

Sin In Your Life

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[0 : 00] All right, let's pray. Let's pray. Father, we are thankful to be here tonight in thy house. God, it is a pillar and ground of the truth. You've told us there's a way for us to behave ourselves here, and I pray that we would do that.

God, I ask that tonight we would bring our focus here and honor and glorify you as you would be pleased tonight.

Bless the preaching of thy word and stir our hearts and cause us maybe to somehow draw closer to thee. In Jesus' name, amen.

All right, we'll get suited up here. James, you can hear me now, right? James chapter 4.

The title of the message tonight is Sin in Your Life. Sin in your life. I mean, really? Who wants to look at that? Huh?

[1 : 21] That's probably not really popular. But, I mean, I want to look at it. I want to look at it because I know that I am prone to go for that.

I'm prone to do that. I don't know about you, but I am. I'm prone to yield to that. So, you know, while I was penciling a Wednesday morning, a pastor ended up preaching on Sunday night.

He preached on God wanting to be your God. You remember that? You remember that? He was preaching on God wanting to be your God. So, the title of my message is Sin in Your Life.

All right? These are two diametrically opposed ideas. God wanting to be your God and that sin part in your life. They're diametrically opposed to each other.

You understand that? Right? That makes sense, right? That makes sense. Turn your Bible to Isaiah chapter 59. This was a verse that I memorized years ago. And I have used this verse.

[2 : 24] I can't even tell you how many times that I have probably used this verse. And I want to encourage you tonight to memorize the Scripture. I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand.

But I'm going to ask you how many of you are actively memorizing a verse of Scripture. It's good to memorize the Word of God.

If you've gotten away from that, and maybe somebody hasn't encouraged you to do that lately, but I just want to encourage you. Wednesday night, we have an opportunity to quote a verse and get a song.

I'm going to encourage you. This is something we've done here for 30-something years. Longer than I've been here. But I want to encourage you to memorize the Word of God. Can anybody tell me why you need to memorize the Word of God?

A verse of Scripture come to your mind? The Bible says the Holy Spirit. It says it will bring to your remembrance. It's hard to bring to your remembrance if it ain't in your remembrance.

[3 : 25] Right? That's not the message. But it works. All right. Isaiah chapter 59. Isaiah 59. And this has both these things in this verse.

Isaiah chapter 59. In verse 1, it says, Behold, the Lord's hand is not short, and that it cannot save. Neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God. And your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. However, two diametrically opposed ideas.

God wants to be your God. But he doesn't want sin. You understand that? He doesn't do the sin thing. God just can't buy into the sin thing.

How many of you have sin in your life? That was, you know, when you say that, whoa, preacher, you're not supposed to do that.

[4 : 32] Just chill out, man. You're not supposed to do that. You're not supposed to get us committed that way. But we all have sin in our lives.

James chapter 4. James chapter 4. Sin separates between you and your God.

This is what it does. All right? There's this idea, this notion. I understand, and we'll talk about it a little bit. But I understand the idea of I'm not, I know I'm not held accountable to sin.

I understand that. That's why I get to go to heaven, because we're the operation of God made without hands. And we'll probably look at that in a minute. But you still have it there.

What did somebody say the other day? The nothing, absolutely nothing happened to your flesh when you got saved. It is still the same flesh after you get saved.

[5 : 40] It is exactly the same. It is still just as bad as it was before. James chapter 4. So I'm penciling.

I'm sure. I'm penciling Wednesday morning. Pastor is, I'm sure he's going over his message. Right? And he's in those passages where God wants to be your God.

And I'm praying about what to do on Wednesday night tonight. And James chapter 4 happened to be in my Bible. And a lot of times, you know, I just, I try to trust the Lord to show me something.

And then I move up, I move by faith. I don't get the big visions, you know, nothing comes right on my window. But I seek the Lord. And usually it comes in my Bible reading somewhere.

