



## Study Guide

Many times we struggle to get a solid biblical understanding of the different topics in the Bible. Are we really punished for Adam's sin? What is the purpose of angels? What do the end times look like?

This course will tackle these topics and many more and unpack them in a way that isn't just theoretical but actually relates to your Christian life.

Corresponding teaching videos can be found online at:

[churchoftherock.ca/watch-online/series/crashcoursecreeds/](http://churchoftherock.ca/watch-online/series/crashcoursecreeds/)

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# HAMARTIOLOGY – Doctrine of Sin & SOTERIOLOGY – Doctrine of Salvation

*A Crash Course in Creeds - Session 4*



## HAMARTIOLOGY – DOCTRINE OF SIN

“hamartia” = sin

**It is vital to understand the gravity of our sin in order to understand the immensity of Christ’s gift of salvation.**

*Luke 7:44–47 NKJV – Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”*

## The Nature of Sin

WESTMINSTER CONFSSION: “Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of, any law of God given as a rule to the reasonable creature.”

## Sin is Contrary to the Character of God

- Missing the Mark ([Romans 3:23](#))
- Trespassing the line ([1 Timothy 2:14](#))
- Disobedience ([Hebrews 2:2-3](#))
- Ignorance of what one ought to have known ([Hebrews 9:7](#))
- Neglecting to do what we knew we ought to do ([James 4:17](#))
- Lawlessness ([1 John 3:4](#))
- Unbelief ([Romans 11:20](#))

The character of God can be traced back to the 10 Commandments

- i.e. “do not \_\_\_\_\_ [sin item]” *because* God is \_\_\_\_\_ [opposite to the sin item]

## SIN? SINS? SINNER?

New Testament makes a distinction:

- SIN = sinful nature
- SINS = expressions of the sin nature, transgressions
- SINNER = one who possesses a sin nature

i.e. They are not sinners because they sin, they sin because they are sinners, possessing the sin nature.

## The Origin of Sin

1 John 3:8–10 NIV - *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.*

- A person lives by the nature they possess (saint or sinner?)
- The devil was the originator of sin. Sin is not part of the nature of God.
- Jesus was manifest to destroy sin.

## The Original Sin

- Adam did not live by a code but out of a relationship.
- The one prohibition was in order to give man free moral agency.

PROCESS OF TEMPTATION - [Genesis 3:1-6](#)

1. Satan cast doubt on God's Word & His Love
2. Eve tampered with God's Word
3. Satan contradicted God's Word
4. Eve succumbed

## **Results of Original Sin**

- a) Man lost his glory
- b) Man experienced guilt and fear
- c) Man broke fellowship with God
- d) Man looked to creation (fig leaves) rather than the Creator for security
- e) Snakes now have to slither
- f) All creation cursed, including animal world
- g) Women became a primary target of Satan
- h) Women have increased struggle in childbearing
- i) Women became subjugated to their husbands
- j) The ground man would now have to work was cursed
- k) Physical death
- l) Spiritual death
- m) Sin spread to rest of mankind

## **Imputation of Sin**

- to attribute or reason something to a person
- the point at which one is held accountable for their sin

## **The Penalty of Sin**

- a) Spiritual death – separation from God
- b) Sickness
- c) Unanswered prayer
- d) Bondage to sin
- e) Broken Relationships (eg. Adultery & Divorce)
- f) Mental anguish
- g) Physical death
- h) Eternal damnation



## **SOTERIOLOGY – DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**

**“soteria” = salvation**

## Other Words for Salvation

- *Vicarious* – substitution ([Isaiah 53:6](#))
- *Atonement* – a covering
- *Propitiation* – turn away wrath by appeasement, sacrifice ([John 3:36](#))
- *Reconciliation* – enmity to fellowship ([Colossians 1:21](#))
- *Redemption* – ransom ([Matthew 20:28](#))
- *Regeneration* – new life ([Ephesians 2:5](#)); born again
- *Imputation* – we are the righteousness of Christ
- *Forgiveness* – slate is wiped clean; restored relationship
- *Justification* – acquitted; gives us the status of righteous
- *Sanctification* – saved, so we are now set apart for God's use

## Salvation Process

- 1) Past – [Romans 8:1](#)
- 2) Present – [Romans 6:1–23](#)
- 3) Future – [Romans 8:29](#)

## Mediator

The whole of God's plan centers around the office and function of a mediator—someone who could stand in the gap on behalf of God and man.

### THE NEED FOR A MEDIATOR

1 Timothy 2:5 NIV - *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus ...*

### THE DEATH OF THE MEDIATOR

Hebrews 2:9 NIV - *But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

Romans 6:23 NIV - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## Why Death?

- The price to be paid for our sin was death.
- If Christ did not pay it, we would have to.



## Discussion Questions

1. Are we still subject to the curse?

2. Did Jesus struggle with sin? Did He have a sin nature?

3. My sin doesn't affect my salvation, but how can it affect my blessings, rewards, joy, healing, etc.?

4. [James 1:12-15](#) talks about how sin takes root. **How can knowing this be helpful to people who are struggling with a sin issue?**

**5. Why can't I just confess my sin to God? Why do I need to include my community?**

**6. Mankind's only hope of salvation from the power and consequences of sin and death is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing us into life and victory in Christ.**

Man's redemption was purchased through Jesus' substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension to the right hand of the Father.

**Write out the gospel in your own words.**