

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 27, 2025

“The Worst Problem You Can Face In Life”

By Brian Meade



If you were ask a great number of people what they consider the worst problem that you can face is, you probably would get a lot of different answers based on their different situations and experiences of life.

Some young people might say that finding their identity in life or struggling in school or making friends might be their worst problems they face in life.

Or if you ask someone in their 30's or 40's, they might tell you that raising difficult children, paying bills, or other money issues like paying taxes or high inflation is the worst problems for them. And for the older generation, it might

be dealing with issues of health, going to the doctor so frequently, and mobility problems that come to the elderly and sick among us. Those are all legitimate problems!

But the greatest problem that we all face in life is our sin problem. I am talking about for those who have reached the time or age of accountability and understand right from wrong— this is the biggest problem you will ever face! Sin is not something we can fix completely on our own, without God's help. It has the the longest possible consequences for not dealing with it—for all eternity! That's why it must be taken very seriously and without delay! And for the very fact that most problems we face in life are temporary at worst, and will pass in time. When we get to heaven, all our past problems will be just a memory!

I. What Makes Sin The Worst Problem You Face?

• Sin Deceives Us.

The Bible teaches us that sin has the power to deceive us into believing things that are simply not true! In Hebrews 3:12-13, *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*

There is an urgency in warning brethren about the danger that sin can bring to their lives through deception. The desire to sin can make us rationalize and try to justify wicked and sinful behavior, all in the name of, “It's okay if I do this!” And with many people in the world to readily agree with them about practicing sin in this way, it becomes hard to convince them that they are on the broad way to destruction (Matthew 7:13).

And it is just as the wise man said it would be for some in this deception of sin, when Solomon said, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”* (Proverbs 14:12).

• Sin Ensnarers & Enslaves Us.

The devil will trap and ensnare us through temptations, and our yielding to the practice of sin (James 1:14-15). The Bible teaches us about this aspect of our sin in Hebrews 12:1, *“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”* If we allow it to stay in our lives, sin will absolutely stop us in our tracks, when we are desiring to walk with God!

Paul Told Titus, *"For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another."* (Titus 3:3). Notice that Paul reminds us that we "serving various lusts and pleasures," which shows us the controlling effect of sin. As we come to find out later, that sin's bondage has an enslaving and controlling hook in our life that can only be removed by relying on Our Savior, Jesus Christ, to help us with these burdens (Matthew 11:28-31; Titus 2:14).

Many times people have expressed a freedom they feel while living in sin, but that is only an illusion! Sin makes us a slave to it— not the other way around. (John 8:34; Romans 6:16).

- Sin Ruins Us.

Sin ruins our reputation, as we lose our good character, and are known by terms such as: liar, thief, fornicator, adulterer, or even murderer.... And once we lose a good reputation, it is not easily gained back to good. The Bible says, *"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold."* (Proverbs 22:1).

And because of the way certain sins can affect our life, we can lose our job, our house, our family, and even our physical life. Drinking and drug use is destructive behavior that may shorten our life here.

But worst case of ruin is our fellowship with God! (Isaiah 59:1-2). That makes sin so bad! God will not tolerate or overlook sin in our life (Psalm 66:18; Acts 17:30).

- Sin Brings Punishment.

God tells us in no uncertain terms, He will punish the wicked and all those who love and practice sin! *"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,"* (Colossians 3:5-7).

In Revelation 21:8, John gives us another picture of God's punishment, *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

Because of the intense nature (fire and brimstone) and eternal length of the punishment of God on account of sin, we should see this as being, by far, the worst problem we face in life!

II. How Do We Fix This Problem?

After having said all of this about the problem of sin, we would be negligent in our duty not to provide God's way of salvation from this terrible situation.

So how do we fix our sin problem? Not by our own power or ability can we overcome sin. It is just not possible to do so without the Lord's help! It is why Jesus had to to the cross of Calvary, and why we must rely on our Savior's mercy and grace, *"even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"*

Many in the religious world try to make these passages say something God never intended— that we are saved by grace or faith alone. But God wants us to know, that whatever He commands us to do, such as: belief, repentance, confession, and baptism— we are not saving ourselves by ourselves in following His instructions. But rather, we are saving ourselves by the grace and mercy extended to us by a loving God, who puts these conditions for the sinner to be saved (Acts 2:40-41; 10:48). When we do these things, God saves us from our sins.

It is only by listening to our Lord Jesus in submission and faithful obedience to Him. That's why Jesus is pictured as the "Good shepherd" in John 10:14, and in verses 27-28, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."*

It is only when we listen, which implies obedience to Jesus, can we ever be His sheep that follow His every word and fix the greatest problem of all—Sin! This is the very will of God for our life, to overcome sin with Jesus' blood (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:22; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 12:11; 1 Peter 4:2; Mark 16:15-16).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann, and Stacy & Annette Meeks, Mike Timbes (Paul Johnson's neighbor who was diagnosed with lung cancer), Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Evelyn Trimble, Angie Keathley (Phillip Keathley's wife in Ky) had surgery and is recovering, Dianne Johnson (Fred's wife) had surgery and is recovering, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), and Dianne Johnson's sister Natalie.

Our Gospel Meeting With Justin Roberson Begins Today!

Phil Campbell has a Gospel Meeting— May 4, 5, 6, & 8th.

With Tim, Dan, & Jeff Henderson doing the speaking.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Russell Briggs

Preaching:

Justin Roberson

Sermon #1:

"Why Did You Do It Paul?"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Preaching:

Justin Roberson

Sermon #2

"The World's Most Successful Family"

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Russell Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Paul Busby

Scripture Reading:

Acts 17:24-28

Song Leader:

Lee Busby

Lord's Supper:

Danny Sheffield

Assisting:

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Preaching:

Justin Roberson

Sermon #3:

"Finding The Lord"

Closing Prayer:

Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening Gospel Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

April 30, 2025

Announcements:

Brian Meade

Preaching:

Justin Roberson

Sermon:

"Silence In A Day Of Good News"

Song Leader:

Tim Harris Sr.

Closing Prayer:

Conner Whittemore

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