If I'm reading my Bible, maybe I'm doing a cross reference somewhere. Maybe I end up somewhere and then boom. It's just what God impresses upon my heart. James chapter 4 and verse 17.

[6 : 41] I want you to see this. It says, therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, to him it is sin.

That's what it says. You know, sin is, you know, when I talk about these two diametrically opposed ideas, you understand this is as old as time.

We are talking about as old as time. This is 6,000 years ago. This is Adam and Eve in the garden. Romans chapter 5 verse 12.

Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered in the world. And death by sin. And then death passed upon all men.

For that all have sinned. You don't get away from it. You're not going to get away from it in this life. So if there's any hesitation when somebody says, hey man, you got sin in your life.

But let me tell you something. I understand in this society we live in today, you know, the waters have been muddied. And by the influence of out there.

[7 : 51] To what sin is. I understand that. Do you understand that? Hopefully you do. If you don't, it'll be really easy for you to fall into the trap of.

I'm okay today. I probably didn't sin today. Really? Last I checked, the Bible still says the thought of foolishness is sin.

I don't know. I don't know. I don't know when the last time you might have had a foolish thought.

Just, just, just maybe. Just maybe you might have had a foolish thought today.

Just maybe. Look, what I want to encourage you tonight is. When I talk about sin in your life, I want to encourage you to get right with God on a daily basis.

If you find yourself entering into prayer without asking the Lord to forgive you for those things you've done in the flesh. You need to take a step back.

[8 : 55] You need to take a step back and realize you are dealing with a holy God. That, like the prodigal son, like the prodigal son, I understand you're still a son. If you're saved, if you've been born again, you are a child of God.

If you're not, you need to get saved. That's just the way it is. Jesus Christ said you must be born again. Salvation is a birth issue. And the only difference between a Christian and a non-Christian, the only difference, the main difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is the birth issue. Is I'm saved. I, here's the difference. The difference is, I, as a Christian, am not bound to the sins of the flesh.

The Bible talks about the operation of God made without hand. I mentioned that a minute ago.

That's why Jesus said you must be born again. It's a birth issue. It's not a works issue. The world, just about every other religion, teaches that you must do something good to get to heaven.

I got to do some kind of good deed. So when I get up there, I can look at God and go, I wasn't just a flop all my life. I did something good. But God's not interested in that. Right?

[10 : 18] You understand that? God's not interested in that. God's interested in, in your birth. You got to get into family before you can do anything good. That make sense?

Something like that. So this sin issue is from, this sin issue we're talking about is, is, as old as we are.

As old as man. Adam and Eve. You know, Adam and Eve would not have died had it not been for sin. You understand that? It says, wherefore, death passed upon all men for that all have sinned. If it wasn't for the sin thing, we wouldn't have had it die. This wonderfully created body that God made was not designed to die. We, we do die now, but it wasn't, it wasn't supposed to be that way. So, you know, here's where I started. This is one of those, this is one of those, for me, it's one of those, uh, keep me in check verses. You know, I mean, you, obviously you got, you got to understand what doing good is to God, right?

[11 : 28] Doing good would obviously be obeying the commands of the Lord, right? Those are good. So if you find yourself not obeying what we're supposed to be obeying, that would be not good.

Right? So when it says, uh, when it says children, I'm talking to you guys, just between us, but it says children, obey your parents in the Lord, but this is right.

So when you find yourself not obeying, when mama says, take out the trash, clean your room, don't beat up your brother. Right? Right. Be nice to me. Be nice. Good to your sister. When you don't do that, that's the sin I'm talking about.

Huh? Huh? He says, uh, he says, honor your mother and father. If your mother and father are not precious to you, change that.

Change that. Your mother and father. Oh, I see you back there. I'll be back there in a minute. All right.

[12 : 32] That's the one I was looking for right there. Okay. Uh, so do you have sin in your life? You know, uh, uh, like I said, the, the, can you, the water, the waters have been muddy.

