

Seeing Sin Seriously

Introduction

1. The above title is very close to the title of one of Wendell Winkler's workbooks. If we all exercised the ability to see sin seriously, a great many problems in the church would be solved.
2. The Book of Leviticus should cause its readers to see sin seriously.
 - a. Key words in the Book of Leviticus: "holiness" is found 87 times. The words sin and uncleanness are used 194 times in various forms. "Blood" as a means of cleansing occurs 89 times, and "atonement" is found at least 45 times.
 - b. Frank Dunn, author of *Know Your Bible*, states that a main purpose of Leviticus is to "show that God is holy and that man is sinful and must continually return to God for cleansing and forgiveness."

I. How God Sees Sin

- A. God sees situations differently from man (1 Samuel 16:7). Man may view sin as fun or exciting, but God sees its true horrors.
- B. The various verses below from Leviticus[√] provide insight on God's view of sin.

Sins of ignorance were taken seriously (Leviticus 4:1-7 & 5:15-19).

Collective (group) sins were taken seriously (Leviticus 4:13-18).

Ignorant sins of the Ruler were taken seriously (Leviticus 4:22-25).

Aaron's sins were of great importance (Leviticus 9:7-12).

Ignorant sins of the commoners were taken seriously (Leviticus 4:27-30).

Public sins were taken seriously (Leviticus 5:1, 6-9).

Sins against neighbors were taken seriously (Leviticus 6:2-7).

--

A plethora of laws (Leviticus 7:1, 7, 37) governing trespass offerings (Leviticus 5:19), sin offerings (Leviticus 6:25), peace offerings (Leviticus 7:11), etc. shows that **God Sees Sin Seriously**.

II. Leprosy And Sin

- A. The type-and-shadow (Hebrews 10:1) can be described as an Old Testament picture of a New Testament reality.
- B. Gaddys Roy in his book, *Types and Shadows*, gives the following chart showing how leprosy is a type (picture) of sin.

Leprosy, A Type Of Sin

1. Leprosy was treated not only as a disease but as uncleanness (Lev. 13).
1. Sin is a disease and uncleanness of soul (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:22).

[√]Verses are taken from Bible Reading schedule which has one reading Leviticus chapters 4-16 in week 6.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Leprosy dwells in the corruption and impurity of the blood. | 2. Sin dwells in moral defilement. |
| 3. Leprosy was a disease for which there was no human cure (2 Kings 5:7). | 3. Sin has no human cure (Mk. 2:5-7; Eph. 2:8, 9; Heb. 9:15). |
| 4. Leprosy is contagious. | 4. Sin is contagious (1 Cor. 15:33). |
| 5. Leprosy is of a spreading nature. | 5. Sin is of a spreading nature (2 Tim. 3:13). Sin affects body, soul, and spirit. |
| 6. Leprosy is painful and loathsome. | 6. Sin is a hard master (Prov. 13:15). |
| 7. Lepers were excluded from the healthy (Lev. 13:45, 46). | 7. Sinners are separated from God (Isa.59:1,2). |
| 8. Leprosy, uncured, terminates in death. | 8. Sin, when finished, terminates in spiritual death (Jas. 1:13-15). |
| 9. Jesus healed those with leprosy who came to Him (Matt. 8:1-4; Lk. 17:11-19). | 9. Jesus will save sinners who come to Him. |
| 10. A person cleansed from leprosy had to offer for his cleansing (Lev. 14:1-22). | 10. To be cleansed from sin, we must obey the law of Christ. |
| 11. The priest had the authority to pronounce a leper clean (Lev. 14:1-22). | 11. Jesus, our High Priest, has power to forgive sin when we obey Him. |

III. Application For Us

- A. God never excuses sin or treats it lightly; neither should we.
1. The preacher who studies Leviticus will boldly declare the dangers of sin.
 2. The elderships who study Leviticus will boldly stand up to sin.
 - a. They will not excuse sin by saying, "That's the way it has always been," or "That's just human nature."
 - b. They will not adopt the idea that they have to "put up" with transgression.
 3. Parents who study Leviticus will defend their families from sin and temptation.
 - a. They will not excuse sin as just a part of "being young."
 - b. Instead of *hoping* for their children to get better when they get older, parents will teach and show their children the better way now.
 4. Members who study Leviticus will stand up against sin and demand the same from other church members. Instead of getting mad and quitting the church, members will grow in the knowledge of the Lord.
- B. How do you view sin? It is something to be taken care of not tucked away. When guilty of sin, we must repent not retreat.
- C. The devil wants us to cozy up to sin, but we cannot afford to become comfortable with its poison.
- D. When we see sin the way God sees sin, the church will be more acceptable to our Father.