they are still, so ought our contrivances against it to be vigorous at all times and in all conditions, even where there is least suspicion.

John Owen

All sin comes from not putting supreme value on the glory of God - this is the very essence of sin.

John Piper

Few love to hear the sins they love to act.

William Shakespeare

In the world it is called tolerance, but in hell it is called despair . . . the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die.

Dorothy L. Sayers

The first and worst of all frauds is to cheat oneself. All sin is easy after that.

Baily

In all their jollity in this world, the wicked are but as a book fairly bound, which when it is opened is full of nothing but tragedies. So when the book of their consciences shall be once opened, there is nothing to be read but lamentations and woes.

Richard Sibbes

The least sin should humble the soul, but certainly the greatest sin should never discourage the soul, much less should it work the soul to despair. Despairing Judas perished, whereas the murderers of Christ, believing on Him, were saved.

Thomas Brooks

Men yoked to lies, fraud, addictions, thievery, vanity, or arrogance carry a heavy burden. Men yoked to truth, honesty, love, repentance, and faith carry burdens that are light.

Charles Finney

He that falls into sin is a man; that grieves at it may be a saint; that boasteth of it is a devil.

Thomas Fuller

All my life I have been seeking to climb out of the pit of my besetting sins and I cannot do it and I never will unless a hand is let down to draw me up.

Seneca

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REPENTANCE

A dead end street is a good place to turn around.

Naomi Judd

The New Testament word for repentance means changing one's mind so that one's views, values, goals, and ways are changed and one's whole life is lived differently. The change is radical, both inwardly and outwardly; mind and judgment, will and affections, behaviour and lifestyle, motives and purposes, are all involved. Repenting means starting a new life.

J. I. Packer

Repentance is God's answer to sin and unforgiveness.

Nicholas James

We turn to God for help when our foundations are shaking, only to learn it is God who is shaking them

Charles West

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

The bedrock of Christianity is repentance. Strictly speaking, a man cannot repent when he chooses; repentance is a gift of God. The old puritans used to pray for the "gift of tears." If ever you cease to know the virtue of repentance, you are in darkness. Examine yourself and see if you have forgotten how to be sorry.

Oswald Chambers

Repentance is a change of willing, of feeling and of living, in respect to God.

Charles Finney

A truly repentant person proves he is forgiven by being the opposite to what he was, by God's grace. Repentance always brings a man to this point: I have sinned. The surest sign that God is at work is when a man says that and means it. Anything less than this is remorse for having made blunders, the reflex action of disgust at himself.

Oswald Chambers

Back! Back to that upper room; back to your knees; back to searching of heart and habit, thought and life; back to pleading, praying, waiting, till the spirit of the Lord floods the soul with light, and you are endued with power from on high. Then go forth in the power of Pentecost, and the Christ-life shall be lived, and the works of Christ shall be done. You shall open blind eyes, cleanse foul hearts, break men's fetters, and save men's souls. In the power of the indwelling Spirit, miracles become the commonplace of daily living.

Samuel Chadwick

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide. In the strife of truth with falsehood. For the good or evil side

James Russell Lowell

How often we look upon God as our last and feeblest resource. We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us, not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven.

George MacDonald

O that we were more deeply moved by the languishing state of Christ's cause upon the earth today, by the inroads of the enemy and the awful desolation he has wrought in Zion. Alas that a spirit of indifference, or at least of fatalistic stoicism, is freezing so many of us.

A W Pink

You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon will be too late.

Thomas Fuller

Repentance, a salve, a comfort, and a cordial. He that hath her, the keys of heaven hath: This is the guide, this is the post, the path.

Drayton

Baptism signifies that the old Adam in us is to be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and perish with all sins and evil lusts; and that the new man should daily come forth again and rise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Martin Luther

I trust that sorrowful penitence does still exist, though I have not heard much about it lately. People seem to jump into faith very quickly nowadays...I hope my old friend repentance is not dead. I am desperately in love with repentance; it seems to be the twin sister of faith.

C.H. Spurgeon

If you have behaved badly, repent, make what amends you can and address yourself to the task of behaving better next time. On no account brood over your wrongdoing. Rolling in the muck is not the best way of getting clean.