Can you any longer tell what sin is? Can you tell any longer what it is? You know, um, it's ascribed to Hitler, but I'm sure it was a plenty of other people.

He's not that smart, but, uh, I do believe he was probably used of the devil and Bobby user, the Lord at the same time. But, uh, he said, he said that a quote for him that says, if you, if you tell a big enough lie enough times, people will believe it.

So, you know, you know, you know that the world out there is telling you it's, that's not sin.

Basically, they're telling you nothing's sin anymore.

Right. So, you have to navigate through that. And you know what, you know, you know what I'm going to tell you? Read your Bible, read your Bible, read your Bible. Read your Bible.

[13 : 42] Read your Bible. Read your Bible. Read your Bible. Read your Bible. You need to know what God said about a thing. He doesn't think like us.

Surprise. And we don't think like him. Isaiah chapter 55, right? And it says, it says when he talks about, when we talk about the, uh, the lie, um, the devil is a liar and the father of it.

Right? So, so we know that these lies are going to be coming from the devil. That's John 8, 44, if you want to write it down. I remember Brother Shrive, you know, one of the things about Brother Shrive, how many know Brother Shrive?

All right, Brother Shrive, he preached here, when he preached here a few times for us, you know, remember how he would, he would quote a verse and tell you where it was. You remember that? I always thought, I always thought that was pretty, wow, pretty amazing.

He's like, he, like in his preaching, he would quote the verse and tell you where it was. It wasn't just, you know, the Bible says this somewhere. Whenever he told you what it said, he told you where it was. I don't know if he's a walking encyclopedia or what, but that was good stuff.

[14 : 49] All right. So, if you are saved and born again, it's the sin of the flesh, Romans chapter 7. Right?

I don't know if you understand or you remember what Romans chapter 7 is about, but Romans 7 talks about, that's in my flesh, there's no good thing. The things that I would do, those are the things I don't do. The things that I, you know, I don't do, the things that I should.

But, right? But if you are here and you are not born again, all right, you don't know what that is or you've heard it before, but you just haven't committed to it. I'm going to tell you this.

If you're not born again by the Spirit of God, sin is your very existence. Sin isn't, for me, for me, sin is on the outside because I've been born again.

And born again, all that did for me was take care of this thing because this is where the sin is. So, I am, by an operation of God spiritually, I've been separated from this.

[15:54] Yes, and that's what allows me to go to heaven, but if you have never been saved, you haven't been born again, you don't have that operation yet. You don't have that new birth yet. You're connected to this still, and that's what keeps you from going to heaven.

It's because the sin that you have is the same exact sin that I have, and it's in the same exact place. The difference is when I got saved and I trusted Christ, I got the operation of God made without hand.

That's what the Bible says, and I'm no longer connected to that. But if you're not saved, you are, and that is why you could not enter heaven.

It's not a matter of you being better than me or me being better than you. It's nothing to do with that. I try to explain to people, and they look at me crazy all the time. Heaven and hell is not based on good and bad. Crazy thinking.

I know. I understand. There's going to be good people, what we would consider good people in hell, and there's going to be what we would consider bad people in heaven, because it's not what heaven and hell is about. Heaven and hell is about your sin state.

[17:08] And if you've got any question about that, I'd be glad to sit down and talk with you about it and show you in the Bible and all that. It's good stuff. Because the Bible says, in sin did my mother conceive me.

Sin is passed down from generation to generation. We have no choice about it. So the answer to do you have sin in your life, for everybody it is, yes. I do. In my life.

It's there. It's a birth issue. James chapter 4.

So in James chapter 4, in James chapter 4, the verse starts out with, therefore, to him. So you see the therefore. Right? So what is the therefore, therefore? The therefore is commenting on the context of the verse.

So we would automatically, first of all, we think, therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth to not, to him it is sin. Right? Okay. So what is it talking about? What is this sin that God's talking about?

