

West End Messenger

July 2020



Special Theme Issue:

**How To Protect Yourself And Others From The
Spread of Sin**

This Bible study devotional is provided to you for free by the **West End Church Of Christ**, assembling at 987 West Main Street in Newark, OH – for your spiritual education and encouragement. If we can help you seek God, please contact us at 740-344-7954 or at www.thewestendchurch.org.

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Sin Is The Worst Disease Ever

There have been many devastating diseases that have plagued mankind throughout history. Some of the diseases are relatively innocent and harmless. But, some diseases and viruses have been greatly feared because of their wide-spread and deadly natures. Coronavirus. Influenza. The Bubonic Plague. Smallpox. Leprosy. Malaria. These are just a few. In response, people focus on how they can protect themselves and others from the spread of disease. However, despite the fears these diseases bring to mind, you must recognize that there is another rapidly spreading “disease” that is far more consequential and devastating than any of these. And, this “disease” has been spreading and killing people ever since it was first discovered on this earth, thousands of years ago by the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). This is the “disease” of sin – and you must learn to take it more seriously than you take any other disease!

1) What sin is. Before you can take the necessary steps to protect yourself and others against sin, you must understand what it is. To “sin” is to miss the mark God has set for your life (like an archer who misses the target with an arrow). You see, God has given everyone a law to live by (as revealed in the pages of the Bible, specifically in the New Testament). 1 John 3:4 says, “Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.” So, sin is acting against God’s law as if God has not given a law to govern your conduct in a particular area – either by doing what God has said not to do or failing to do what God has said to do.

2) Sin has spread to everyone. Of all the horrible diseases I mentioned moments ago, none of them have ever been as widespread as sin. Although this “disease” cannot be contracted by infants, young children, or others who are not morally accountable, this “disease” has been contracted by every morally accountable person who has ever lived. Jesus is the only exception (Hebrews

4:15). Otherwise, the Scriptures teach: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Therefore, sin has a spread rate of 100% and has infected you!

3) Sin has many physical consequences. Although sin promises people who violate God’s law will experience physical pleasure, avoid some kind of physical pain, or other things that may seem pleasurable at the moment of temptation, the reality is that sin is actually responsible for all the terrible things about life. While there may be some initial pleasures experienced by sinning, these pleasures will often be short-lived. Sin is often responsible for such things as death, physical diseases, broken relationships, guilt, injuring others, and many other painful physical consequences!

4) Sin is always deadly. The spiritual consequences of sin are far worse than the physical consequences. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Notice that sin always results in death – 100% of the time! It is what people earn whenever they sin. That said, there is a cure for sin that will actually bring people back from the dead available through Jesus Christ!

5) Sin results in the worst kind of death. Unlike physical diseases that can only produce physical death, the “death” sin produces is spiritual in nature. It is a separation from God and all the spiritual blessings He provides. It is actually possible to be alive on this earth and dead spiritually in your sins (1 Timothy 5:6). Then, those whose earthly lives end while they are in sin will experience eternal spiritual death in Hell fire (which is eternal separation from God)! Revelation 21:8 demonstrates that sinners will have “their share...in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” And, it is important to recognize that this is eternal punishment that is worse than anything you can imagine!

Sin certainly earns the title as “the worst ‘disease’ ever to inflict mankind.” Because of this, you must do everything you can to protect yourself and others from the spread of sin! Thankfully, through it all, we have a Great Physician in Jesus Christ who can heal us of our sins!

The Great Physician Has The Cure

There have been many wonderful advances made in modern-day medicine. As a result, some diseases that had once devastated many people and families have been almost entirely eradicated. Think about Smallpox, Polio, Leprosy, etc. These are just a few. However, no amount of scientific advances in the field of medicine will ever be able to heal the worst “disease” mankind has ever contracted – sin. This spiritually deadly “disease” has no answer/cure that can be found in this earth. But, there is hope!

