

January 21 | Sunday

Getting Past Our Sins (a break from World Religions series)

Read [Acts 9:1-5](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:9-11](#)



22 | Mon – An unpopular word | Read [Romans 3:23](#)

The word *sin* is a loaded word. Using it is sometimes considered an old-fashioned way of guilt-tripping people into better behavior. In scripture, the original word for *sin* indicated *failure, missing the target, failing to live up to, falling short*. One biblical scholar puts it this way “...not what God intended them to be. They lack His image and character.” If you think about it that way, who hasn’t sinned? It is a matter of admitting to yourself and to God what you both already know and asking Him what to do about it.

23 | Tue – The million dollar question | Read [1 John 1:8](#) and [Matthew 1:21](#)

Why do we sin? Theologians describe ‘sin’ as our bent from the time we were born, that strong tendency to make self the ultimate authority, the center of the universe - does anyone have to teach their two-year old to be selfish? Behavior can be modified but does the self-as-boss tendency ever truly go away? Is that why Jesus came to save us from our sins...because the rift between humans and God is so great we cannot save ourselves?

24 | Wed – Healthy guilt | Read [John 1:9](#) and [Romans 8:1-2](#)

Do you ever feel condemned about something you have said or done? Today’s scripture is for you. Condemnation and guilt are two very different things. Condemnation is the enemy’s tool for beating you down but guilt can be the Holy Spirit’s way of helping you face your sin and deal with it. The quickest way to do so is to confess (agree with God that it was wrong), then ask for forgiveness and for help to change. Is there something you need to deal with right now? Please don’t put it off.

25 | Thu – Repent? Can’t I just say I am sorry? | Read [Jeremiah 8:6](#)

In scripture, the word *repent* is often connected with the words *forgiveness of sins*. Many people believe that to repent means to feel sorry for wrong-doing. That is a part of the process but in the original language of the Bible, the word for *repent* means *to turn, to change from one thing to another*. Someone who repents has a change of mind, then a change of heart, and finally a change of conduct. In what ways has sorrow for your sin caused you to do a 180? That is a sign of true repentance.

26 | Fri – Yes, but... | Read [1 John 3:19-24](#)

You know in your head that you are forgiven but your heart still condemns you. This is a frequent tactic used by the devil to keep us from experiencing peace. God understands and directed John to write these encouraging words to remind us God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. Is that where trust kicks in? Do you believe in the character of God, the goodness of God? Do you believe God will do what He promised? Then you tell your heart - “be quiet, you don’t know everything!”

27 | Sat – Perspective | Read [Romans 12:1-2](#) and [8:5-6](#)

What strategies do you have for “getting past” your sins? What have you learned from others who might be further along in this walk of faith? Missing the mark is a part of life but being prepared can often help you ward off unproductive guilt and move forward. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to renew your mind so it lines up with God’s perspective? He will.