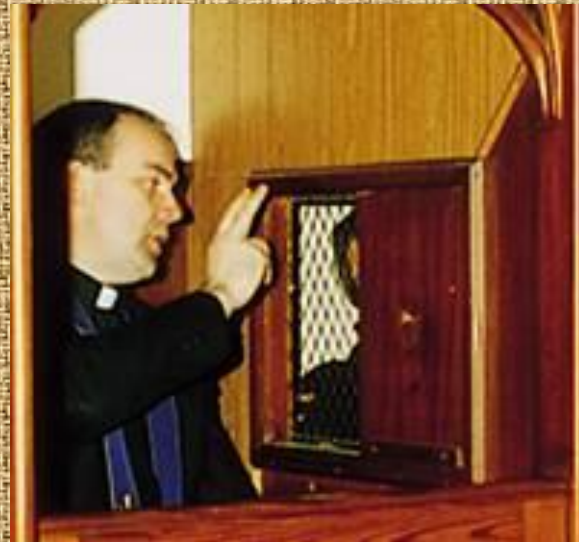


THE SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION



Part Ve: A Biblical Portrait of Sin

**“All men have sinned and
fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23**

A Biblical Portrait of Sin

To fully understand what God accomplishes in us when He forgives sin, it is important to look to the Bible for the meaning of sin.

Sin in man is, first, an aversion or turning away from God.

Job 34:27



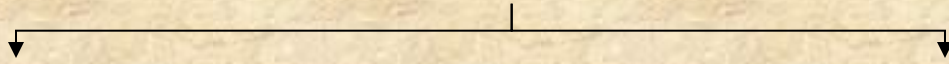
Because they (humankind) **turned away from him** (God) and heeded none of his ways ...

Isaiah 1:2-4



Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth, for the Lord speaks: Sons have I raised and reared, but they have disowned me! An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger; But Israel does not know, my people has not understood. Ah! sinful nation, people laden with wickedness, evil race, corrupt children! They have **forsaken the Lord, spurned the Holy One** of Israel, apostatized.

SIN



Aversion from God

Daniel 9:9-10

But yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we **rebelled against you** and paid no heed to your command, O Lord, our God, to live by the law you gave us through your servants the prophets.

Romans 1:19-24

For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made. As a result, they have no excuse; for although they knew God **they did not accord him glory as God or give him thanks**. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened.

While claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the likeness of an image of mortal man or of birds or of four-legged animals or of snakes. Therefore, God handed them over ...

Philippians 3:18-19

For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things.

John 12:43

For they (the Pharisees) preferred human praise to the glory of God.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

James 4:4

Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The sin of man is also a conversion or turning to created things.

Romans 1:19-24

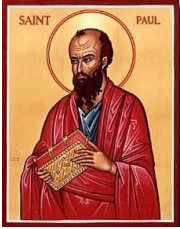
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SIN

Aversion from God

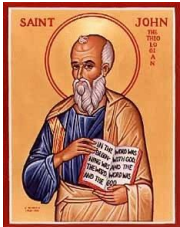
Conversion to Created Things

Philippians 3:18-19



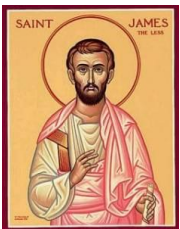
For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their **minds are occupied with earthly things.**

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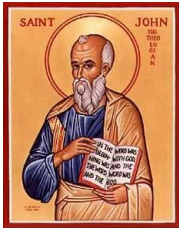
Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be **a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Isaiah 22: 12-13



On that day the Lord, the GOD of hosts, called on you to weep and mourn, to shave your head and put on sackcloth. But look! you feast and celebrate, you slaughter oxen and butcher sheep, You eat meat and drink wine: “**Eat and drink**, for tomorrow we die!”

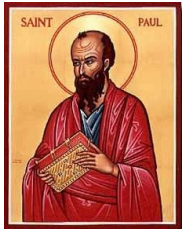
Revelation 18:7



To the **measure of her boasting and wantonness** repay her (Babylon) in torment and grief ...

Aversion from God leads to eternal death.

Romans 6:23



For **the wages of sin is death** ...