1) Beware of false “cures.” There are many people who claim to have the cure for various diseases but are imposters. As a result, people are often given false hope and swindled out of a great deal of money in exchange for treatments that simply will not correct their problems. While this does happen in the field of medicine, it happens even more frequently in the area of religion. There are many people who claim the things they teach will lead others to Heaven, salvation, happiness, forgiveness, etc. Yet, they simply do not deliver what they promise because they are false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-22)!

2) There is only one Physician who has the cure. Jesus Christ is the only one who can cure anyone from sin. The apostle Peter recognized this whenever He answered Jesus, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). He is the “Great Physician” who is able to give spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead. In Mark 2:17, after Jesus had been questioned as to why He was eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus explained, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

3) The Great Physician has provided the cure. Not only does Jesus Christ know the cure, He provided the cure! There was only one remedy for the problem of sin. God’s justice demands life

as a payment for sin. However, animal sacrifices were insufficient to provide the cure (Hebrews 10:4) and you could not save yourself from your own sin (Ephesians 2:8-9). The only one who could be the sacrifice for sin was Jesus Christ. It is through the blood He shed in giving His life on the cross that you can be forgiven of your sin (Matthew 26:28).

4) You must follow the Great Physician’s prescription.

Certainly, if you knew of a physician who could cure a deadly disease you had contracted, you would follow his prescription **exactly**. Even more, the Great Physician has made His prescription known to you. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16). Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus is the “source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” Therefore, if you want to be made alive by His blood, you must obey what He says (as revealed throughout the pages of the New Testament)!

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). There is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12). Therefore, you **must** obey Jesus Christ, the Great Physician – and your soul will be healed! He has provided the antidote for the sin you have committed in your life. Now, the only question is whether you will take His prescription so as to be saved!

Article 3

Know How Sin Spreads

Sin has spread across this world, infecting everyone who has reached a point of moral and spiritual accountability. As a result, sin is more widespread, causes more harm, and is far more deadly than any virus or disease this world has ever seen. As a result, you must be determined to protect yourself and others from the spread of sin! In fact, you should commit your entire life to accomplishing this mission so that God can be glorified through you. Thankfully, we all can work to protect ourselves and others from the spread of sin by taking certain steps – just as there are certain steps we can take to protect ourselves and others from the

spread of a virus/disease. However, it all starts with understanding how sin spreads.

1) Sin results when people respond to desires in wrong ways. Ultimately, you must take personal responsibility for your sin. You do not inherit your sin (Ezekiel 18:20). Nobody forces you to commit sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). Instead, God has made it clear that you sin through your own choices. Listen to James 1:14-15. “But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.”

When you act to please your desires in ways that go against God’s word, you commit sin. Because of this, you must do two things – and help others do the same. First, you must control your desires. Rather than desiring fleshly things that please yourself, let Jesus Christ control your desires (Galatians 5:24). Second, you must control how you respond to your desires. While you will have physical desires, you must control how you respond to them by resisting temptation and submitting your will to God (James 4:7)!

2) Satan is the tempter. Matthew 4:1-11 is an interesting passage because it records how sin tried to spread to the sinless Son of God. Verse 3 says that “the tempter [the devil, verse 1] approached him.” Three times in this passage, Satan is seen as trying to lure Jesus away from doing what is right by appealing to His physical desires. However, Jesus demonstrates how this tempter can be defeated by resisting him and being determined to do God’s will!

Satan remains active throughout this world, trying to lure people away from doing God’s will. His influence is at work in many different ways. Revelation 12:9 identifies him as “the one who deceives the whole world.” 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls him “the god of this age.” 1 John 5: 19 says that “the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.” Therefore, you must be aware that you have an enemy who is working to deceive you so as to influence you to sin. 1 Peter 5:8 describes him as your “adversary” who is “prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”

3) Satan uses other people to spread sin. Satan has many associates helping him spread sin throughout the world. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.” Although I cannot tell you everything about what Satan’s army looks like, we do know that Satan has angels helping him (Matthew 25:41) and that Satan works through other people – even people who may not show any symptoms of being infected with sin! Satan attempts to use sinful influences in your life to rub off on and influence you to sin against God.

