

A STUDY OF SIN

(References to Barnes Charts are made throughout this outline. Barnes Charts can be found at <http://www.biblecharts.org>)

- I. Why Study This?
 - A. Barnes Charts - "The Fact of Sin"
 - 1. nature proclaims it for it is under its curse (Genesis 3:17)
 - 2. man acknowledges it (Psalm 51:1-4)
 - 3. law discovers it (Romans 3:20)
 - 4. believers know it (Romans 7:18)
 - 5. Christ reveals it (John 8:34)
 - B. Sin separates from God
 - 1. Isaiah 59:1,2
 - 2. Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8
 - 3. Barnes Charts - "The Paralysis of Sin"
 - 1. sin impairs the mind (Luke 15:17)
 - 2. sin robs the soul (Luke 16:19-31)
 - 3. sin mars the spirit (Psalm 51)
 - 4. sin destroys the soul (Matthew 10:28)
 - 5. sin stunts spiritual growth (I Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:11-14)
 - 6. sin cripples the memory (Revelation 2:4-5)
 - 7. sin deafens the spiritual sense (Acts 28:24-27)
 - 8. sin darkens the understanding (II Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - 9. sin paralyzes the eye that it cannot see (II Peter 1:9)
 - C. Sin is often not taken seriously
 - 1. "white" lies
 - 2. Catholic doctrine of "mortal" sins and "venial" sins
 - 3. casual, even comical portrayal of Satan
 - 4. Bible examples
 - a. Numbers 15:33 - man gathering sticks on sabbath
 - b. Nehemiah 13:15-21
 - c. Psalm 73:11
 - D. Gives us a greater appreciation for the sacrifice of Jesus
 - E. We need to identify the enemy in the battle for our souls
 - 1. (Ephesians 6:12)
 - 2. sin is rarely seen for what it really is but generally appears tempting and attractive (David and Bathsheba - II Samuel 11:1ff)
 - 3. Barnes Bible Charts - "How Sin Deceives"
 - a. by minimizing (Genesis 3:4-5)
 - b. by rationalizing (Isaiah 5:20)
 - c. by glamorizing (Hebrews 11:25)
 - d. by paralyzing (Hebrews 6:4-5)

II. Sin

- A. Defined
 - 1. I John 3:4
 - 2. words used in English translation (sin, iniquity, transgression, err)
 - a. sin
 - i. "error, failure" (Isaiah 53:12)

- ii. "trespass, transgression" (Proverbs 28:13)
 - iii. "missing the mark" (Romans 6:23)
 - iv. "fall, offense" (Colossians 2:13)
 - b. iniquity
 - i. "iniquity, vanity" (Micah 2:1)
 - ii. "mischief, calamity, desire" (Psalm 94:20)
 - iii. "perverseness" (Psalm 53:1)
 - iv. "labor, misery" (Habakkuk 1:13)
 - v. "wrong, wickedness" (Ecclesiastes 3:16)
 - vi. "unrighteousness, wrong" (James 3:6)
 - vii. "lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23)
 - viii. "evil, wickedness" (Acts 3:26)
 - c. transgression
 - i. "to deal treacherously, deceive" (Psalm 25:3)
 - ii. "to pass over" (Numbers 14:41)
 - iii. "to step over, transgress, rebel, revolt" (Ezra 10:13)
 - iv. "to go beyond" (II John 9)
 - v. "to do lawlessness" (I John 3:4)
 - d. err
 - i. "wander, go astray" (Psalm 95:10)
 - ii. "to wander off" (I Timothy 6:10)
 - iii. "to miss the mark, swerve" (II Timothy 2:18)
 - iv. "to wander" (Matthew 22:29)
 - e. trespass - "a false setp, blunder" (Matthew 6:14)
- B. Types of sin
1. sins of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)
 - a. adultery (not in ASV) - "one who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another"
 - b. fornication - "illicit sexual intercourse" (source of "pornographic")
 - c. uncleanness - "impure" (literally, "without purity")
 - d. lasciviousness (NKJV = "licentiousness") - "excess, absence of restraint, indecency"
 - e. idolatry
 - f. witchcraft (ASV, NKJV = "sorcery") - "primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells, then, poisoning, then, sorcery"
 - g. hatred (ASV = "enmities") - from the word translated "enemy"
 - h. variance (ASV = "strife"; NKJV = "contentions") - "to cut apart, divide in two" (Lipscomb in GA Commentaries: "This is seen in church troubles, when men take opposite sides, not so much from different convictions, as from personal dislike and the disposition to thwart an opponent.")
 - i. emulations (ASV, NKJV = "jealousies") - "jealousy, envy"
 - A. Lipscomb - "Jealousies never allow one to 'rejoice with them that rejoice' (Romans 12:15) but, on the other hand, make one miserable."
 - B. also used in a good way (II Corinthians 11:2) and also translated "zeal" (II Corinthians 9:2)
 - j. wrath (NKJV = "outbursts of wrath") - "hot anger"
 - A. translated "anger" in Ephesians 4:31
 - B. "wrath" in Ephesians 4:31 signifies "a more settled or abiding

- condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge; less sudden in its rise, but more lasting in its nature"
- C. this term "indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation; quickly blazes up and quickly subsides"
- k. strife (ASV = "factions"; NKJV = "selfish ambitions") - "denotes ambition, self-seeking, rivalry, self-will, party-making, seeking to win followers; the fruit of jealousy" (cf. II Corinthians 12:20)
 - l. seditions (ASV = "divisions"; NKJV = "dissensions") - "dissension, division"
 - m. heresies (ASV = "parties") - "an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects"
 - n. envyings - "the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others"
 - o. murders (not in ASV)
 - p. drunkenness
 - q. revellings - "carousing, rioting, taking part in or enjoying something without restraint, giving license to one's passions"
 - r. "and such like"
- 2. sins of rebellion (I Samuel 15)
 - 3. sins of the mind
 - a. lust (Matthew 5:27-28)
 - b. pride (Romans 12:16)
 - c. grudge-holding (Mark 11:26)
 - 4. sins of omission
 - a. James 4:17
 - b. Matthew 25
- C. Sin's progression (digression?)
- 1. begins in the heart (Matthew 15:1-20)
 - 2. Satan attempts to plant the seed of temptation
 - a. he appeals to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life (I John 2:16)
 - b. how he tempts
 - i. through those who serve him
 - A. those who are trying to seduce
 - B. Proverbs 7:6-27
 - C. Revelation 2:20
 - ii. through times of weakness
 - A. illness, financial troubles, marital troubles, etc.
 - B. Job 2:8
 - iii. through times of strength
 - A. wealth, success
 - B. Luke 12:16-21
 - iv. by attacking one's weakest points
 - A. I Peter 5:8
 - B. do a personal inventory of your weak points (fear, pride, anger, lying, stealing, jealousy, evil speech, etc.)
 - v. by sometimes attacking when least expected and through those least expected (Job's "friends", Judas)

- c. examples
 - i. Genesis 3:1-6
 - ii. II Samuel 11:2
 - iii. Acts 5:3
 - iv. Matthew 4:1-10
- 3. we have two choices:
 - a. we can turn away (James 4:7; I Timothy 6:10)
 - b. we can listen and act (Genesis 3:6)
- 4. James 1:13-15
- 5. Psalm 1:1