[18:11] Right away, you may think it's, you know, I don't know what comes to your mind, but, you know, the typical one. Stealing and murder. Right? That drastic kind of thing. I never murder nobody.

I don't do my neighbor bad. I don't rip off my neighbor. But that isn't what the context is. That is actually in the chapter in verses 1 through 3. But that's not, that's not the immediate context. Look at the immediate context. It says, in verse 13, it says, Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow, we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain. Whereas ye know not what shall be on tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that.

But now ye rejoice in your boastings. All such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth you do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

[19:11] So, he said, God's saying here in the word of God, that knowing to do good is basically me saying what I'm going to be doing tomorrow, and rejoicing about it, without the Lord involved.

That's not good. So, you might say, you might say to relate to me, you might say, I'm going to go play baseball tomorrow. I got a baseball game, and I'm going to be there. Well, we should say, because we're Christians, if the Lord will, I'm going to be at my baseball game tomorrow.

Right? That's how we're supposed to handle that. So, what happens is, people get to rejoicing, and they, you know, I'm going boating, man, next week. I'm going out to the lake, man.

I'm going to be water skiing, having a blast, and I'm rejoicing about it. And you know what? God said that rejoicing is evil. Well, man, that's not what I thought about when I looked at the passage. I wasn't thinking when it said, he that knoweth to do good and doeth not to him, and his sin would be just me rejoicing about making the decision what I'm going to do tomorrow without the Lord. But God doesn't think like us.

[20:19] And God said, that's evil. Whoa. That's a pretty strong word. So, when I need to get right with God is I need to get right with God about not inviting him in what I'm doing tomorrow or seeking his face about what I'm doing tomorrow.

I like to pray, when I'm praying in the morning, I like to ask the Lord, help me be a light today for you. Right? Help me be a light that shines in this dark place and somehow bring glory to your name.

If the Lord will, we'll do this or that. You might want to step back and reestablish some rules in your life, in your thought process.

And what will help you do that is read your Bible, read your Bible, read your Bible. If you're not reading your Bible through, I'm going to recommend you read your Bible through.

I recommend you read your Bible cover to cover. Great. Studies are great. Spend all the time you want learning about the King James Bible and doing the discipleships. It's all great stuff.

[21 : 21] But, you know, I was thinking about what Brother Anthony preached on Sunday and Daniel. That's why I memorized that verse in Daniel. But it kind of brought me back to something that I'm not going to see again until I read it through.

And Daniel purposing in his heart to not defile himself with the gain. And this is the process he went through. And the standing, you know what I saw that I really didn't pay attention to much before was, Daniel, when that decree was made, Daniel was a heavyweight.

He probably knew that decree was made. Right? I believe he did. I believe he's pretty sure he knew. It says that he opened his windows and prayed. He didn't have to do that.

He just prayed. I don't see any. Did you see anything in the law that said you have to open your windows? I don't recall that anywhere. I mean, my first thought is I'm going to get the best of both worlds.

I'm going to pray in my room, leave my windows closed. I mean, so, you know, when you're trying to be wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove, you might want to be careful. I mean, Daniel, he knew the decree.

[22 : 34] He's going to pray. Praying's good. But he's going to open them windows. He's going to open them windows, too. He wants everybody to know what's going on, just like before. I thought that was pretty interesting.

Sin in your life, sin in your life is probably not as far away as one would think. So with that being said, I just want to encourage you.

You need to get right with God on a regular basis. My thought was you need to get right with God on a daily basis.

But I'm not going to accuse you of sinning every day. So if somebody was to pin me down and ask me if I sinned every day, my first answer would be yes.

I mean, to me, that's the safe answer. I'm probably doing that. I mean, if the very fact of boasting about what I'm going to do tomorrow and telling somebody I'm going to do this tomorrow and rejoicing about it is evil, I better get back in my Bible.