One example of this is the apostle Peter. Matthew 16:21-23 demonstrates how Satan used Peter to tempt Jesus. When Jesus told His disciples that He would be killed and then raise the third day, Peter began rebuking Jesus, saying, “Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!” Then, “Jesus turned and told Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you’re not thinking about God’s concerns but human concerns.’” Clearly, if Satan can use one of Jesus’s own apostles to tempt, he can use anyone!

You must recognize how sin spreads so you can begin taking the appropriate steps to protect yourself and help others protect themselves. Thankfully, God helps us know what we can do to keep ourselves from sin. 2 Corinthians 2:11 even tells us that we do not have to be taken advantage of by Satan, “For we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

Article 4

Avoid Close Contact With Those Spreading Sin

Like many viruses, sin can spread from person to person. Satan uses people to tempt others. Some of this is through what we often call “peer pressure.” However, unlike a virus, each person

ultimately has the choice whether he/she will commit sin. And, not only must you refuse to sin whenever you are tempted by another person, but you must also be very careful as to who you closely associate with in social ways. Although being careful about who you associate with will help significantly reduce the amount of opportunity Satan has to tempt you through others, you must be aware that there are others who are not showing symptoms of sin Satan may also use (i.e. like Satan used Peter to tempt Jesus). Therefore, just like you must be careful to avoid close contact with those who are physically sick, you must be careful to avoid close contact with those who are spiritually sick if you want to protect yourself from sin.

1) Some contact is necessary. While we are discussing the need to avoid close contact with those spreading sin, it is important to keep this in the proper perspective: Everyone sins (Romans 3:23). And, God does not want you to avoid everyone. Certainly, there are some things you must do in this sin-sick world (i.e. go to work, go to school, go to the store, etc.). Then, God actually wants you to spend some time around other people. This includes those who are Christians – even Christians who have committed or struggle with sin (Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 3:12-13; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20). However, God does not *just* want His people to spend time with other Christians. Instead, God wants His people to spend time with those who are lost in sin – just as Jesus did. For example, when Jesus met Zacchaeus, Jesus went to his house and people complained that He went to stay with a sinful man (Luke 19:1-10). But, Jesus did not do this to join him in any kind of sin or to allow Himself to be negatively influenced. Rather, He did this because He had come to seek and to save the lost!

2) You must avoid the negative impact of evil company. Even though we should be on the lookout to help lost sinners learn and obey the gospel so as to be saved and it is necessary to spend some time with them to accomplish this, there is a fine line between that and putting yourself in situations where you are likely to be negatively influenced by sinners. You see, people can and do rub off on you. 1 Corinthians 15:33 warns, “Do not be deceived:

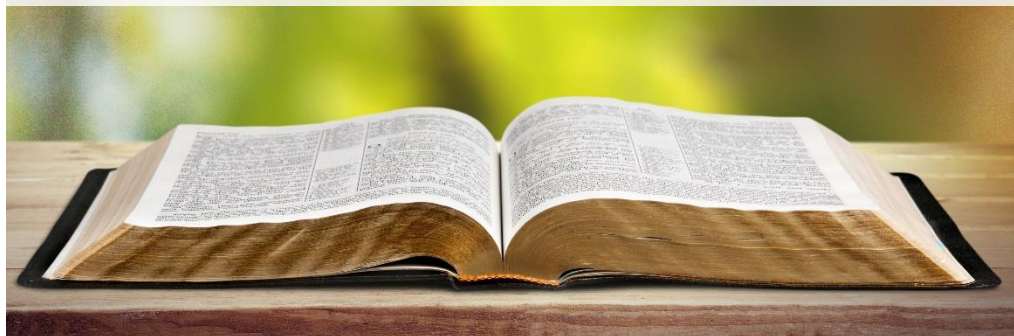
‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’” The people you spend time with socially (i.e. friends, family, classmates, co-workers, etc.) can absolutely work against your spiritual health. Not only can they directly tempt you to do something evil and apply pressure on you until you give in, but they can subtly influence the way you think, what you believe, your attitudes, and so much more! Therefore, you must constantly evaluate the people you spend time with socially and determine whether they are influences that will help your spiritual health or hurt it!