III. Why Some Don't Obey

- A. Barnes Charts - "Reasons Why Some Are Not Christians"
 - 1. Some are not aware of their lost state (Romans 3:23; John 1:10; John 8:21)
 - 2. Some do not see the need to be born again (Romans 1:16; II Thess. 1:8-9; John 3:3-5)
 - 3. Some are skeptical about the truths of the Bible (II Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 4. Some feel they cannot hold out, therefore they don't try (II Corinthians 10:13)
 - 5. Some are negatively influenced by the evil influences of some professed Christians (Matthew 18:6; I Corinthians 9:12)
 - 6. Some love the world and its goods (I John 2:15-17; John 12:42-43; II Timothy 3:4)
- B. Barnes Charts - "Why Many Are Not Saved"
 - 1. Some have allowed Satan to snatch the Word of God out of their hearts (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12)
 - 2. Some have been deceived (II Thessalonians 2:10-12)
 - 3. Some love sin (John 3:19)
 - 4. Some love the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:42-43)
 - 5. Some follow family tradition rather than the Lord (Matthew 10:37-38)
 - 6. Some trust in their own morality (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 5:23)
 - 7. Some are filled with prejudice (Matthew 13:15; Acts 7:51-59)
 - 8. Some neglect their salvation (Hebrews 2:3)
- C. Barnes Charts - "What Hinders Me From Being Baptized?"
 - 1. Lack of faith (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37)
 - 2. Lack of repentance (Acts 2:38)
 - 3. Lack of understanding of the design of baptism (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
 - 4. Lack of understanding of who should be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
 - 5. Procrastination (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37)
 - 6. A rejection of the counsel of God (Luke 7:30)
 - 7. Lack of understanding as to the act of baptism (Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:3-4)
- D. Pride
 - 1. demonstrated in refusing to admit wrong (I Samuel 15)
 - 2. demonstrated in feeling one is "too intellectual" for the Bible (I Corinthians 1:26)
 - 3. demonstrated in refusing to accept correction (Proverbs 15:10; Acts 7:51)
- D. Fear
 - 1. of loss of friends (I Peter 4:3-5)
 - 2. of loss of power (Caesar?, Felix?, Agrippa?)
 - 3. of change, doing or being anything different (Israel in Egypt and the wilderness)
- E. Confusing humiliation with humility (not wanting to show emotion in public)

F. No sense of urgency (I Thessalonians 5:2; II Corinthians 5:11)

IV. Why Some Obey and Then Stop Obeying

A. Why this is important

1. Hebrews 6:4-6
2. Hebrews 10:26-29
3. II Peter 2:20-22

B. Barnes Charts - "Evidences of Backsliding"

1. Neglecting study of God's Word
2. Little desire for private prayer
3. Growing fondness of worldly pleasures
4. Trifling excuses for the neglect of Christian duty and worship
5. Tendency toward discontent and faultfinding
6. Decreasing anxiety for the salvation of others

C. Barnes Charts - "Causes of Backsliding" (and examples)

1. Mixed marriages (Solomon - I Kings 11:1-4)
2. Love of money (Judas - John 12:6)
3. Reverting to sinful practices (Simon - Acts 8:18-19)
4. Returning to a false religion (Galatians, Galatians 1:6 and Hebrews, Hebrews 10:31-39)
5. Evil associations (Peter - Galatians 2:11-12)
6. Love of the world (Demas - II Timothy 4:10)
7. Self-satisfaction (Laodiceans - Revelation 3:15-17)
8. Persecution (Hebrews - Hebrews 12:1-4)
9. Elevating worldly knowledge above spiritual (II Corinthians 10:10 - "contemptible" = "of no account")
10. Moving to a new community and not associating with a local congregation
11. Work
12. Expecting but not finding perfection in the church

D. Barnes Charts - "Why Do Brethren Err?"

1. Some become discouraged
 - a. Galatians 6:2
 - b. Hebrews 3:14
2. Some fail to grow spiritually
 - a. I Peter 2:1-2
 - b. I Timothy 4:7
3. Some are too involved with the cares of the world (Matthew 13:22)
4. Some are deceived by riches
 - a. Matthew 13:22
 - b. I Timothy 6:10
5. Some lust for other things (Mark 4:19)
6. Some have too much pride
 - a. Proverbs 16:18
 - b. Proverbs 29:23
7. Some envy the wicked (Psalm 72:2-3)
8. Some feel they have been wronged (Matthew 5:23-24)
9. Some become neglectful (Hebrews 2:3)
10. Some just quit caring

