

James 4:17

THE SIN EVERYONE COMMITS

INTRODUCTION: All would agree when faced with opportunity to do evil, we have no choice - we don't do it. YET when faced with opportunity to do good, we have choice whether we'll do it. (Girl in N.Y.C. stabbed while people looked on "didn't want to get involved.")

Whereas, we have no more freedom in first case than in other. Just as wrong not to do good thing as it is to do bad thing.

Jesus actually had more to say about this and His condemnation more severe - Luke 12:47. Sins of omission real sins.

James not dealing with unconscious sin but failure to obey will of God. It is conscious and willful sin. We treat them lightly

- When become Christian, we take on self responsibility others don't have.

- Christian life is equated with respectability, just required to live decent and inoffensive life and not break accepted taboos.

- Not mere respectability, but responsibility - text divides into 3 parts:

(1) DIVINE EMPLOYMENT (2) DIVINE ENLIGHTENMENT (3) DIVINE ENABLEMENT

I. VERSE ATTRIBUTES SOMETHING TO CHRISTIAN

Matthew 25 - "wicked"

Jawbone of donkey

"knoweth"

100 additions - I've a 100 do -nothing I'll trade for one do.

1. DIVINE EMPLOYMENT

Ephesians 2:10; 4:7

II. DIVINE ENLIGHTENMENT

"Knoweth" - Micah 6:8 - God hath showed us what is good and what the Lord doth require of thee. Spirit guides into all truth.

I Thess. 4:9 - Ignorance not our problem - we are charged with not coming up to standard of knowledge.. "We've talked farther down the road than walked."

Knowledge of evil creates obligation to avoid it and knowledge of good constitutes obligation to perform it.

III. DIVINE ENABLEMENT

Could've done it (Basic Principle) God never asks us to do something without imparting power to do it.

- (1) Work out salvation - God worketh in you
- (2) Go into all the world - I am with you
- (3) Withered hand - stretch it
- (4) Lazarus in grave
- (5) Phil 4:13

Problem: Not lack ability, but availability. God killed 1,000 Philistines with jawbone of donkey - what if he could get whole donkey!

The ABILITY to do good imposes obligation to do it - DOCTOR.

II. Something Avoided by Christian: "doeth it not" Opportunity been allowed to pass, ability not exercised

- (1) Word of witness not spoken
- (2) Hand of friendship not offered
- (3) Prayers never lifted
- (4) Money not given
- (5) Choir seat unfilled
- (6) Bible unread
- (7) Neighbor - unconverted

JESUS APPRAISAL OF THIS:

(1) 10 talents - didn't use for evil - "wicked" --- didn't use for anything.

(2) Good Samaritan - avoided

(3) Rich man and Lazarus

(4) Picture (Christ's only) of Last Judgment -- the one searching question "what did you do with opportunities".

NEGLECT DESTROYS - garden, house duty, children, wife, church, holiness - not negative - positive

III. Something Assessed to Christian -

"Sin" Doctor, Lawyer, Watchman

Do we call inaction sin?

Have you taken advantage of every opportunity today?

PERSONAL APPLICATION: "to him"

girl, boat, membership, tithing, witness.

RLD:jg

August 15, 1971 MBBC -- 3 points: DIVINE EMPLOYMENT,
DIVINE ENLIGHTENMENT
DIVINE ENABLEMENT