Aldous Huxley

The first thief saw Jesus as a way out. "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" he taunted. It's the way all of us instinctively react in tight spots. We call upon God to save our skins. But the second thief understood the deeper spiritual reality. "We are receiving what we deserve for our deeds," he rebuked the first. "But this man has done nothing wrong." That is repentance - seeing one's sin and recognising the holiness of God. "Remember me," He asked Jesus. And our Lord replied, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise." That is the result of repentance.

Charles Colson

I freely confess that I have a very much greater sorrow for sin today than I had when I came to the savior more than thirty years ago. I hate sin more intensely now than I did when I was under conviction. There are some things that I did not know to be sin then, that I know to be sin now. I have a much keener sense of the vileness of my own heart now than when I first came to Christ.

C.H. Spurgeon

Some well-meaning Christians tremble for their salvation, because they have never gone through that valley of tears and of sorrow, which they have been taught to consider as an ordeal that must be passed through before they can arrive at regeneration. To satisfy such minds, it may be observed, that the slightest sorrow for sin is sufficient, if it produce amendment, and that the greatest is insufficient, if it does not.

Colton.

A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it is possible to "accept" Christ without forsaking the world.

A W Tozer

God only comes to those who ask him to come, and he cannot refuse to come to those who implore him long, often and ardently.

Simon Weil

Think about it — what was the first message Jesus delivered, after he emerged from the temptation in the wilderness? Scripture says, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

David Wilkerson

Some people do not like to hear much of repentance; but I think it is so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I would desire to die preaching repentance, and if out of the pulpit I would desire to die practising it.

Matthew Henry

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:37-38

Jesus called people to repent before he even called them to believe! Mark writes, "...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15). Christ preached, "Repent first - and believe.

David Wilkerson

Let Christians remember, that in a season of revival as well as in a season of coldness, the evidence of piety is to be sought in the fruits of the Spirit. And let sinners remember that no degree of attendance on means, no degree of fervor, can be substituted for repentance of sin and faith in the Savior.

William B. Sprague

If we put off repentance for a day, we have a day more to repent of and one less day to repent

Mason

Repentance is but another name for aspiration.

Beecher

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

Matthew Ronald

The full, literal meaning of the word "repent" in the New Testament is "to feel remorse and self-reproach for one's sins against God; to be contrite, sorry; to want to change direction." The difference in meanings here rests on the word "Want." True repentance includes a desire to change!

David Wilkerson

I will to-morrow, that I will,
I will be sure to do it;
To-morrow comes, to-morrow goes,
And still thou art to do it.
Thus still repentance is deferred,
From one day to another;
Until the day of death is come,
And judgment is the other.

Drexelius.

Moreover, simply being sorry doesn't constitute repentance. Rather, true sorrow leads to repentance. Paul states, - "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2 Corinthians 7:10

You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance.

John Wesley

He who created us without our help will not save us without our consent.

St Augustin

Our hearts must not only be broke with sorrow, but be broken from sin, to constitute repentance.

Dewey

Repentance, without amendment, is like continually pumping without mending the leak.

Dilwyn

A Christian is a person who has the possibility of innumerable new starts.

Francis Schaeffer

Outside you appear clean and holy. But inside, you're full of dead men's bones! You're a generation of vipers, snakes, with absolutely no fear of God. Yet you have no concept that you're even sinners. I warn you — you must deal with your sin before you can believe on the savior and follow him. So, repent, turn from your sin — and live in a way that reflects genuine change!

David Wilkerson

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish

Luke 13:3

And we ourselves are 'saved to save'-we are made to give-to let everything go if only we may have more to give. The pebble takes in all the rays of light that fall on it, but the diamond flashes them out again; every little facet is a means, not simply of drinking more in, but of giving more out.

Lillias Trotter

In the middle of the road of life I found myself in a dark wood, having strayed from the straight path.

Dante

No, sinners are not called to repent anymore. In the interest of church growth, they're simply "invited to connect"

Paul Proctor

It's easier to prepare and prevent than to repair and repent

Thomas Brooks

Knowledge without repentance will be but a torch to light men to hell.

Thomas Watson

God never comes through the door that I hold open for him, but always knocks at the one place which I have walled up with concrete. But if I do not let him in there, he turns away.

Helmut Thielicke

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