

## **SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

**Rev Gise VanBaren**

Most would agree that the world is in terrible shape. Civil unrest is evident all over the earth. Crime continues to increase. There is deep concern about growing drug usage.

Some insist that the answer must be found in a radical change in governments. Others claim that vast sums of money must be committed to work necessary change for those in poverty. People must be assured adequate education, housing and other necessities of life. Only then will there be a change for the better.

What so many refuse to see is that there is here a 'heart problem.' This 'heart problem' can be traced back to its beginning in the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve. These two were created perfect and capable of loving and serving God without sin.

However, Adam sinned in eating of the fruit of the forbidden tree (Genesis 3). Our first parents listened to the lie of the devil who came in the serpent (Revelation 12:9). Man believed Satan that he could "become as God..."

The threat of God now fell on Adam: he died. This death was a separation from God's favour. It affected his physical existence, ending in the grave, and it would result in everlasting punishment in hell – except a way of Deliverance were provided.

The consequences of this sin of Adam have had a devastating effect on all of mankind. Adam was the representative and first father of all mankind. His one sin brought death upon all mankind (Romans 5:12). The sad result is that all are born dead and thus incapable of doing any good (Romans 3:10–19).

This 'heart problem' has otherwise been called 'total depravity,' that is, the inability to do anything right in God's sight. Scripture speaks of the "heart of stone" (Ezekiel 11:19) and an "evil heart" (Jeremiah 16:12).

The above has important implications concerning man's salvation as well. If there is to be true life – that is, a new or 'clean' heart (Psalm 51:10) to solve his 'heart problem' – that life must originate from God Himself. Except a person is first born again, he cannot even see the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3).

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although the future is uncertain. Will God maintain the cause of truth, or will our congregation go the way of so many others, that of compromise and then denial? We cannot remain standing still. We know that a Reformed church must be always reforming. There is a need for growth and development in the truth, both in our individual lives and in the life of the congregation.

Our calling is clear: To stand firm in the truth, to preach the truth and to contend for the truth. May the God of all grace be pleased to keep us faithful to our calling. We lift up our heads, looking for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory and longing for that Day when all the ransomed church of God shall be saved to sin no more.

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### **SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES** *[Continued from page 1]*

It is further true that God's Word must be preached to all nations (Matthew 28:19), so that where God has given new life there would be seen the proper response: true conversion. The Word of God declares: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). That is the promise of the gospel which has never yet failed, nor ever will!

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### **THE COVENANT OF GRACE** *[Continued from page 27]*

And we must certainly bear in mind that this is not a mere revelation in words; but it is indeed a living reality for man himself. When God establishes His covenant with His people, He does not simply tell them about it, but He takes them into His own covenant life. He causes men to share in the joy and happiness of His own fellowship. He gives to man the taste of the greatness of His own communion and friendship. And when this is accomplished through the wonder of divine grace, then and then only is there the reality for us of this glorious covenant of which we speak.

To enter into God's own life of fellowship will stand eternally as the incomprehensible wonder of our salvation!

*[To be continued]*