[23 : 41] I think I need to read some more of my Bible. Huh? Yeah. Sin, something you don't want to be doing. The driver today is not that you're a sinner.

The driver today is what are you doing about it? If you're lost, if you're here and you've never been born again, and when I say that, you know, I ask people, I ask people, you know, they say, well, I'm a Christian.

I'm saved. Oh, when was your birthday? You got a birthday? When's your birthday? August 24th. Coming up. All right. August 24th.

What's his birthday? So he's got a birthday. So I have a birthday spiritually. I don't know exactly when it was. But I know I put it down as October 8th, 1980. I believe it was 81.

So if you don't have a place that you can point to that you said there is where my birth took place, you may not have a birth.

[24 : 50] You just may not have one. You want to check that out. Because the last thing you want is to end up on the wrong side. Amen. Yeah. Amen.

So the driver for me is not the particular sins in your life, but the fact that there is sin in your life. And if you're saved, you need to get right about that.

First John chapter one. First John chapter one. First John chapter one. Now, first John chapter one is in the New Testament and it's written after Christ died.

First John chapter one. We're going to go right to verse nine.

We're talking. We're talking to people after the resurrection for sure. All right. So the church is here. It says, if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[25 : 59] If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us. So. We sin. We sin, but my sin is connected to that.

When I ask God to forgive me for my sin, I'm not asking God to forgive me for my sin so I can go to heaven. I'm asking God to forgive me for my sin like the prodigal son did when he ran away and went to the far country, which is really no longer the far country.

You understand that, right? It is the near country. All right. The far country is no longer the far country. It is the near country. So. There was two. There was two brothers.

Right. One. He stayed with the father. One was with the father. The other one, for some reason, had some kind of drive to go to the far country.

I don't necessarily understand it. I could be in the far country today. I'm not. Praise God. I have no intention of going to the far country by the grace of God. But for some, they just they just take off for the far country.

[27 : 04] That's the way this that's the way this one son was. Boy, I wish I could understand. I wish I could go back and and and and look at look at a video. I want to rent a video in heaven.

That's what I'm going to do up there. I'm going to go to the library in heaven. I'm going to rent some videos of the things like, say, the prodigal son. You know the story. You do know the story. OK, well, I don't know why the prodigal son did that. What was going on with the prodigal son?

All I get to see is he goes to the father. Give me what I want. Give me my stuff. And I'm out of here.

So I don't know what happened. Don't ever do that. All right. All right. All right. You say that now.

Remember that when you see me in five years.

Because when I look at you and I go, remember we talked about that? You can go. Um. So I don't know. I don't know why.

Boy, I wish I could. I'd rent that video and I'd look in there and I'd just watch that thing. Ah, that's what happened. I don't know. I think the father was a good guy. He was the same father to the both sons. Right.

[28 : 01] It's hard to explain sometimes. I don't understand. Why one goes to the prodigal and the other doesn't. But it happens. But the prodigal son does come back and he gets his fellowship restored because he gets right.

And he ends up going through that whole thing and a pretty extreme case. So let me tell you, don't go to the world.

Right. This chapter happens to talk about that. If you look a little back a little further than James chapter four, where our context is, because James chapter four, when it talks about, therefore, to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him, it is sin.

Okay. The context, the immediate context is boasting about what you're going to do tomorrow and rejoicing about it. But there's a little bit more when you go a little further back. All right. This chapter starts out with, from once come wars.

And when we're talking about doing good, when you know to do good and you do it not at sin, it's vast. There's a lot of things you know that are good.

[29 : 07] Try to do them. It says, from once come wars and fighting among you. You. When once come wars and fighting among you. Not the nation of Germany and South America.

He's talking about us. He's talking about you. When, from once come wars and fighting among you, come they not hence of your lust, that war in your members. You lust and have not. You kill and desire to have and cannot obtain.

You fight in war. Yet you have not because you ask not. You ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lust. He says, here's what he says. Here's what he calls you.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses. Oh, thank you. May I have another. I don't know about you, but I'm not really excited when I hear that. Oh, well, you're talking about me.

