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W. O. Vaught

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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THE HORRORS OF THE SIN UNTO DEATH  
(or "On Not Being Ready To Die")

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
NUMBER 121  
PHILIPPIANS 3:19; HEBREWS 12:5

Dr. W. O. Vaught  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

We have been in a study of discipline from God and how God meets out discipline to the disobedient ones. We will take this study to look at several other passages in scripture to show how God gives discipline to believers who fail to take in doctrine and who slip into reversionism.

PHILIPPIANS 3:19 "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) This first phrase in this verse "Whose end is destruction" refers back to the verse prior to this one. Let us look for a moment at Phil. 3:18. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. These disobedient ones, these reversionists, are said to be enemies of the cross of Christ."

Now we note God's description of their horrible estate.

"Whose" comes from the word hos. Next we have "end" and this is the noun telos and it means the end of life for the reversionist. Death here is not the ordinary death, but is rather referring to the death we call "the sin unto death." The technical word used for the sin unto death is "destruction" and comes from the word apoleia. It is not talking about the loss of salvation, for that is impossible. It is rather referring to a life being so evil that God cuts it off before he ordinarily would have. This opens up for us the study of the sin unto death.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SIN UNTO DEATH

1. DEFINITION.

The sin unto death is the means by which the reversionist is transferred from time to eternity.

The sin unto death is the most severe discipline God ever hands out to a believer. It is God's most extreme discipline. This reversionistic believer does not get to experience the joy of dying grace, he does not get to cross the golden drawbridges of God's wonderful dying provision. This one died by maximum punitive discipline. It is painful and horribly miserable and is everything that is just opposite from dying grace. The believer in fellowship who takes in doctrine always goes the route of dying grace. THIS IS THE GREATEST BLESSING GOD EVER GIVES TO A BELIEVER. The sin unto death is the final act of discipline God gives to the reversionistic believer. Since there is no discipline in heaven, this is God's last chance to discipline the disobedient believer.

2. THIS DOCTRINE IS DOCUMENTED BOTH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW.

a. (Psalm 118:17-18)

This is the testimony of David, who came very close to dying the sin unto death, but he rebounded and God forgave him and restored him. In part, these verses say, "The Lord has disciplined me sorely, but he has not given me over to death." The discipline God gave David didn't go quite as far as the sin unto death.

- b. 1 John 5:16, "There is a sin unto death" shows us very clearly that this doctrine is clearly taught in scripture. For us, that settles the issue. (Let me give you a good rule to follow all your life--Whenever scripture says something, take it at face value and never question that truth again.) The sin unto death is a very well documented truth in scripture. It is dangerous, more dangerous than any rattlesnake and should be avoided by every believer in the world.

### 3. THE CAUSE OF THE SIN UNTO DEATH.

Prolonged and unchecked reversionism is the cause of sin unto death. No one ever dies this sin unto death without going through three stages of discipline.

- a. The warning stage.
- b. The intensive stage.
- c. The dying stage.

(Jeremiah 9:13-16)

Verse 13 tells us the reason why people die the sin unto death. They forsake Bible Doctrine and they live by human viewpoint. Verse 14 says, "But have walked after the stubbornness of their right lobe and after the Baals as their fathers taught them." Verse 15 says, "Thus sayeth the God of the armies. I will feed them with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink." Verse 16 tells of the 5th cycle of discipline and military disaster which will come to the Jews. The administration of the sin unto death came to the nation in 586 B.C.

Jeremiah 44:12. This verse tells of the remnant that survived the Babylonian attack, and they stayed at Jerusalem. Later they went into reversionism and decided they would rebel against Babylon and go down into Egypt. This verse tells us that by this activity, they went to Egypt and in so doing, they sinned the sin unto death.

### You Can't Afford This Kind Of Death

This is the kind of a death none of us can afford. Each day is a gift from God and it is ours by living grace, and we want to go out by dying grace, but dying grace is for the believer in fellowship and for the super grace believer. Dying grace is for the believer who has doctrine in his soul, the believer who seizes and holds the high ground. It is definitely not for the reversionist. Yet, today in America, we have more reversionists than ever before. People are running around doing all kinds of things for the Lord and neglecting doctrine. These reversionists spend all their time loving everyone, getting involved in all kinds of social action programs, reversionists involved in all kinds of do-good programs and they are deeply sincere. The one thing they lack is Bible Doctrine and there never will be any substitute for doctrine.

Tonight we are not talking about heaven. We are talking about the way people check out from this life. Once we get to heaven then all discipline is over, but it is the passing over we are talking about.

Dying, One Of Two Things

- a. Dying is the very best thing that can happen to you (Provided you are in fellowship and in super grace).
- b. Or dying is the very worst thing that can happen to you (If you are a believer in reversionism).

There is no in-between ground. If we go out under dying grace, then dying is the best thing that can happen to us. (Abraham is an illustration. He had the greatest era of his life after he was 100 years old and he went out under dying grace. His dying was greater than his great sexual prosperity.) Dying grace is better than anything, and life after you experience dying grace is better than the best. The sin unto death is the worst-dying grace is the best.

