

## The Physics and Definition of Sin, Repentance and Forgiveness

Sin is a broad subject with a lot to talk about. I don't want to talk about sin without talking about repentance. I don't want to talk about repentance without talking about forgiveness. The few things I want to cover are:

- Types of sins and their definitions
- Repentance and its definition
- Types of forgiveness and their definitions
- Physics of sin, repentance and forgiveness
- What defines sin
- We sin less than we think

If you do not understand something I'm saying, please ask. The concept may be hard to grasp at first but it will change how you see yourself and your life when you do.

### **The Types of Sin and their Definitions**

The three types of sin are chatah (חטאת, חטא, חטאה), avan (עון), and p'sha (פשע).

#### **Chatah – חטאתה**

Chatah literally means 'to miss the mark' or goal. Let's say you just bought a shiny new pistol and want to become proficient at shooting it. You've never handled one, it doesn't feel right in your hand and it scares you a little. If you want to change that, you need to go to the range and practice. So you go to the range and set up your target 10 yards out. Pistol in hand, you aim, squeeze the trigger and, to your disappointment, miss the bull's-eye. You're new at this and it doesn't bother you too bad. The more you practice, the better you get. The better you get, the more frustrated you will be when you miss. Missing is not usually intentional. You might chalk it up to not trying hard enough, or being out of practice, or your sites being off.

This is the concept of chatah sin. New believers tend to miss the mark more than experienced believers. Experience believers tend to be harder on themselves when they sin. They tend to get frustrated and say things like, "If only I try harder", "I haven't been spending enough time in the Word lately", and "I've lost my focus". It's unreasonable to shoot yourselves in the foot every time you miss the bull's-eye, it would make you lame. In like manner we shouldn't beat ourselves up when we accidentally sin. Repent and move on; keep practicing.

Who is the goal?

Rom 10:4

4 For Christ is the end (goal) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

And what is the Messiah?

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Messiah is the Word of God in the flesh. We are to strive to be like Jesus who is without sin. When we chatah sin, we are striving to be like the Messiah but have fallen short. If we dwell on these sins, we are making them our focus. When they become our focus, we are no longer focused on our Messiah, the goal. When we are no longer focused on the Messiah, our sin has become a stumbling block and we are more likely to miss the mark next time or in other areas.

This type of sin is generally translated as 'sin' and is the most common form of sin in the Body of Messiah.

#### **Avan – עון**

No, we are not talking about the Avon Company although some may consider it sinful. Literally it means 'twisted' or 'crooked'. This type of sin is done with prior knowledge or is what chatah sin becomes when it is made known and not followed by repentance (Lev 5:1). Conceptually, it is justification of wrongdoing by twisting. It is the opposite of righteousness which means to 'walk a straight path'. It's like stealing from the rich to give to the poor. It may be slander, but it's not murder. 'I did not have sex with that woman,' according to ol' Bill. Typically this is done for conscious sake or for the public eye.

This type of sin is mostly translated as fault, iniquity, mischief, pervert and sin.

### **P'sha – פשע**

This type of sin is rebellion against God or your neighbor. Pictographically it means to 'consume and destroy what is seen'. As an expression, it would be to 'break the yoke' of rulership or authority. Remember when Jesus said, 'Take my yoke upon you and learn for me for I am gentle and humble in spirit and in my yoke you will find rest for your soul.' (Matt 11:29)? This yoke is the teachings and doctrines of mankind or God. Just as an ox can only wear one yoke, we can only embrace the instruction of God or the instruction of man (Matt 6:24). Jesus is telling us to embrace his instruction, that it is the only place where rest for your soul can be found. In other words, 'the instruction of men will enslave you but my instruction will make you free because they are for your good'.

When p'sha sin is committed, it is rebellion against God. "I don't have to obey you God, I know better." It is the younger brother demanding his inheritance and going out into the world to do things his way in the story of the Prodigal Son. It is the weightiest form of sin in that the offender wants people to see and know his offence.

This type of sin is typically translated as rebellion, sin, transgress, trespass, offend, rebel and revolt.