3) You must not join anyone in doing evil. There are times when the evil that people are doing is not so subtle. And, they are actually trying to coax you into joining them in something evil. But, listen to some verses from Proverbs 1 to hear God’s guidance on this matter. “My son, if sinners entice you, don’t be persuaded” (verse 10). If they say, “‘Throw in your lot with us, and we’ll all share the loot’ – my son, don’t travel that road with them or set foot on their path, because their feet run toward evil and they hurry to shed blood” (verses 14-15). Don’t join anyone in any sin – no matter how fun or rewarding they make it seem, no matter how much pressure they put on you, and no matter how much you want to join them! Know that sin is not worth it! So, whenever you see people who are engaged in sin, refuse to go along with them. Go the other way. Don’t try to get close to their sinful activity!

Since Satan frequently uses other people to spread sin, you must be diligent to choose the proper companions. Rather than putting yourself in close social contact with people who will help you be spiritually sick, choose to associate closely with people who will help you be spiritually healthy (i.e. other faithful Christians). Then, be careful to guard your associations with others at the times such association is necessary and helpful to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ!

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Practice Good Spiritual Hygiene

To prevent catching the viruses that spread in this world, one of the best and easiest things you can do is to practice good hygiene (i.e. wash your hands often). This way, if you have touched something exposed to the virus and is contaminated, the particles will not then be transferred to your hands and onto your body and face so as to contaminate you. Spiritually, if you want to protect yourself and others from the spread of sin in this world, you need to practice spiritual hygiene. James 4:8-9 says, “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.” So, you need to constantly watch out for the possibility that you have picked up some things that would contaminate you!

1) Be mindful of your spiritual health. One of the greatest challenges to good hygiene is mindfulness. It’s easy to get busy and not think about what you touch – and then touch your face. In the same way, it is difficult to constantly be mindful about the spiritual dangers that threaten your spiritual health. Yet, this is a **must!** 1 Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.” You cannot afford to get lax in your fight against Satan and sin! You must always be watching out for how he will try to destroy your soul!

2) Control what you think about. It has been said that the battlefield in the war for your soul is your mind! If Satan can control your mind, he will get you to sin against God. For example, Satan attacks you in this way through peers, media, entertainment, cultural beliefs, etc. You must recognize the danger of evil things entering your mind! Proverbs 4:23 says, “Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.” Your “heart” refers to the various functions of your mind. As a result, you must guard it carefully. This includes thinking only about things that please God and will help

you serve Him (using Philippians 4:8 as a “filter” for what you should and should not think about). This requires you to set “guards” at the five entrance gates to your mind (i.e. your five senses – sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing). These guards must only allow things to pass that possess the Philippians 4:8 credentials (true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, morally excellent, praiseworthy). Then, when the devil is successful in getting something past your guards, you must quickly bring “every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

3) Resist temptation. As you practice a mindfulness about the spiritual dangers you face, you must be determined to resist Satan. Although controlling what enters your mind is a major part of defeating evil influences in your life, you will also reach many crossroads where you’ll either choose to go God’s way or Satan’s way. James 4:7 says, “Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” So, you will just have to say “No!” to Satan if you want to keep yourself spiritually healthy by exercising self-control and choosing God’s will over your own (like Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11).