- E. Barnes Charts - "How the Bible Describes the Erring"
 1. Erred from the truth (James 5:19)
 2. Left first love (Revelation 2:4-5)
 3. Like an unfruitful branch (John 15:1-8)
 4. Spiritually dead (I Timothy 5:6)
 5. In a worse condition than before (II Peter 2:21-22)
 - F. Barnes Charts - "When a Christian Backslides, Everybody Loses"
 1. The community loses the influence of a Christian
 2. The congregation loses a member
 3. Brethren lose a brother
 4. God is saddened and the devil is pleased
 5. The individual loses his soul
- V. How to Remain Faithful
- A. Barnes Charts - "Self-Examination"
 1. Self-examination is both difficult and valuable
 - a. difficult because it may turn up some unpleasant findings
 - b. valuable because it may help us to make necessary corrections
 2. The examination must utilize the correct standard (Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 14:12; II Corinthians 10:12)
 3. The examination must be thorough (II Corinthians 13:5)
 4. The examination must be continuing (I Corinthians 9:27)
 5. The examination must be a basis for action (James 1:22-25)
 - B. Learn self-discipline
 1. to overcome temptation (Romans 7:18-25)
 2. to pray (James 4:2-3)
 3. to study God's Word (II Timothy 2:15)
 4. to worship faithfully and in spirit and truth (John 4:24)
 5. Barnes Charts - "Seven Steps in Developing Self-Discipline" (Self-discipline is required in order to accomplish any worthwhile goal. It is required for spiritual growth.)
 - a. Start small
 - b. Be on time
 - c. Do the hardest job first
 - d. Organize your life
 - e. Accept correction
 - f. Practice self-denial
 - g. Welcome responsibility
 - B. Find your talents and use them in God's service and then look to develop new ones
 1. everyone has a place in the work of the church (I Corinthians 12:14-20)
 2. Moses didn't think he had the ability to lead Israel but God knew he did
 - C. Add the Christian graces of II Peter 1:5-11
 - D. Remember your first love (Revelation 2:4-5)
 - E. Barnes Charts - "Who is a Christian?"
 1. in pursuit, a Christian is a follower of Christ (I Peter 2:21)
 2. in knowledge, a Christian is a learner (Acts 11:26)
 3. in faith, a Christian is a believer (I Timothy 4:12)
 4. in character, a Christian is a saint (I Corinthians 1:1-2)
 5. in relationship, a Christian is a branch of the vine (John 15:1-6)

6. in transformation, a Christian is a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17)
7. in illumination, a Christian is light (Matthew 5:14-16)
8. in influence, a Christian is leaven (Matthew 13:33)
9. in labor, a Christian is a sower (Matthew 13:3)
10. in combat, a Christian is a soldier (II Timothy 2:3)
11. in alertness, a Christian is a watchman (II Timothy 4:5)

VI. Conclusion

A. Barnes Charts - "What it Means to be Lost"

1. The lost are lost without hope (Ephesians 2:12)
2. The lost are without spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3)
3. The lost are without redemption (Romans 3:24)
4. The lost will be cast into hell (Revelation 20:15)
5. The lost will die two deaths
 - a. physical death (Hebrews 9:27)
 - b. spiritual death (Revelation 20:15)

B. Barnes Charts - "What Hell is Like"

1. Eternal ("everlasting punishment" - Matthew 25:24)
2. A place of darkness ("outer darkness" - Matthew 25:30)
3. A place of fire ("everlasting fire" - Matthew 25:41)
4. A place of pain ("weeping and gnashing of teeth" - Matthew 25:30)
5. No rest ("no rest day or night" - Revelation 14:11)
6. No relief ("tormented day and night for ever and ever" - Revelation 20:10)
7. No hope ("for ever and ever" - Revelation 20:10)

C. Barnes Charts - "Whom Can You Blame if You are Lost?"

1. Not God
 - a. God gave His Son (John 3:16-17)
 - b. God wants all to be saved (I Timothy 2:3-4)
 - c. God gave the Gospel to all (Romans 1:16)
2. Not Christ
 - a. Christ died for all (Hebrews 2:9)
 - b. Christ invites all (Matthew 11:28-30)
3. Not the Holy Spirit
 - a. Guided men to write the Bible (II Peter 1:21)
 - b. The Holy Spirit invites (Revelation 22:17)
4. Blame only yourself
 - a. Save yourself (Acts 2:40)
 - b. Work out your own salvation (Philippians 2:20)
 - c. We must stand before the Lord in judgment individually (II Corinthians 5:10)