## **Repentance and its Definition**

### **Shuv – שוב**

The concept of repent is to 'return to where you came from'. I.e. you are turning away from where you are going back to where you were going. The place you return to is the path of righteousness. It's like when you and a friend are going home for a party on New Years Eve in a snowstorm. You can't see the road, it's dark and snowing to beat sixty. Next thing you know, a sign pops in the middle of the road. You scream, your friend screams and you realize you're no longer on the road. You veer to the left and are relieved that you didn't get stuck in the ditch. It takes a bit of breathing to calm your elevated heart rate but you're still on your way home.

Pictographically, shuv is to 'press towards home'. Repentance isn't simply a turning away from sin but a striving towards God. In Hebrew thought, in order to build a house, a man must first take a wife. Jesus is our home and his instruction the path that leads us there. Following his directions will lead us to his house, but relationship is what invites us in. That is why salvation and condemnation are not products of works; they are products of relationship or lack thereof. This is why we have religious people who will be turned away at the judgment because 'I never knew you' (Matt 7:23).

Shuv is typically translated as return, restore, go back and a lot more similar terms in the OT and repent in the NT.

## **Types of Forgiveness and their Definitions**

### **Salach – סלח**

Pictographically, salach is to 'take hold of the leader for protection'. The simech (ס) is a thorn which is to 'take hold', the lamed (ל) is a shepherd's staff which is 'leader' and the chet (ח) is a wall which is 'protection'. When we take hold of God, we become his servants and are inside his wall of protection. If we do not take hold of God, we are not his servants and

outside his wall of protection where the workers of iniquity, murders, and idolaters are (Luke 13:27, Rev 22:15).

This can be seen in the parable of the man whose debt was forgiven but did not forgive another's debt to him.

Matt 18:22-35

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'

34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

The literal meaning of this word is to 'lift out of debt'. Conceptually, it is as the parable portrays: a petitioning of the one in debt to the one he is in debt to or one greater for mercy. If mercy is shown, deserved judgment is withheld. If mercy is not shown, the debt must be paid or a just punishment rendered.

When we sin, we become in debt or servants to sin. We cannot deliver ourselves from sin because we are not able to repay the debt. Because sin, like the wicked servant, will not forgive us our debt, we must petition to one greater, God, who is able to and has delivered us from our debt to sin hence making us free.

Rom 6:20-23

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become servants of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In regards to the sin and trespass offerings, only chatah - accidental sin is salach - forgiven (Lev 4:20, 26, 31, 35, 5:10, 13, 16, 18, 6:7).

This word is typically translated as forgive and pardon.

**Nasa – נשא**

You could say that this is what our space program is named after though most likely unintentionally. Nasa literally means to 'lift' in a variety of applications. It can be to carry or lift a burden, a cloud or lifting of smoke, lifting up of a person such as a leader, a lifting of a standard or flag wherein one can find refuge or safety. The context of the verse determines whether it means forgive, guilty or other; it depends on who is bearing the burden.

This is where the concept of sin 'weighing you down' comes from. When we do not repent, we bear or carry our sin.

Lev 5:17

17 And if a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear (נשא) his iniquity.

When we repent, someone else bears our sin hence our sin and the burden thereof is removed. This type of forgiveness was done on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur.

Lev 16:21-22

21 Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 The goat shall bear (נשא) upon itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

In this way avon - iniquity sin and p'sha - rebellious sin are forgiven. Note that even though this process removed sin, it did not pay the debt for these two types of sin. This was done by the Messiah who came later.

John 1:29

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away (αιρω, נשא) the sin of the world!

John was a priest after the lineage of Aaron. Jesus, like the scapegoat, took our sin upon himself, was led into the wilderness, and died. But unlike the scapegoat, he also paid our debt to sin because he is God and he said he would.

Ex 34:5-9

6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the

LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving (נשא) iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

8 And Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

9 And he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon (סלה) our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

(Happened right after the golden calf. Moses reminded God of this statement later in Numbers.)

Moses petitions God to forgive the sins of Israel. This is very important. It establishes that our debt to sin is and always has been paid by petition. The purpose of the sin and trespass offerings is to physically remove that sin. We will look at this a little more in depth in a moment. First, lets tie this up as to why Jesus' death both removed and paid the debt for our sin.