In Jeremiah 44:12-14 the word "sword" is referring to crime, not to war. (In our day a great emphasis has been placed on the idea that all people should be equal. If that were so, then life would lose its zest and interest. If everybody was equal, you never would go to see another football game because the score would always end in a tie.)

Ananias And Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11 illustrates Sin Unto Death.

Barnabas had sold his land and had given all of the money to the Church in Jerusalem. People were praising Barnabas for what he had done. Ananias and Sapphira wanted the same kind of praise so they sold their possessions and said that they gave all to the Lord's cause, but they kept back part. They lied to the Church and to the Holy Spirit and as a result, they died the sin unto death.

Revelation 3:15-16 Another Picture of Sin Unto Death.

In verse 15 the Lord says, "I am cognizant of your production. (The doctrinal content of your soul.) That you are neither cold nor hot." The inference was that they had been hot and had cooled off. Cold refers to the unbeliever. Hot refers to the super grace believers. But these believers had fallen into reversionism and had cooled off. He says, "I am about to vomit you out of my mouth" and this is a phrase that refers to the sin unto death.

Jeremiah described those who were bent on going to Egypt would find two things--Murder and starvation.

The passage in Phil. 3:18-19 describes the enemies of the cross of Christ as deserving the sin unto death.

The Revelation 3:15-16 passage does the same thing. What do you do with something lukewarm? You spit it out of your mouth.

This is the way God describes the sin unto death.

If you neglect Bible Doctrine and go down into reversionism, then death is going to be a horrible experience.

4. THE SIN UNTO DEATH DOES NOT MEAN THE LOSS OF SALVATION.

This truth is brought out forcefully in the passage we have just studied in 1 Cor. 10:12. The word "fall" never applies to salvation, but to the believer in reversionism.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

This passage says, "Faithful is the word--if we died with him (that is referring to salvation) we shall also live with him (this means eternal salvation and union with Christ forever)."



Then in verse 12 we read, "If we endure the high ground with him, we shall also reign with him (this is our wreath of glory and righteousness. What they really are remains top secret but God is ready and anxious to give these things to us.)" "If we deny him (this is the reversionist) he will also deny us (deny us dying grace)." You can't lose your salvation and that's verse 13.

5. THERE ARE ACTUALLY FOUR WAYS TO TRANSFER FROM TIME TO ETERNITY.  
The first way--The way of the sin unto death. (For reversionists only.)  
The second way--Dying grace. (For believers in fellowship and super grace.)  
The third way--Permanent change of station minus physical death. This is Enoch and Elijah and possibly Moses. They died without dying. They just got to heaven and said, "Where do I check my body? And they were shown where to put their bodies. They got there in a different way.  
The fourth way--The resurrection of the believers in the Rapture Generation. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)  
 These in this group include:  
 (1) The super grace believers  
 (2) Those who are growing in doctrine  
 (3) Those in reversionism  
 I call them the S L O B  
 "The Spiritual low order brethren"  
 All will go together and this is because of the grace of God.
6. THE CASE HISTORY OF THE SIN UNTO DEATH.  
 a. Monetary Reversionism  
 This is in Acts 5:1-11 we have studied above. This is the sin of the love of money. They associate money with security. (Please don't go to the extreme and think I am suggesting that you should give all your money to the church. I am not. Neither do we mean to suggest that the making of money is wrong. It is not.)  
 b. Phallic Reversionism  
 The sin of incest. (1 Cor. 5:1-5)  
 This is a man in the Corinthian Church having sex with his mother. This was quite common in the Greek world of that time. This kind of a person will die the sin unto death unless he repents.  
 c. Ritual Reversionism  
 (1 Cor. 11:30-31)  
 This involved the participation in The Lord's Supper without rebound.  
 d. Mental Attitude Reversionism  
 (1 Samuel 13:9-14, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14)  
 Saul's jealousy and bitterness destroyed him.  
 e. Verbal Reversionism  
 (1 Timothy 1:19-20)  
 This is the sin of Hymenaeus and Alexander. They bad-mouthed Paul until God got tired of it and put them under the sin unto death.

f. Anti-Establishment Reversionism

This is the human viewpoint foreign policy of King Hezekiah. (Isaiah 30:1-3 and 31:1-3) We compare this with Isaiah 38 where Hezekiah rebounded and recovered.

7. REBOUND IS A FACTOR IN REVERSIONISM RECOVERY.

(1 John 1:9 and 1 Cor. 11:31) 1 Cor. 11:31 is an answer to 1 Cor. 11:30. Also James 5:20. This verse says, "Having restored the reversionist from his reversionism, shall deliver a soul from the sin unto death and shall hide a multitude of sins."

8. THE CONSTANT FUNCTION OF FAITH PERCEPTION (the taking in of doctrine) IS NECESSARY FOR REVERSION RECOVERY.

(John 4:4-8)