

# Am I Sinning When I?

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. A requested sermon in the form of five questions, all of which follow a similar theme: a conscientious soul seeking to know its standing with God
- B. Self inquiry is a spiritual exercise that greatly benefits those who practice it

## I. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SIN OF THOUGHT AND TEMPTATION?

- A. The man who endures temptation will be blessed - James 1:12
- B. Jesus was tempted by the Adversary - Matt. 4:1-11
- C. Temptation need not lead to sin - Heb. 4:15; James 1:14-15
  - 1. Desire plus opportunity equals temptation
  - 2. Temptation plus action equals sin
- D. Evil thoughts dialogismoi ponhroi, wicked dialogues, for in all evil surmising the heart holds a conversation, or dialogue, with itself.
  - 1. Matt. 5:27-28; James 2:4
- E. Sins involve deeds, words, and thoughts - Eph. 5:3-5
  - 1. Temptation involves one resisting and overcoming his desires in the face of opportunity
  - 2. Sins of thought involves one entertaining and feeding his desires to the point that they become inordinate

## II. WHAT IS MEANT BY HEBREWS 10:26 AND WILLFUL SIN?

- A. Willful sin is deliberate, with full consciousness of the deed and its consequences, and with a purposeful disregard of its cost to God and Christ, its impact on himself and others, accompanied by the belief that he will be saved in spite of his sin and apart from the new covenant of Christ
- B. Heb. 10:27-29; 2Peter 2:20-22

## III. CAN ONE BE LOST WITHOUT HOPE OF REPENTANCE IF HE SINS WILLFULLY AFTER BAPTISM?

- A. Yes, if he persists to the point of becoming reprobate or debased
  - 1. Rom. 1:19-31

## IV. HOW PERFECT CAN ONE BE, AND HOW MUCH IMPERFECTION CAN HE TOLERATE IN HIS LIFE?

- A. Teleios - "complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness: of full age, maturity, perfect." (Strong's)
  - 1. Completeness and maturity, not necessarily sinless
  - 2. Col. 1:28; Heb. 12:23
- B. One should not tolerate weakness and sin in his life, but labor incessantly to live without sin and error
  - 1. Acts 24:16; Phil. 3:12-14

## **V. HOW TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TOWARD PERFECTION**

- A. Realize it is a process that will require the rest of your life to complete
- B. Resolve to act and follow through
- C. Regardless of what you want to believe, good intentions are not a substitute for good deeds
- D. Run the race every day, all day
- E. Refuse to make excuses for yourself
- F. Restore when you fall
- G. Reject self recrimination