Matt 26:28

28 For this is My blood of the *new* covenant, which is shed for many for the remission (סלה) of sins.

Jer 31:31-34

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--  
32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his

brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive (סלח) their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

This is the covenant Jesus initiated. We have yet to enter into verse 34 which will happen upon Jesus' return. Our debt will be paid and we will be set free not simply from sin, but from our sinful nature which is what the blood of animals doesn't have the ability to do. Also notice, p'sha sin is not mentioned in these verses meaning the (unrepented) rebellious will not be part of his eternal kingdom.

This word is typically translated as bear, lift up, forgive, laded and carry.

### **Physics of Sin, Repentance and Forgiveness**

Most people think of sin as a spiritual condition. They think that if there is no God, there is no sin. If sin is a spiritual condition, it is relative and can be spiritualized away. Sin, however, is most often a physical condition. Sin is literally corruption that has entered the body. We call it bad health, disease, old age and a host of other things but these conditions are not always the result of personal sin. It can be something we do to ourselves, to other people or to nature.

Before sin, everything was perfect. This concept of perfect, in Hebrew, is tov (טוב) which means complete in the sense of functioning properly. Hence the reason why at the end of the day, God said it was good. It was complete or perfect. That is why at the end of the sixth day, he said it was very good or all complete.

In the garden, there was a tree of knowledge which produced fruit that contained the seeds of both good, tov (טוב), and evil, ra (רע). Now, if tov means complete, take a guess at what ra means? It means to 'destroy', 'ruin', or 'break' that which is complete or to make dysfunctional. It is better known as corruption and scientifically as entropy which is part of the second Law of Thermodynamics.

Seth was created after the image of Adam (Gen 5:3). What this tells us is that this seed that has the nature of both good and evil is passed down to all mankind. This is why our flesh has to be reborn in the image of God; this corruption must be removed. There is no such thing as inherently good or inherently evil. Inherently, both natures exist in our body and are continually at war whether or not a person is a believer. That is why some people tend to do good while others tend to do evil. Either way, they are producing the fruit of the tree of knowledge. The tree of knowledge, however, is not the tree of life hence why our works can't save us or condemn us.

### **Physics of Sin**

Now that we have covered this, let's look at some examples. We are commanded to eat fruit whose seed is within itself.

Gen 1:29

29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

Hybrid fruit is quite common in our day. It does not contain seeds or if it does, those seeds are basically sterile. Studies show that hybrid plants have smaller pores in their and are unable to absorb vitamins and minerals properly. This results in food that has little to no value. In other words, it's basically worthless.

We are commanded not to crossbreed our plants.

Lev 19:19

19 "... You shall not sow your field with mixed seed ..."

In our day and age, it is hard to find food that isn't crossbred. Studies show that crossbred grains and fruits have their caveats though they offer initial positives such as disease and insect resistance, larger size, yield and color, etc. Additionally, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are becoming the staple form of food used to feed the world. GMO goes

way beyond simply crossbreeding. Genes from bacteria and viruses are inserted into the DNA of seeds to mutate them and bring out desired qualities. Scientists who produced these mutations warned of the health risks before their company's product was introduced to the farming industry. Now that these seeds are commonplace and preferred, further studies have been conducted and show reproductive disorders, immune system damage, accelerated aging, organ and digestive problems, and dysfunctional regulation of insulin and cholesterol related to GMO foods. People who have switched to a non-GMO diet have often recovered from most of the health problems they were having related to GMO foods.

We are commanded not wear clothes made from both wool and linen.

Lev 19:19

19 ". . . Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you . . ."

Studies show that wool produces a frequency that is medically proven to treat asthma, high blood pressure, menopause complications, diabetes and a whole host of other conditions. It is good for maintaining a constant body temperature and promotes circulation. Linen produces a frequency that complements the human cellular structure. This is why it is used in surgical settings. It promotes healing, reduces pain, is anti-bacterial, protects against solar radiation and many more things. When these two materials are combined, their frequencies cancel each other out hence no healing properties. Some studies even suggest that, combined, they produce a destructive frequency which would degrade our health.

We are commanded to rest on the Sabbath.

