

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Chapter 7 – The Reality of Sin

Chapter Summary

Because every human being born is a sinner, the faithful witness will not sidestep the reality of sin's evils. Instead, he will follow Scripture and proclaim the only true remedy for sin's devastating consequences – the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Have you ever noticed how leading politicians and top corporate executives, or their spokespersons, like to put a good spin on any news related to them, no matter how negative the news really is? Is such a practice honest? Does it frustrate you? Discuss.

2. What are general euphemisms that people use to talk about sin instead of calling it sin? Discuss.

What are ways that people justify their sin? Discuss.

C. Current Application

Ingratitude is one of the most prevalent sins, and it affects believers as well as unbelievers. Seek to cultivate a greater sense of gratitude over the next month by doing the following: First make a list of all of the blessings that God has given you and thank Him for each one. Keep a separate list of those things you may have taken for granted and pray regularly for those you will need in the future.

Focus Passage – Romans 3:23, 6:23, 23 For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. Going Deeper

1. What was the church father Chrysostom's greatest fear? P.89

2. What is a simple definition of sin? List at least two other Scriptural definitions that flow out of this one. P.90

3. What are at least two aspects of the rebellious nature of sin? P.92

4. How does Isaiah 1:4-6 depict sin? What is the only remedy for sin? Elaborate. P.94

5. What is original sin? To whom does it apply? P.95

6. How is the life of the typical unredeemed sinner like the story of Damocles? p.97

7. What is the ultimate, most devastating result of unrepented sin? P. 98

8. Romans 6:23 expresses what two absolute truths? P. 98

(More discussion questions on p. 182)

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Chapter 8 – The Virgin Birth and the Deity of Christ

Chapter Summary

Christ's virgin birth was a unique event in human history, and its truth is essential to the Christian message, which says Jesus was both Son of God and Son of Man.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Do you think political parties would be more effective if members had to ascribe to stricter, more precise principles and ideologies? Why or why not?
2. The twentieth century witnessed many monumental events. Did any occur during your lifetime that should make the top ten list of the century's most significant events? What do you remember most about when they happened?

C. Current Application

As we have seen, Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:20-25 are important foundational passages for the doctrine of the virgin birth. Write out and memorize these verses so that you may easily refer to them in defending the truth of our Lord's deity and virgin birth.

Focus Passage – Luke 1:30-35

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

B. Going Deeper

1. Name four miracle births before Jesus' time described in the Bible. P.101
2. How long has the true church insisted on the virgin birth as an essential doctrine of the faith? P.102
3. What OT verse first implies that Christ's birth would be supernatural in some way? P.104
4. What is significant about the Hebrew word for "virgin" in Isaiah 7:14? How does Matthew 1:21-23 support the intention of that verse? P.105
5. Briefly restate the logic, based on certain key Scriptures, that concludes with the truth of Christ's deity. P.106-107
6. What was the major reason that Mary sought clarification of the angel's announcement to her about Jesus' birth? P.109
7. What story in Genesis did the angel's words "For nothing will be impossible with God" remind Mary of? P. 111

(More discussion questions on p. 183-184)