

It Is Written

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“SIN IS A WOUND”

By Jarrod Jacobs

In Micah 1:9, we read the comparison of the nation’s sin to a wound. This is not unique to Micah, for his contemporary, Isaiah, used a similar description of sin in Isaiah 1:5-6. We also see this in Nahum 3:19 and Jeremiah 15:18. Thus, the term “wound” was common in the Old Testament when speaking of sin.

The word “wound” is defined as a blow, plague, or defeat. I have found some who say it implies that one would be struck dead! In other words, this is a significant wound under consideration! When speaking about sin, Micah was not talking about a pin-scratch! Sin is a wound that leads to death. We see this same teaching in Isaiah 1 as well!

When we hear men speak about sin (how often is that?), are we hearing them speak of sin in such terms as “wounds”? It seems we don’t sin anymore in our society. We have diseases, addictions, conditions, afflictions, compulsions, and the like, but it seems there is no sin anymore! What has happened?

The Bible tells us that “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). James says that sin is a result of our being tempted and yielding to our lusts (desires) when we know we ought not (Jas. 1:14-15). When we sin, it brings harm to us. Sometimes, this harm is felt physically, but it is always felt spiritually! We are wounding ourselves when we sin and then continue in it. After a while, our sin affects others, and we can end up hurting other people with our sin!

If you are not sure about this, then please consider the harm that comes to a man or woman who is a drunk. Not only do they hurt themselves (Prov. 23:29-35), but they can ruin and wreck a family relationship! Gamblers who say their covetous acts and thievery are all “harmless” fun have gambled away paychecks, houses, cars, and yes, even people at times (Rom. 13:9)! Look at the lives destroyed by those who do drugs. How many will sell their bodies just to have another “hit” (Heb. 13:4)? How many drug users steal from friends and family to get another “high”? Is sin really nothing? Is it really harmless fun?

Sin in the form of false doctrine is also just as damaging (II Pet. 2:1-3). In Peter’s second letter, he warns of false teaching and talks about the “judgment” and “damnation” that awaits those guilty. Is it any wonder that Old Testament writers like Micah, Isaiah, Nahum, and Jeremiah equate sin with devastating and fatal wounds? Friends, are we paying attention?

Satan wants to convince us that sin is a joke, a fairy tale, or something to scare little kids at night. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Sin is real, and it is fatal! The soul who sins shall die is what we are taught in Ezekiel 18:20. James 1:15 also says that death is the result of sin. It sounds to me like the wounds of sin cause real damage in the lives of those who live in it. No wonder Jeremiah asks about “balm in Gilead” (Jer. 8:22)! How long are you going to continue to deny how harmful sin really is? How long will you fool yourself into thinking that sin is nothing?

When God described sin as a wound, you can rest assured, this was an accurate statement! It is a fatal wound if left untreated. Thankfully, there is a treatment. There is “balm.” There is a cure. This cure is the blood of Christ (I Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 26:28; Rev. 1:5). The blood of Christ can wash away our sins! It can make us pure and whole again. How can we receive the benefit from the blood? This happens when we accept the Lord’s plan of salvation (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16)! When we do things the

Lord's way, He, the Great Physician, can forgive our sins and treat the horrible wounds. We can be cured and reconciled to God through Christ (II Cor. 5:17-20). Would you like to have this? Why are you waiting? Why spend one more day with these wounds when Christ can heal you?

God's Word: Can You Put Up With It?

By Steve Klein

Have you ever had a boss, or a teacher or a parent who got under your skin by constantly pointing out your faults, correcting you, and demanding that you do better? If so, you may have found the situation very hard to put up with, especially if you were not personally motivated to perform well in your role as employee, student or child. Most of us have a hard time putting up with correction and criticism unless we have a deep desire to improve.

It takes a little courage and determination to continue to look into the mirror every morning and see the numerous aspects of our appearance that need attention. It would be easier to forego this morning ritual and just go about the day "as is." (From the looks of things, I think that this must actually be the approach that a few young people in our society are taking.) Even so, it takes some determination to continue looking into the word of God and allowing it to criticize and correct us. Like a mirror, the word of God reflects back to us images of our imperfections (James 1:23-25). It is critical of us and it demands improvement. But unless we want to improve, we won't put up with it for long -- we will either stop looking into it, or we will purposely put out of our minds the glaring faults it reveals.

In Hebrews 13:22 the inspired writer appeals to brethren to "bear with the word of exhortation." The phrase "bear with" is translated from a Greek word that means to "put up with...endure, forbear, suffer" (Strong's Dictionary).

Is there a Bible passage that causes you to cringe every time the preacher refers to it? Is there a verse that you don't like to think about because when you do it makes you feel guilty or uncomfortable? Are there parts of God's word that you have a hard time putting up with? If so, you have three choices: You can stop looking, you can choose to forget what you see, or you can decide that you want to improve yourself and become fit for the kingdom of heaven.

Love Does Not Boast

By Boyd Jennings

Love will not allow us to talk about ourselves in such a way as to make others feel inferior.

In the Corinthian church, some members were bragging about the spiritual gift they had as if they were the source of it. Paul reminded them, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1 Cor. 4:7)

There is modest quality about love that refuses to brag. A person who loves is more aware of his own unworthiness than of his merit.

When we consider that God loves even us, with all our imperfections, then His love will be a controlling factor to prevent us from boasting (2 Cor. 5:14).

The boaster is "all about" himself. The one who loves is interested in others.

Who is a boaster? The psalmist put it bluntly, an arrogant evildoer (Psa. 94:4). The only exception is when one boasts in what the Lord has done (Psa. 34:2).

So, boast continually of God's wonderful works. Read the Scriptures and talk about what He has done and will do. Praise His name forever (Psa. 44:8).