Ex 20:8-11

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,  
10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger

who is within your gates.

11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Most often we think of circadian rhythm as relating to our daily life and sleep. Our body also has a weekly circadian rhythm that runs on a seven day cycle. Medical studies suggest that there are both short and long term mental and physical consequences for not resting once every seven days. The same thing has been found in animals.

We are commanded to only eat mammals that chew the cud and have a split hoof.

Lev 11:3

3 Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud -- that you may eat.

There is an anatomical difference between these animals and other animals. Animals that chew the cud and have split hooves have three stomachs that purify their food. It takes over 24 hours for them to digest their food. During that time, poisons, toxins and other harmful substances are removed from the food while the vitamins and minerals are absorbed. These animals also eat only herbs, fruits and vegetables. Animals that don't chew the cud and have a split hoof process their food in a shorter amount of time, usually much shorter. Their digestive system also works differently absorbing poisons, toxins, parasites and other harmful substances. These types of animals also tend to eat and re-eat anything and everything. In short, they were created to clean the earth and/ or other purposes.

Every commandment has a practical and physical application. The studies and research I presented were conducted by people and institutions that were not out to prove the Bible. Most are probably not even aware of what the Bible says on their subject of research. I could talk about circumcision, menstruation, what it means to be unclean, eating blood, incest, the circadian rhythm of plants and animals, blessing and cursing, sexual sins, mold, murder, reaping and gleaning, and so on,

but I want to take time to talk about the physics of repentance and forgiveness.

### Physics of Forgiveness

We are often told that the Law of Moses is divided into moral, civil and ceremonial commandments. There is no such division. It has only been within the last 100 years that science has begun to be able to explain the physics of things God has known all along. To start, let's look at a verse most of us are probably familiar with.

Gen 4:10

10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

God sounds like he is being poetic. Remember the [first dimension](#), that the word of God is literal? This is no exception. All of us use a computer. Computers store information on a hard drive. A hard drive is a metal disk where a frequencial code is written. We are able to retrieve this code and translate it into something we can relate to with our senses.

Scientists have found that sound frequency is recorded on an atomic level. The more dense the material, the better able it is to record sound. Our blood is full of metals; it is the second densest tissue in our body after our bones. They have been working on extracting and decoding these frequencies and last I heard, have been able to take someone's blood and play back the sound from last ten minutes of that person's life.

Now God, being the creator of all these things, all ready knows the code and knows how to play it back. Do you realize the possibilities of unlocking this code? This means that we could go to Mount Sinai, take a rock, and play back the spoken words of God when he declared the Ten Commandments.

### Kippur – כפר

The Hebrew word kippur (כפר) pictographically means to 'put a hand on the head and confess'. It is commonly translated as atonement, pardon, purge, cleansed, forgiven and cover. It is where we get the English word 'cap' from and why we wear it on our head or put it on the top of a container. Whenever the sin and trespass offering was performed, part of the procedure was to place a hand on the head of the animal and confess the sin.

1 Tim 5:22

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

Our hands are transmitters and our head, where 20% of our blood is at any given moment, is a receiver. When we place our hands on somebody and speak, a frequency is generated and transmitted. When a priest or the person who sinned put his hand on the head of an animal and confessed his sin, that sin, or corruption, is literally transferred to that animal. That animal is then killed and his blood, which receives the corruption, is emptied upon the earth. The rest of the animal is consumed with fire (Lev 4:1-12).

The last state of entropy is heat. When the animal is consumed, it is transformed into heat energy and dissipates into the atmosphere. This is an aspect of nasa forgiveness in the form of 'lifting up of smoke'. Our sin is literally removed from us and consumed. Though this word is not used when talking about the sin and trespass offering, it is implied by the action. God takes no delight in the slaughtering of innocent animals; he desires mercy over sacrifices and obedience over repentance (Hos 6:6). Yet he knows the physics of the universe and how what he created works. This is why the earth will one day be consumed in fire. All the corruption will one day be consumed and removed leaving behind a world free from corruption; Eden before sin.

The God we serve, the Creator of heaven, earth and all that is therein does not require, ask or even want people to engage in vain, meaningless, empty, mindless rituals. Everything he asks us to do and not to do, every form of worship and praise, every act of love has a practical purpose, which leads me into my next point.