I'm listening now. I don't know. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God.

[30 : 04] Whosoever therefore will be a friend, of the world, is the enemy of God. So, the friendship of the world is enmity with God.

So, I would think, my thought that comes to my head is, the opposite should be, friendship with God is the enemy of the world. Or if you're an enemy of the world, you're a friend of God.

Right? I mean, there are them people that just hate everything and they're enemies of everything. I understand. There's an exception to the rule. But it says, friendship with the world. What is that?

Does anybody know?

Anybody got an idea what that is? What is that? What is being a friend of the world? Anybody know? I got some ideas. Anybody got an idea? You got an idea.

You know you do. You just don't want to say what it is because you might have to do the James 4.17 thing. That's right. Here's the thing that comes to my mind.

[31 : 01] Is, who do you know more about? Do you know more about the people of God? Or do you know more about the worldlings of the world? Who are you friends with? Who are you friends with?

I don't even understand. You know, I watch TV. I watch some TV. But I don't know who these people are. And I don't even care who they are.

I mean, if I got a chance to witness to them, that would be great. But I already know. They're of the world. They're not my friends. They're not God's friends. But man, now I hope you guys don't know who they are.

But, you turn it on, and one of your kids, or somebody, oh yeah, that's us, hey, so-and-so, yeah, and got married to so-and-so, and whoa, whoa, whoa. How do you even know who these people are?

I'm not hiding under a rock. I'm out there. I come out of the house in the daytime. I'm not that sheltered.

[32 : 07] But I don't know who these people are. And I don't want to know their name. I know they are godless. There may be a few that aren't.

I understand that. But for the most part, they are not his friend. But what do you know about Brother Dare in Brazil?

What do you know about Brother Miller in Scotland, been a missionary we've had on our board for 30 years? Hebrews? You know, in chapter 11 of Hebrews, it gives you all the, not all, but it gives you a lot of the heroes of the faith, right?

And then in verse 12, you know what it says? In chapter 12, it says, seeing, seeing, right? You can see. When you watch TV, you see, right?

That's right. You remember what it talked about a lot? I'm going to be done. But you remember what it talked about? You know a lot. You've heard a lot. Okay, a lot. Abraham's nephew in Genesis. Okay?

[33 : 14] Lot. It says, Lot vexed his righteous soul in seeing and hearing their unlawful deeds. And you know when you read about Lot, he was messed up.

He didn't start that way. He didn't start that way. The people of this world, they're not God's friend. So when it talks about friendship of the world, make sure they're not yours either. Friendship with this world is enmity with God.

It says in Hebrews chapter 12, I think it's verse 1, it says, seeing, we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us. So what that's saying is you're going to have a better time laying aside the weights that bog you down from serving God and the sin which does so easily beset you when you're seeing the witnesses around you without a serving God.

[34 : 15] Put your focus on that. Put your focus on that. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Address the sin in your life tonight. If you're saved and you should recognize the sin in your life, we need to do that on a daily basis. If you're not saved, you've never been saved, you've never trusted Christ, tonight would be a good night to do that.

I tell people this, I tell them, don't go to hell. You don't want to go there. Don't go there.

Father, let's pray. Father, thank you for that precious word. Yeah, we have sin in our life, but you sent your son to die for our sins that we could get to heaven and God forbid we pass up that, that opportunity.

God forbid we reject the son and end up in hell. Thank you for dying on the cross.

[35 : 36] Thank you for raising again. Thank you for the scripture where it says, it gives us some light on sin in our life. In a world that we live in today that muddies the water so much and to them it's just, it's all gray and you can't, they don't call it sin.

But we need to recognize what you recognize as sin. Help us tonight, Lord, in Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen. If we could sing a song with us, that would be good. No? Okay. All right. Let's, what song can we do, Linda? You got something in there?