Colossians 2:13

And even when **you were dead (in) transgressions**
and the uncircumcision of your flesh ...

Romans 7:13

Sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin,
worked death in me through the good.

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God



Eternal Punishment Is Due



Death

Turning to created things leads to punishment from God.

Numbers 14:20-23



The Lord answered (Moses): “I pardon them as you have asked. Yet, by my life and the Lord's glory that fills the whole earth, of all the men who have seen my glory and the signs I worked in Egypt and in the desert, and who nevertheless have put me to the test ten times already and have failed to heed my voice, not one shall see the land which I promised on oath to their fathers. **None of these who have spurned me shall see it.**”

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God

**Personal / Social Values are
Lessened / Destroyed**



Eternal Punishment Is Due

Temporal Punishment Is Due



Death

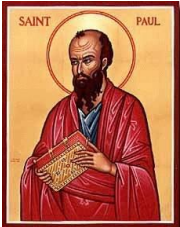
Reparation

2 Samuel 12:13-14



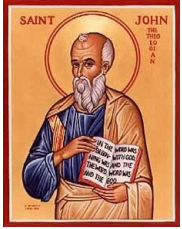
Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan answered David: “The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since **you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die.**”

1 Corinthians 11:29-32



For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. **That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying.** If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by (the) Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

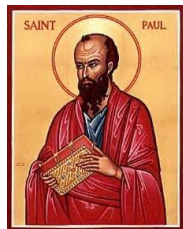
Revelation 18:7



To the measure of her boasting and wantonness
repay her (Babylon) in torment and grief ...

The saving power of the blood of Christ saves us from eternal death and washes us free of the guilt of sin.

Ephesians 1:7



In him we have **redemption by his blood**, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace.

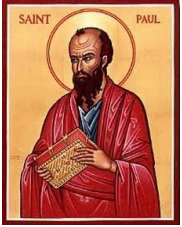
Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, (God) **brought us to life** with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have **become near by the blood of Christ.**

Romans 5:9



How much more then, since we are now **justified by his blood**, will we be saved through him.

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God

**Personal / Social Values are
Lessened / Destroyed**



Eternal Punishment Is Due

Temporal Punishment Is Due



Death

Reparation

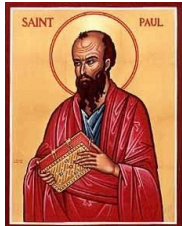
OR

**Friendship Restored at
Calvary**



Grace

Colossians 1:14



... in whom (Jesus) **we have redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.

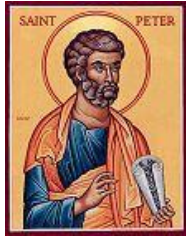
Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences** from dead works to worship the living God.

Hebrews 13:12

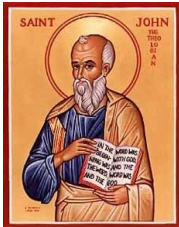
Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to **consecrate the people by his own blood**.

1 Peter 1:18-20



... realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the **precious blood of Christ** as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

1 John 1:7



But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.**

Revelation 1:5

To him who loves us and has **freed us from our sins by his blood ...**

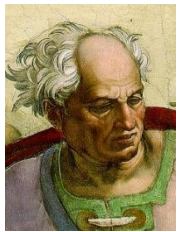
The Word of God provides a way for man to do reparation--to remove the temporal punishment due for sin--for the personal or social values lessened or destroyed when man turned to created things in sin.

Daniel 4:24



Therefore, O king, take my advice; **atone for your sins by good deeds**, and for **your misdeeds by kindness to the poor**.

Joel 1:14



Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the elders, all who dwell in the land, Into the house of the Lord, your God, and cry to the Lord!

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God

**Personal / Social Values are
Lessened / Destroyed**



Eternal Punishment Is Due

Temporal Punishment Is Due



Death

Reparation

OR

OR

**Friendship Restored at
Calvary**

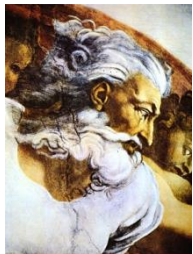
Punishment from God



Grace

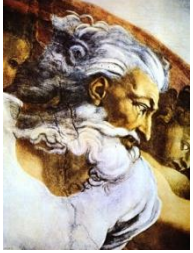
Power of the Keys

1 Kings 21:26-29



He (Ahab) became completely abominable by following idols, just as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord drove out before the Israelites. When Ahab heard these words, he tore his garments and put on sackcloth over his bare flesh. **He fasted**, slept in the sackcloth, and went about subdued. Then the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Have you seen that Ahab has humbled himself before me? Since he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his time. I will bring the evil upon his house during the reign of his son.”