4) Repent of the sin that is in your life. The point of washing your hands is to remove those things you have contacted that will harm you. Spiritually, this is equivalent to repentance. Although we’ll discuss all the things God requires for forgiveness in the future, recognize that God always requires repentance anytime there is sin (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3, 5). As we saw, James specifically instructed “sinners” to cleanse their hands and purify their hearts (James 4:8-9). You must get rid of the sin in your life, mourning over the sin you committed, determining not to practice it any longer, and choosing to live for God. You will simply never be able to live a spiritually healthy life as long as you continue in sin!

You must constantly watch out for the ways Satan is trying to contaminate your soul! He knows that it only takes something “little” to get started (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Then, as he slowly weakens your spiritual immune system, you will allow him to impact your life in even more significant ways. So, you must shut the door on him. Wash your hands often, keeping his wicked

influences at bay in your life and turning away from any sins you have practiced!

Article 6

Protect Yourself With God's Armor

Sometimes, the best way to protect yourself and others from spreading viruses is to use some kind of protective covering. This is certainly why doctors and nurses use masks, gloves, and gowns. They do not want to get infected by any of the sick they contact and do not want to spread any possible contaminants to others. In the same way, Christians will want to do everything they can to cover themselves in this sin-sick world so they do not become contaminated or contaminate anyone else with sin. Thankfully, God has given us the perfect personal protective equipment to be successful!

1) God has given you spiritual protection for a spiritual war. The greatest danger we face during our earthly lives is not any of the physical, social, or economic ills that may plague our world. Instead, it is sin! This is because sin is a spiritual problem that impacts where people spend eternity. Ephesians 6:12-13 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand." The devil and his army is at work to defeat you and every person on this earth. Thankfully, God has provided spiritual armor that will help us survive these attacks!

2) You must cover yourself with all the protection to be successful. Listen to Ephesians 6:10-11. "Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil." And, we saw verse 13 instruct to "take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared

everything, to take your stand.” Notice the emphasis God places on the “full armor” He has provided. Putting on (and using) the full set of personal protective equipment God has given you to survive this war is essential to defeating the enemy! For, you must recognize that Satan and his army is too strong for you to survive without it all. They will find where you are vulnerable and attack you if you neglect any piece. However, if you put on the entire set of armor God has provided, He assures that you will be able to “stand against the schemes of the devil” and “resist in the evil day” Satan and his allies attack! You will overcome them by the Lord’s vast strength!

3) Putting on God’s personal protective equipment. Now that you understand why you should put on the personal protective equipment God has provided for you, you must actually put it on. The various components are identified in Ephesians 6:14-18. “Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.” Each piece must be put on carefully and prayerfully every day! None are insignificant.

The protection God has provided is more than sufficient for keeping yourself from sin. Then, whenever you are protected in this way, you can help others recover from sin through Jesus Christ and fight against Satan and his allies. But, you cannot leave any piece of God’s armor off and still expect to be successful. Truth, righteousness, readiness for the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer. With these, you will be fully equipped in your fight against Satan and his army of evil!

Cover Sinful Influences In Your Life

Your concern with sin should not just be about yourself. Rather, you should also desire to help other people avoid sin in their lives. So, you should do whatever you can to not allow Satan to use your life to spread sin. Just like you should cover your coughs and sneezes when you are sick to stop your germs from spreading to others, you must cover all the ways Satan wants to spread sin through your life.

1) You can contribute to sin spreading. We have previously seen how Satan can use people to spread sin from person to person. And, you must recognize that Satan's use of people is *not* limited to the worst sinners. Instead, He can even use people who are generally good, moral people to spread sin. Consider the example of Peter. In Matthew 16:21-23, Peter is seen as tempting Jesus. And, it is likely that Peter did not even fully realize that this is what was happening until Jesus told him, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you're not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns." Then, Galatians 2 records another situation involving Peter when the apostle Paul opposed Peter to the face for his hypocrisy (verses 11-14). But, it was not just Peter who was impacted by this hypocrisy. Rather, "the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy" (verse 13). So, just like Peter, you can also lead others into sin if you are not careful.

