

## THE OBVIOUS IS NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS

Romans 6:1-2 “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

There are some things that are so obvious that sometimes we overlook them. What appears to be so clear can actually be quite confusing. There are things we know are not good for us, but we choose to do them anyway.

Sin may be only a three-letter word, but it is a huge issue. Sin is not just some minor flaw. Sin is missing the target God has established for us to hit. Sin is failing to live your life as God wants you to live it. It is willful disobedience of the Ten Commandments.

Your sins and sinning is not always obvious. Sin, even for a Christian, lurks around every corner, attaches itself to your common everyday life, dresses itself up to hide what it really is, tells lies in a way that appear to be truth. We all sin. The Bible says, “There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

Sin infects every person. One of the devious lies of Satan is to tell you it is permissible for you to sin. After all, Jesus died for your sins. Therefore, go ahead and sin. Jesus has paid the penalty price for them. St. Paul warns, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey. . .” (Romans 6:16) Then he says if you are a slave to sin you need to know that leads to eternal death.

Jesus taught, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” (Matthew 6:24) James wrote, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4) And Peter warned in 2 Peter 2:19 “whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. . .” Finally, Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”

Daily Satan tries to make you a slave to sin. Jesus came into the world to rescue you. He speaks of His work to free you from your slavery to sin, Satan and the

World. Jesus said, “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)  
Just days ago you celebrated the entrance of Jesus into the world, come to do this  
freeing work. “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he  
loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with  
Christ—by grace you have been saved . . .” (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Prayer: Saving LORD, I need you to free me from the grasp of all evil that tries to  
lead me into sin and open rebellion against God. You have said that if You “set  
me free, I will be free indeed.” Grant me this freedom, Dear Jesus. Amen.

Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak gladness to this heart;  
They tell me all is done, They bid my fear depart.  
To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, LORD, shall I flee?

Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;  
Thy stripes, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.  
To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, LORD, shall I flee?

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crushing load  
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.  
To whom save thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, LORD, shall I flee?

Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;  
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.  
To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, LORD, shall I flee?

Thy righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;  
No righteousness avails Save that which is of Thee.  
To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, LORD, shall I flee?  
(LSB 565)