

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR MARCH 2004



Revelation 3: 5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white, I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels

**THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION IS A CHRIST CENTERED  
MINISTRY, DEDICATED TO ENRICHING YOUR MIND  
SPIRITUALLY, THROUGH GOD'S INSPIRED WORDS  
OF THE HOLY BIBLE.**

## **SIN AND REPENT**

by Dennis A. Palma

In last months journal I talked about the history of original sin, and the effects of original sin on our nature. This month I will be talking about sin in general and the antidote for our sins.

As I have alluded to with respect to sin in general, the wages from sin is death as the Bible clearly says.

The death that the Bible refers to is not so much the physical death, not that it can't lead to that, but it is the spiritual death of our souls.

You see sin starts out like a lamb, but ends up like a lion devouring our spiritual life from within.

Sin has a way of making excuses for itself and justifying itself, all at the same time. This is why sin becomes so easy to commit because it is so automatic, so much a part of lives society and existence.

Once you have been born again in the spirit, and understand the daily struggles of sin, you have a better perspective on what is needed to fight the constant battle against sin.

Sins are human choices that in some way violate the divine standards and for which the individual is fully responsible.

In Psalms 10:15 The prophet Ezekiel warns that in the coming invasion of Judah by Babylon, "The soul [ person] who sins is the one who will die"

Ezekiel 18:4 The same prophet announced, " You must bear the consequences of your sins"

Sacred history illustrates this reality. For instance, the Exodus generation, by refusing to obey God, had to wander in the wilderness until the adults responsible for the choice to disobey had died ( Numbers 14)

Saul's sins destroyed his chances to found a dynasty(1 Samuel 28:16-19)

The experience of generation after generation shows that sins bring punishment from God.

The New Testament continues to underline responsibility for sinful acts.

The doctrine of coming judgement implies that each of us is responsible to God for our choices and that we must give an account of them to God.

These responsibilities for our sins can be found in Matthew 12:36-37 The Lord says But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgement for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

In Hebrews 4 :13 The Lord says Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight, Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The New Testament particularly describes man's nature in desperate terms. By nature, we are enemies of God subject to biological and spiritual death. Also vulnerable to the influence of Satan and other hostile beings. Slaves to the " cravings" of our sinful human nature and subject to God's wrath and eternal punishment. In Ephesians 2:3 The Lord says All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and

following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Evidence of humanity's lost condition abounds. People's basic hostility to God is demonstrated not so much in atheism as in religion. Rejecting God's self-revelation in nature and tradition, humanity has turned to a host of counterfeits in a futile effort to satisfy inner spiritual hunger.

Also, man's subjection to sinful passions is demonstrated daily, not only in crime and injustice that corrupt human society, but also in the selfishness that distorts interpersonal relationships. As Jesus said, the sinful heart of man (human nature) is the source of sinful acts. In Matthew 15:16-20

The Lord says "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean." For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

These are what make a man unclean; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean."

As I said in the beginning of this very important message this month that I would touch base on sin in general, I also said that I would talk about an antidote for this uncontrollable human condition.

The antidote can be found in Galatians 5:16-26 The Lord spells it out real smooth and simple when He said. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father I thank you, and praise you for your unending wisdom with respect to our sinful natures. Father please continue to guide us through this maze of daily sin, and continue to Bless us with your words of wisdom to help shelter us from the evil one.

Father without Your words of wisdom, there would be no antidote from natures uncontrollable desires towards sin and eternal destruction.

Also Father, thank you always for your unending love, grace, compassion, and mercy for all your children. I thank You Father, in Jesus name Amen.

**MARCH EDITION OF HOPE FOR LIVING**

**THE BRIGHTNESS OF GOD'S LOVE**

**Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart**

Trouble will not hurt us unless it does what many of us often allow it to do- harden us, making us sour, bitter, and skeptical. But it need not be this way. Troubles we bear trustfully can bring us a fresh vision of God and a new outlook on life—an out of peace and hope.

If we make our troubles an opportunity to learn more of God's love and His power to aid and bless, then they will teach us to have a firmer confidence in His providence. As a result, the brightness of His love will fill our lives.

Learn to trust God with a child-like dependence on Him as your loving heavenly Father and no trouble can destroy you. In those darkest hours before the Cross Jesus could still say, "I am not alone, because the Father is with Me"(John 16:32) The same is true for you. Even in the last dark hour of death, when your flesh and heart fail, you will be able to depend in peace upon Him who "is the strength of my heart and my portion forever"-----Billy Graham

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**MARCH'S SIN OF THE MONTH REFLECTION**

**Envy: Ill will; to feel displeasure at the prosperity or position of others.**

**Job 5:2 Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.**

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**GOD'S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE FOR MARCH**

**Philippians 4:11,13 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.**

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

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**SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

**Anthony Palma Jr. Janet Neall, Harry Neall, Anne Palma, Vince Moschella, Sarah Jones, Tom Merino, Vera Achinco.**

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**TO REACH THE MINISTRY OR 24HR PRAYER LINE CALL 609 704-8547**

**FAX NO. 609 704-9408 OR E-MAIL [ministry8246@netscape.net](mailto:ministry8246@netscape.net)**

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*May The Peace Of Our Lord And Savior Be With You Always*

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