## What Defines Sin

Deut 32:46-47

46 and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe -- all the words of this law.

47 For it is not a vain thing for you, because it is your life, and through this thing you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

Sin is the transgression of the commandments of God.

1 John 3:4

4 Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

KJV

There are generally four sources that are used to define sin:

1. Torah or Law of Moses which is the first five books of the Bible
2. Gospels
3. Apostolic scriptures
4. Doctrine
5. We don't really know but we think . . . and then make something up that sounds religious

## Torah

Most people don't use the Torah as the source which defines sin, including Judaism. Torah is better defined as 'instruction'. The reason it is translated into Law in English is because of the Greek step. In Greek, nomos, law, means instruction. In English, law means red and blue lights, the fuzz is coming to get you.

Literally, Torah means the 'direction one is to walk in life'. Remember, righteousness means to 'walk a strait path'. Pictographically, it means 'Behold, the firstborn nailed to a cross'. Firstborn is the raysh (ר) which

first appears in Gen 1:1 and is a title for Jesus. This is another reason why John said, 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' (John 1:14). Jesus is the physical embodiment of the Word of God.

Torah has a sister named Morah (מורה). Morah is an archer. Remember, chatah - sin means to 'miss the mark'? The Torah, if you will, is the bow and arrow that is used when aiming for the mark or goal which is Jesus.

Torah has another sister named Yarah (ירה) which means rain (as in water). Drought is caused by a lack of rain. When there is drought somewhere, it is usually an indication of the lack of the Word of God. That is why it didn't rain for three and a half years during Ahab's reign until Elijah cut the bull and gave the people an ultimatum of who they'd serve (1 Kings 18:21).

Torah has an uncle named Y'ar (יאר) which means river. What is a river but life? Every river has a source. The purest water you will find is at the headwaters of a river. As a river flows down stream, things get added to it, fish/ life get taken out, it get polluted, turns color, and at its end is an ocean or body of salt water which will kill anyone who drinks too much of it.

We know that the source of the Word of God is God. His instructions are life. When we add to it or take away from it, it becomes polluted. The more polluted it becomes, the more toxic it becomes to the point where it can kill you. That is why he commands us:

Deut 12:32

32 "Whatever thing I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Why am I going through all this? God is so smart that he knew men would come along and intellectualize his word. So he embedded his word in things we can touch and feel and identify with. This is why most every child's first drawing is a picture of a house, a tree, the sun, grass and his family. This is why Paul says:



Rom 1:20

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:  
KJV

A picture is worth 1k words. This is why at its base, Hebrew is a pictographic language. The more you study Hebrew words and take them back to their mountaintop purest meaning, the more you will see a picture and be taken back by the simple yet profoundly detailed beauty of the Word of God. I'm trying to show you part of that picture hoping you can see what I see.

In total, there are traditionally 613 commandments. I haven't taken the time to go through and personally count them all. Many commandments are gender specific, job specific or disease specific.

## Gospels

The gospels contain the words and life of Jesus yet you will not find any commandments in them that aren't found in the Torah. Why?

John 14:6-21

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.  
7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."  
8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."  
9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?  
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak of Myself; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.  
11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.  
12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works

that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever --

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Almost like a tongue twister for the mind. Jesus wouldn't have added or taken away anything from the Torah for several reasons:

1. He is the Torah made flesh like we talked about earlier.
2. The Torah says not to add to it or take away from it. In other words, it is perfect. If Jesus would have added or taken away from it, he would have been breaking Torah and thereby have sinned thus he wouldn't have been without sin which carries a whole host of negative ramifications. He was accused of this several times by the religious leaders and this is what he has to say:

Matt 5:17-19

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

To fulfill is a Hebrew expression which means 'rightly interpret'. If scripture was incorrectly interpreted, it was called 'destroying'.

3. Physics don't change. Like we looked at earlier, the commandments in Torah are for physical reasons even if we aren't able to understand them yet. Jesus didn't come to restore all things the first time he was here, he came to bring redemption. When he comes again, it will be to bring reconciliation. Some time after that there will be restoration and even then, physics won't change; the corruption factor will be removed.

