

Christ, Christians' Advocate

Sin is a serious problem of mankind. It is a fatal choice because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). The love of this world with all its lusts and pride ensnares and enslaves. Sin is a cruel master, deceiving with vain pleasures while tightening its bonds upon men.

The word of Christ is the truth that sets men free (John 8:31-32). His inspired word is able to save souls (James 1:21). Jesus explained, "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. . . . Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:34, 36). Reminding the called of Christ in Rome that they were slaves of whom they obeyed, Paul rejoiced, "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin you became slaves of righteousness. . . . But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Rom. 6:17-18, 22).

Having been called out of darkness, Christians should not practice sin. They are to have no fellowship with the works of the flesh; they are to no longer be instruments of unrighteousness. The apostle John warned those who had come into fellowship with the Father and the Son to be careful about deceiving themselves regarding their personal sins. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. . . . If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:6, 8). Calling on the name of the Lord and committing one's life to Him does not automatically remove all temptations because all men are tempted by their own desires (Jam. 1:14; Mark 7:21; 1 Cor. 10:13). To whom may Christians turn when they fall short of the glory of their Father and sin again against their Savior?

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). God does not overlook the sins of His children; nor should Christians ignore the sins they commit. From time to time disciples of Christ are justly pronounced guilty in God's courtroom. Who then may they call upon to aid them in their case for pardon? As the "one Mediator between God and men" (1 Tim. 2:5), Jesus is the counsel for the defense – able to plead the penitent believer's cause. The Christian is not given liberty to continue in sin. Walking in darkness is never condoned. With godly sorrow producing repentance (2 Cor. 7:10), the child of God may call on the Lord's aid by confessing his sin and praying for forgiveness (Jam. 5:16, 19-20). "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).