Jonah 3:6-10

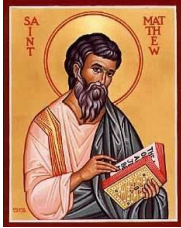


When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, **covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes**. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his nobles: “Neither man nor beast, neither cattle nor sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we shall not perish.” When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

Proverbs 16:6

By kindness and piety guilt is expiated, and by the fear of the Lord man avoids evil.

Matthew 6:16-18



When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But **when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face**, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.

Mark 9:28-29



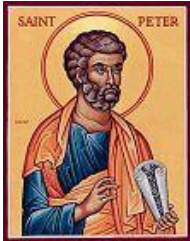
When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, “Why could we not drive it (deaf/mute spirit) out?” He said to them, **“This kind can only come out through prayer.”**

Acts 10:4



Your **prayers and almsgiving** have ascended as a memorial offering before God.

1 Peter 4:8



Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because **love covers a multitude of sins.**

The constant faith, *paradosis*, of the Church attests to the two-fold effects of sin, aversion from God and conversion to created things, the two-fold punishments due to sin, eternal and temporal, and the satisfaction of one by the blood of Christ and the other by reparation.

Tertullian (Rome, 160 -220 AD),
Athanasius (Alexandria, 293 - 373 AD),
Ambrose (Tier, W. Germany, 340 - 397 AD),
Jerome (Stridon, Yugoslavia, 345 - 419 AD),
etc.

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God

**Personal / Social Values are
Lessened / Destroyed**



Eternal Punishment Is Due

Temporal Punishment Is Due



Death

Reparation

OR

OR

**Friendship Restored at
Calvary**

Punishment from God



Grace

Power of the Keys

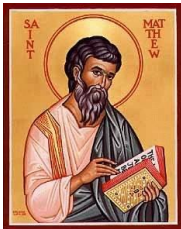
Before death: Indulgences

After death: Purgatory

The Existence of Sin

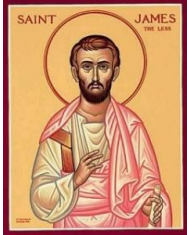
It is frequently said that what the Catholic Church taught about sin was not always biblical. Catholic Christianity has always used the Bible as its source for what is sinful. It is important to state that **all sin offends God**. With even the slightest sin in our eyes, we alienate God and are unholy in his sight.

Matthew 6:24



No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

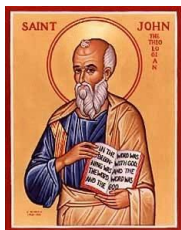
James 4:4-10



Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that the scripture speaks without meaning when it says, “The spirit that he has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy?” But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

It has been objected that the long standing teaching of the Church of a **distinction between “mortal” and “venial” sin** was an artificial distinction. But it was the Apostle John, Evangelist and author of three epistles as well as the Book of Revelation, from whom the church took that distinction among sins.

1 John 5:16-17

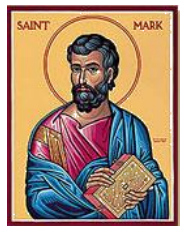


If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is **not deadly** (*venial*), he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly.

There is such a thing as **deadly sin** (*mortal*), about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly.

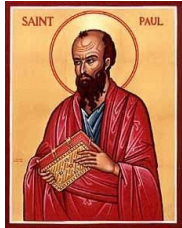
The Church is also criticized for **teaching sin by lists**. But again it is from the Bible itself that the Church takes the lead in teaching the word of God about those behaviors which are sin.