### **Apostolic Scriptures**

The apostolic scriptures were not meant to be a source of commandments yet they are the primary source for the majority of doctrine. This is one reason why there are so many denominations. One day, we will have Q and A with Paul and he'll exclaim, 'You said I said what?!?'. Peter says this very well:

2 Peter 3:15-16

15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

For example, some people use Paul's dialog about long hair and head coverings to shape their whole way of life. In short, the people of Corinth worshiped Aphrodite by cross-dressing. The believers of Corinth were divided about what constituted cross-dressing and therefore should not

be done by believers. Paul explains the pagan practice and sums it all up by saying:

1 Cor 11:16

16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

Another example is when Paul said:

Rom 3:10

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:  
KJV

What does this mean? From this one verse stems all sorts of doctrine that basically causes us to look at ourselves as worthless sinners. It is used to motivate people to perform penance by crawling up steps until their knees bleed and other forms of self-mutilation. This is what I like to call 'sound-bite doctrine' where one verse is used in exclusion of all others to build whole doctrine. What does Jesus say on the matter?

Matt 23:35

35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Remember righteous means to 'walk a straight path'. If you veer of to the right or left, repent and get back on the path. In context, Paul is talking about fools and people who do not repent of their sin. Specifically, people who say in their heart there is no God. He is summarizing Ps 5, 14, 53, and Prov 1. Solomon says "A righteous person falls seven time and get back up again . . ." (Pr 24:16). When you look at it in its simplicity, it makes perfect sense that there is not a single righteous sinner. You are either a servant to sin, or a servant to righteousness; you cannot serve both masters.

How many times have you heard the sound-bite that we shouldn't forsake the assembling of ourselves together? Has that statement been

used to encourage people or to tear people down for not going to church?

Heb 10:25

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Most often that middle part of the verse is omitted where we are to encourage one another. Moreso, who was the apparent audience? Hebrews who had a prior knowledge of what is meant by 'assemble yourself together'.

Deut 16:16-17

16 Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.  
17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

Its not that we can't get together more often if we desire, but we are only required to do so three time a year. When we do get together, it should be for the purpose of encouraging, building one another up and glorifying God. This is why Jesus and his disciples and all the people were in Jerusalem for Passover. This is why the disciples were in the upper room on Pentecost and why Jews and proselytes from all over Rome were there to hear them (Acts 2:8-11). Remember, Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem. I.e. don't go anywhere between now and then (Luke 24:29, Acts 1:4). And this is why Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem for Tabernacles, the Feast of Booths.

When reading the Apostolic Scriptures, it is important to note who the author is writing too. The author may be writing to people who have prior understand and knowledge of the scriptures in which case he will not take time to establish the foundation upon which he is making his statement. This is how abstract thought in Hebrew is formed. A thought that is abstract with no foundation can be mean pretty much anything;

it's abstract. But abstract thought, built on a foundation, can only mean things that fall into the confines of that foundation.

## Doctrine

Doctrine is a belief held and taught by a religious entity and is not a source of commandments. They are partially commentary on the commandments but mostly other, extraneous stuff. Even though they can be helpful in understanding the commandments and give us different perspectives, they should never be held up as commandments yet this is what the various denominations do. This is the same thing Jesus dealt with the religious leaders of his day about.

Matt 15:3-9

3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?  
4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'  
5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" --  
6 then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.  
7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:  
8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.  
9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Judaism, which was basically created a few centuries before Jesus was born, upholds what is called 'Oral Torah'. According to their tradition, God spoke to Moses about things that Moses didn't write down but passed on to the leaders of Israel all the way down to the rabbis. The number one problem with this is Moses says differently.

Deut 30:11-14

11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.  
12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into

heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'  
13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'  
14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

You see, if we are required to go to someone else to understand the scriptures, then that person becomes god and we have no personal relationship with our Creator. This is the issue Jesus has with the Pharisees and Sadducees. This was the same issue Paul had with certain people coming into the Body saying 'You have to do this and that' for salvation. Eventually, those people took over and formed what is known as the Catholic Church and Orthodox Church from which most other denominations have come. They, like Judaism, think they have the power to change the written word of God and they do so liberally; this is the yoke we want to stay away from. This is why we think we sin more than we really do which is my last point.