2) Don't cover your light and let darkness spread. When Jesus spoke of letting your light shine in Matthew 5:14-16, He spoke of lighting a lamp. Verse 15 says, "No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house." Satan does not want you to spread the light of God's righteousness in this world. Instead, He wants you to cover your light – whether because of fear, embarrassment, or some other reason. And, when he can convince you to cover your light, the next step is to use you to spread darkness. You see, if you

are not devoted to letting God use your life for good Satan will use it for evil!

3) Cover darkness and let your light shine! Listen to Jesus's full instructions in Matthew 5:14-16. "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." That is, Jesus expects His people to be devoted to what is good and to use their lives to God's glory, helping others learn and obey the way of truth and righteousness! Whenever people see your life, they should see a good example that helps them follow Jesus Christ rather than a negative example that pulls people into sin. For, you must view every member of your body as an instrument (tool) to accomplish God's righteousness rather than one to spread unrighteousness (Romans 6:12-13).

It is a serious reality: Your influence will either be used by God to influence people to glorify Him and do what is right *or* by Satan to influence people to sin against God and please themselves. Therefore, if you are truly devoted to stopping the spread of sin throughout this world, you will start by covering any evil influence in your own life. Put off all the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light in your own life (Romans 13:11-14)!

Article 8

Clean And Disinfect

While we have looked at several strategies to protect yourself and others from the spread of sin throughout this series, we have not yet identified how you and others can be cleansed of the sin that has already been committed. Just like people clean and disinfect various surfaces and items inside their homes to kill any germs that have gained access, those who want to be right with God must kill any sin that has impacted their lives. And, those who

have found forgiveness of their sins should also want others to find the same forgiveness.

1) The cleansing power of Jesus's blood. Ultimately, there is only one thing powerful enough to eliminate the sin you have committed. The stain of sin is so terrible in God's sight that you cannot possibly take it away by yourself. However, Jesus's blood is powerful enough to cleanse you from your sin! 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, "For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb." Jesus said His blood is "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). He was the perfect lamb sent from God to take away "the sins of the world" (John 1:29).

2) How to obey the gospel of Christ. While Jesus's blood is strong enough to remove the stain of sin, He has required people to obey Him to experience this salvation. Hebrews 5:9 says that He (Jesus) "became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ (the good news that is contained in Jesus's law of the New Testament) is necessary. Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek."

To have your sins forgiven and be saved, you must hear God's word (Romans 10:17; Acts 18:8), believe in Jesus (John 8:24; Romans 10:9-10), repent of your sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed in water, Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21). Then, you must live faithfully to the Lord (Revelation 2:10). However, if you start living as a Christian and go back into sin, the gospel also describes what must be done to get back into a right relationship with God and have your sins forgiven again. You must repent of your sins (Acts 8:22), confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9), and ask God to forgive you (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

3) Disinfect others by spreading the gospel of Christ. It is the responsibility of those who have been obedient to the gospel

of Christ to spread that saving message to others so they can also hear, believe, and obey it and have their sins forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ! Jesus first commissioned His apostles, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). Today, those who have heard and obeyed the wonderful saving message of the gospel continue to have the responsibility to share that message with others (Romans 10:13-18; 2 Timothy 2:2)! In doing this, you can have the privilege of helping someone who is headed for eternal spiritual death in Hell to have eternal spiritual life in Heaven! There simply is no greater thing you can do for another person than this.

Sin is the worst “disease” to ever infect anyone. Thankfully, through Jesus Christ, there is a way to be saved from it. Not only must you take sin seriously so as to protect yourself and others against the spread of sin, but you must do what God has required so you will find salvation through Jesus Christ and help others do the same! Jesus is the Great Physician who has the one and only remedy to the problem of sin and can help you be effective in protecting yourself and others from the spread of sin.

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