

The Serious Nature of Sin

Scripture

“Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” (Matthew 18:7-9 NKJV)

Commentary

The word “Woe” is an exclamation of grief. The sentiment is directed toward the man by whom offenses comes. So serious is the nature of this exclamation that Jesus says it would be better to cut off your foot or hand than to allow them to be instruments of sin. He even says it would be better to pluck out your eye than to be cast into hell fire.

The inescapable truth here is that sin has terrible consequences. People who die in their sins will spend an eternity in a place designed to torture the devil. Woe to those people! May all of us never allow sin to grow in our lives! Make no provisions for the flesh.

It was sin that crucified the Lord Jesus. The God of creation had to come and die to redeem us with His blood. Yet, we sometimes treat sin like it is not a dangerous thing. Friends, sin is like a tiger; keep it at bay and you are OK, but the minute you turn your back to it, it will kill you.

Today you have a choice to make. Choose to serve God and not your lusts. If you belong to Christ, then you have power over sin. You are no longer its slave. You are a slave of righteousness. Cast off those things that cause you to stumble. You likely know what triggers your sin. Avoid those things. Make a conscience effort to live victoriously depending upon the grace of God.

Prayer

Father, keep us from temptation today. Show us where we are likely to stumble that we might avoid those situations. Remind us always of the serious nature of sin, amen.