### **We Sin Less than we Think**

This is kind of a hard point to address. Sin has become such an abstract word that it means different things to different people. If sin is a physical condition, like we have discussed, what must be done for something to be constituted as sin? An action must take place. James the brother of Jesus sums it up like this:

James 1:15  
15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

This is why Jesus spends so much time talking about our thoughts. Our thoughts are where our spirit battles with our flesh. It goes back to the principle of the seed. Temptation is a seed and our mind the field where it is planted. When that seed is planted, like a weed, it doesn't take much care to grow. Once it is grown, it produces fruit. Fruit is action. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, corruption entered their body. That corruption gives birth to desire which gives birth to sin which will eventually bring death.

This is why Jesus makes statements like, 'If a man looks upon a woman and lusts after her he commits adultery with her in his heart.' (Matt 5:28). Number one, he is referring back to David and Bathsheba but more importantly he's addressing the weight of our thoughts. We need to weed our thoughts and think on things that are good (Phil 4:8). Our thoughts are where we chop a tree down to the root (Matt 3:10). Its best to do this before it has a chance to bear its bad fruit which is the sin.

We can't avoid temptation, especially in our day and age; its everywhere. Temptation comes from anything we see and/ or hear. Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted yet did not sin (Heb 4:15). Dwelling on temptation is not sin. But if we entertain it until it becomes a desire or lust, it is like Eve holding the fruit in her hand drooling over it. She hadn't sinned yet but was imminently about to. She believed the lie that she couldn't touch the fruit. When she touched it and did not die, she reasoned that she could eat it and not die. You know what its like to be starving and walking into a kitchen with the sweet smell of food. All your senses, your entire focus turns to food. You're stomach begins to scream in a gravelly voice, "Feed me!" Any other fleshly appetite is no different. If we believe that these appetites are sinful when they are not, we will eventually reason that there is likewise no penalty when we feed them.

You can think about donuts all you want, but is that going to make you fat? No. You can think about sex all you want, but is that going to make anyone pregnant? No. Does that mean we should necessarily think about these things? No. Most of us get upset and repent for our thoughts. We are not commanded to repent for our thoughts because they are not sin. This is a problem because we usually end up tearing ourselves down for what we think about. I used to do this a lot but no so much any more because of a question Paul Nordvik asked me; thanks Paul. In your life, you need to discern what is temptation and what is sin. You may find that you don't sin as often as you think you do. When you do sin, you should be able to be specific in confessing that sin. If you can't, then either you haven't sinned, or if you have, that sin hasn't been revealed to you yet (Lev 4:27-28).

It is said that our sin separates us from God, but does it (Is 59:2)? When Adam and Eve sinned, who did the separating? Adam and Eve. Who hid? Adam and Eve. When we sin, we tend to think that it is God who separates from us which is backwards. We think he moves far off but we are the ones who distance ourselves because we are ashamed. Our mentality is the same as the younger brother in the story of the Prodigal Son. "I'm not worthy because . . ." We think God can't be in the presence of sin yet God is omnipresent (Ps 139). Think about that for a moment and let it sink in. We think all these things because this is what we've been taught (by doctrine) most our lives and it hinders our relationship with our Creator.

Stop looking at yourself as a sinner; it puts the focus on you and your sin. Thinking you are a sinner while knowing you've repented and that works don't justify or condemn you is an oxymoron. A sinner is someone who continues to walk in sin and does not repent. You have repented and are striving towards home. That means you are on the path of righteousness. Someone who walks the path of righteousness pressing towards home is righteous. Our Father looks at us as righteous. Just like in the story of the Prodigal Son, we are part of God's family, clothed with his robe of righteousness. This should not fill us with pride but humble us. How we see ourselves makes a huge difference in our relationship with God. When we see ourselves the way God sees us, it allows his Spirit which dwells inside of us to be greater just as John says (1 John 4:4). It will change your whole perspective on life, strengthen your relationship with God, reflect in your actions and make you closer to our Messiah which is our goal.

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\*all scripture is from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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