Mark 7:20-23



(Jesus said) “But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

Galatians 5:19-21

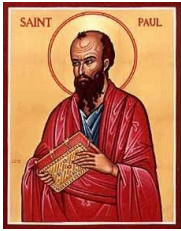


Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 4:25-31

... putting away falsehood ... Be angry but do not sin ... The thief must no longer steal ... No foul language should come out of your mouths ... All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 5:3-7

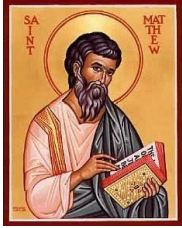


Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting among holy ones, no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, which is out of place, but instead, thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure or greedy person, that is, an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient. So do not be associated with them.

Ephesians 5:18

And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery .

Matthew 5:28



But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

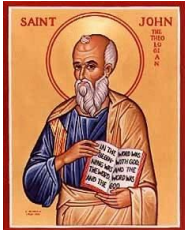
Matthew 5:32

But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:34

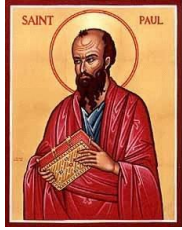
But I say to you, do not swear at all.

Revelation 21:8



But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshipers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10



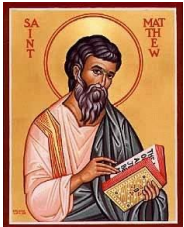
Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Indulgences

By definition, an indulgence is the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to personal sin, provided that the sin has already been forgiven. The power invested in the Church and her bishops and priests to grant indulgences is found in several scriptures.

To Peter alone Jesus granted the first power to bind and loose anything.

Matthew 16:19



I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

SIN

Aversion from God

Conversion to Created Things



Offends God

**Personal / Social Values are
Lessened / Destroyed**



Eternal Punishment Is Due

Temporal Punishment Is Due



Death

Reparation

OR

OR

**Friendship Restored at
Calvary**

Punishment from God



Grace

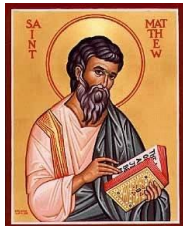
Power of the Keys

Before death: Indulgences

After death: Purgatory

To all the disciples Jesus later granted the same power to bind and loose.

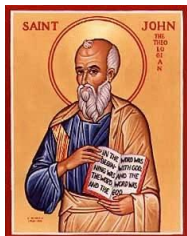
Matthew 18:18



Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

To all the disciples Jesus gave the power to forgive sins.

John 20:21-23



(Jesus) said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

As can be seen from the nature of personal sin, as man turns from God and towards created things, man incurs both guilt and punishment. Through the blood of Jesus, all guilt of sin-turning from God--is **remitted through confession of sin**. Punishment, limited temporal punishment due to sin-preferring created things to God--still remains.

Numbers 14:20-23



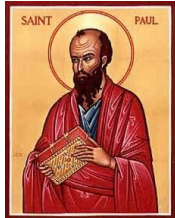
The Lord answered (Moses): “I pardon them as you have asked. Yet, by my life and the Lord's glory that fills the whole earth, of all the men who have seen my glory and the signs I worked in Egypt and in the desert, and who nevertheless have put me to the test ten times already and have failed to heed my voice, **not one shall see the land which I promised** on oath to their fathers. None of these who have spurned me shall see it.”

2 Samuel 12:13-14



Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan answered David: “The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, **the child born to you must surely die.**”

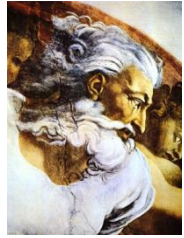
1 Corinthians 11:29-32



For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by (the) Lord, **we are being disciplined** so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

The three classic actions leading to indulgences are **prayer, good deeds and almsgiving.**

Proverbs 16:6



By **kindness and piety** guilt is expiated, and by the fear of the Lord man avoids evil.

Daniel 4:24



Therefore, O king, take my advice; atone for your sins by **good deeds**, and for your misdeeds by kindness to the poor; then your prosperity will be long.

Luke 19:8-9



But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall **give to the poor**, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.”

Acts 10:4

Your **prayers and almsgiving** have ascended as a memorial offering before God.

End of
Sacraments, A Biblical Portrait of Sin, Part Ve

Go to
**Sacraments, The Institution of the Eucharist,
Part Vf**