

# *Nothing is Sin*

**Num 32:16-19**

**1**

**16** Then they came near to him and said, “We will build here sheepfolds for our livestock and cities for our little ones; **17** but we ourselves will be armed ready to go before the sons of Israel, until we have brought them to their place, while our little ones live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. **18** “We will not return to our homes until every one of the sons of Israel has possessed his inheritance. **19** “For we will not have an inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this side of the Jordan toward the east.”

The Israelites have conquered the country possessed by Og, king of Bashan, and Sihon, king of the Amorites; and the tribes of Reuben and Gad, having great quantities of cattle, thought that so rich a pasture-country would be eminently suitable for them and for their flocks and have requested that this be given to them as their inheritance. Moses has agreed to this but with a caveat...

**Num 32:23**

**2**

**23** “But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.

**3** Moses’ statement is interesting. He essentially tells them that they have a responsibility to their kin, to the rest of the nation of Israel, and that to shirk that responsibility would be sin. Responsibility is something that all men have, even though many don’t recognize it. Whether that is because of selfishness, ignorance, or whatever, the fact that man will be held accountable for his responsibility is an absolute truth.

**1 Peter 4:4-5**

**4**

**4** In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; **5** but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Moses tells Gad and Reuben that it would be a sin to take what might seem to be the easy way. He tells them that they would be discouraging God’s people if they didn’t help. He tells them that it would be sin if they didn’t help.

There are some ideas that come to mind as I think about this...

**5**

- 1) What is the sin
- 2) Why is it sin
- 3) What happens by doing nothing

So the first point is...

**6**

- 1) What is the sin



Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. Synonyms: indifference, lack of interest, lack of enthusiasm, lack of concern, unconcern, uninterestedness, unresponsiveness, impassivity, dispassion, lethargy, languor, ennui.

This might be a by-product of idleness or self-indulgence. It might be the result of the confidence in knowing what God does for man through Christ. But it seems to be more of a decline in faith and commitment. There are a lot of different things that can be at the root of this. Influence from the outside world; friends, family, work, whatever. Dissatisfaction with what we find on the inside. We have difficulties with people or the way things are going and we decide to check out. We think that our efforts are for naught, so why bother.

The sin of doing nothing is one of the most dangerous to all Christians because it attacks and tempts in such a vast variety of ways. So many of those in ways that we don't even recognize until we have made the actions of apathy habit.

This illustrates for us our next point...

**14** 2) Why is it sin

Moses tells them that if they choose to not go and help that...

**15** ***“You have sinned against the Lord”***

Apathy, indifference, self-indulgence, idleness all attack the commitment, the attitude of love and faith that Christians are to have for and towards God. Doing nothing is a sin against the Lord. It means that we have turned from our first love...

**Rev 2:4** **16**

4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Here Christ is saying that the Church of Ephesus, while still apparently doing the things of God, keeping His commandments, at least on the surface, had drifted away from their original purpose, their first love. Sin has no degrees. There is no sin greater than any other, all sin has the same result, separation from God, but the sin of nothing is insidious, it creeps into our lives with no effort on our part, it gives us the illusion of contentment, thinking that our doing nothing is what God wants. This flies in the face of why man is here...

**Isa 43:7** **17**

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. KJV

Man has a purpose. God created him...

**Eccl 12:13** **18**

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

Solomon identifies the purpose of man, “Fear God, keep His commandments.”

Doing nothing is sin because it denies the very purpose of man's, any man's, existence. God wants man to be saved, which is exactly what Solomon is saying...

**Eccl 12:14** 19

**14** For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

As we have already seen, we will be judged by the deeds we do in this life.

I don't know if it is normal or natural for man to consider themselves above failure but the fact of the matter is that we are all certainly guilty of many things, but maybe one of the most distressing is that so many times we are guilty of ingratitude.

What do we owe God? The better question is, what don't we owe God? God's grace has granted to man everything, and I am not talking about the blessings of this Earth.

**James 1:17** 20

**17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God has provided for man everything he needs to live on or in this world. And He has also given man everything he needs to live, in the next life.

**1 John 5:10-12** 21

**10** The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. **11** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

God has given man the opportunity to have eternal life through Christ Jesus. This brings us to our last thought...

22 3) What happens by doing nothing

**Num 32:23** 23

**23** "But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.

Moses was very clear to Gad and Reuben, their actions, their sin would be found out. Doing nothing is never a means to an escape. Doing nothing is never an alternative to obedience. Moses is telling the Gadites and Reubenites their own neglect would be unto them sin. Their sin would find them out to their shame and sorrow if they did not lend all their strength to their brethren according to their promise.

How sad that so many times we have to look back on our lives and say, "I was wrong." "I should not have done that."

**2 Cor 7:11** 24

**11** For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong!

Isn't that what Paul is saying here? This idea of earnestness comes from the Greek...

Spoudh

**25**

Spoude (spoo-day'); from NT:4692; "speed", i.e. (by implication) despatch, eagerness, earnestness: KJV - business, (earnest) care (-fulness), diligence, forwardness, haste.

What Paul is saying is that godly sorrow, the recognition and realization of the things we have done in our past are sin, they go against God's Word, it evokes within the good and honest heart, many different emotions. Paul lists some of them;

- 26**
- C) Vindication
  - D) Indignation
  - E) Fear
  - F) Longing
  - G) Zeal
  - H) Avenging of wrong

Godly sorrow is intended to make the man who heeds God's Word look at His life, where he has been, but more importantly, where he is going. Note what Paul says prior to this...

**2 Cor 7:9**

**27**

**9** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

God's Word, His will is what brings about godly sorrow. Learning, studying, knowing, keeping God's Word is the catalyst. But that is doing something, what happens when we do nothing?

Nothing doesn't necessarily do nothing. Nothing brings about a lack of godly sorrow. It doesn't cause anyone to be indignant about their sin. It doesn't make anyone fear the consequence of their sin. It doesn't point anyone towards a longing for eternal life.

But you know what nothing does do? It causes man to sin. And the penalty for sin is death. So Based on the equation that  $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$ .

**28** Nothing is sin and sin = death.

Now, as I said earlier, I want to make sure...

**Num 32:16-18**

**29**

**16** Then they came near to him and said, "We will build here sheepfolds for our livestock and cities for our little ones; **17** but we ourselves will be armed ready to go before the sons of Israel, until we have brought them to their place, while our little ones live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. **18** "We will not return to our homes until every one of the sons of Israel has possessed his inheritance.