

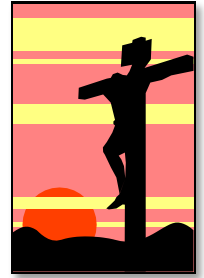
# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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**May 24, 2020**



*We love Him,  
because He  
first loved us.*  
- 1 John 4:19 -

## Whatever Happened to Sin?



**W**e live in a time where the word 'sin' has become conspicuously scarce if not totally absent. In our modern, enlightened, pluralistic society we seldom hear about people actually "sinning." And even in the religious world, theological syncretism has redefined sin, reducing it to mere maladies, disorders and syndromes. This is mainly due to the fact that modern man has audaciously declared his independence from God. In fact, he refuses to even acknowledge the existence of God. The reasoning logically follows: if there is no God then one could not possibly sin against God.

As Christians living in a secular society, we find ourselves in the unpopular position of believing in Jehovah God (the eternal, self-existent One) and in His holy word, preserved for us through the centuries in what we know as the Holy Bible. And sin is a predominant topic found in our Bibles. Both the old and new testaments are replete with references to sin.

A simple and general definition of sin is given in 1 John 5:17: "All unrighteousness (wrong doing) is sin." Another general definition is found in Romans 14:23: "...whatever is not from faith is sin." There is also the sin of omission: "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). And there is the sin of commission: "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). I prefer the King James Version rendering of this last verse: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law." The word translated sin means literally "to miss the mark." To transgress literally means "to go beyond," or to "overstep the boundary." This is an excellent depiction of what sin is.

Our gracious God has established boundaries and guidelines to govern our lives. Because God loves us and has our best interest at heart, He put these god-given boundaries in place for our good. But when we choose to overstep these boundaries or go beyond their God-given limits, we sin. Such is our plight! "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no not one'" (Romans 3:10). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And finally, "the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). Such is the human predicament! Sin is real! And sin can condemn us eternally!

While the world around us chooses to ignore sin and ridicule those who warn against its damaging influence and destructive consequences, God the Father takes sin very seriously. So much so that He sent his only begotten Son into the world to pay the penalty for our sin so that we could be saved and have eternal life with Him (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10). "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:2). Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for mankind (Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 2:3-6). The incredibly high cost of Christ's redemptive work on the cross should impress upon all of us the reality, seriousness and severity of sin.

— Terry Schmidt ✍

## Visits to Our Web Page

This Week: 3,184

This Month: 12,049



## "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -

**Hear the Gospel** - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31  
Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;  
Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;  
1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no  
other name under heaven given among men by  
which we must be saved."*

- Acts 4:12 -



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Brother Josiah Carelse & family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Corona Pandemic - its effect and overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - kidney disease; various health concerns
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Bill Ferrigno (friend of Terry S) - recently diagnosed with lymphatic cancer
- Sandy Gagnon - home now from Brigham & Women's hospital in Boston due to an elusive infection; on strong antibiotics; prayers needed & appreciated
- Glenda's aunts in California:
  - Mary Lou - kidney failure; now on dialysis
  - Sandra - recent shoulder surgery
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on left side of her neck causing pain; also lost her job due to the covid-19 virus
- Connie Henderson - diagnosed with a fast-growing ovarian cancer; recently completed 3 rounds of chemotherapy; chemo is working; white & red blood cells are in a normal range with cancer cells decreasing; this will most likely be followed by major surgery to physically remove the remaining cancer
- Ronnie Knoll (Sandy's stepson) - blood clot on his lung
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Debbie McGarey (mother-in-law of Terry & Betty's daughter, Becky) - stage 4 throat cancer; also recently fell and broke her hip
- Pat Miller - being treated for diverticulitis
- George Nick - family issues & concerns
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy - back home now, but in severe pain; pain meds being administered intravenously; prayers needed for him and his family as his health declines
- Wayne Sampson - recovering from surgery on right shoulder & a torn right bicep tendon; suffering with severe bursitis hip pain; a recent cortisone shot has brought some needed pain relief; also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- Please pray for our nation - (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place

*"Pray without ceasing."* — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## News & Notes:

- ⇒ Brother Paul Bullock will be at the building on Sunday morning at 9:30 for Bible study and 10:30 for those who may desire to worship and partake of the Lord's Supper.
- ⇒ This week's sermon: **"The Deadly Disease of Sin"** can be viewed by going to our web page at: [www.southernmainecofc.com/](http://www.southernmainecofc.com/) Click on "Sermons." There are also other sermons available for you to view.



Our brother **Paul Cote** is observing a birthday on Saturday, May 30th. We hope your special day is enjoyable and memorable! ☺



*George & Catherine — May 31st*

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