

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Matthew 3:1-8**.

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, [2] “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” [3] For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’” [4] Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather belt about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. [5] Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan; [6] and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. [7] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8] “Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;

B. This lesson considers six things about sin, and how the gospel is the cure.

II. SIX THINGS ABOUT SIN.

A. First, the **love** of sin (Heb. 11:25; 1Jn. 2:15,16).

(Heb 11:25) choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;

(1Jn 2:15-16) Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

B. Second, the **practice** of sin (Rom. 1:28-32).

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, [29] being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31] without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; [32] and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

C. Third, the **state** of sin (Rom. 3:10,23; Col. 3:6,7).

(Rom 3:10) as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

(Rom 3:23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

(Col 3:6-7) For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, [7] and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

D. Fourth, the **guilt** of sin (Ac. 2:37).

Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

E. Fifth, the **power** of sin (Rom. 6:23; 6:17).

(Rom 6:17) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

(Rom 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

F. Sixth, the **punishment** of sin (2Th. 1:8,9).

dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9] And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

III. SIX THINGS ABOUT THE GOSPEL.

A. First, we are to have **faith** (Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24).

(Jn 8:24) “I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you shall die in your sins.”

(Heb 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- B. Second, we are to **repent** (Lk. 13:3; 2Cor. 7:10).
(Lk 13:3) “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
(2Cor 7:10) For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to salvation*; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- C. Third, there must be **baptism** (Rom. 6:3,4; 1Cor. 12:13).
(Rom 6:3-4) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? [4] Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
(1Cor 12:13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- D. Fourth, the **remission** of sin (Ac. 2:38; 22:16).
(Ac 2:38) And Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Ac 22:16) ‘And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’
- E. Fifth, the **Holy Spirit** (Ac. 2:38; 5:32).
(Ac 2:38) And Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Ac 5:32) “And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
- F. Sixth, the **resurrection** (Jn. 5:29; 1Th. 4:13-16).
(Jn 5:29) and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.
(1Th 4:13-16) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. [15] For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

IV. THE GOSPEL IS THE CURE FOR SIN.

- A. Notice the parallels:
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| 1. Love ...of sin; | the cure is | Faith ...in Christ. |
| 2. Practice ...of sin; | the cure is | Repentance ...of all past sins and lifestyle. |
| 3. State ...of sin; | the cure is | Baptism ...into the body of Christ. |
| 4. Guilt ...of sin; | the cure is | Remission ...of all past sins. |
| 5. Power ...of sin; | the cure is | Holy Spirit ...given to all baptized believers. |
| 6. Punishment ...of sin; | the cure is | Resurrection ...of all the faithful to be with Christ. |
- B. The gospel has come by X. May we respond to His truth to be freed from sin (Jn. 1:17).
For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Respond to the gospel to escape the consequences of sin and to obtain the blessings of salvation.
 B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.