

The Sinning Soul

Ezek 18

INTRODUCTION

- A. Dan learned to be an alcoholic by watching his father.
 - 1. Whenever things didn't go just right, his father would drink.
 - 2. Whenever Dan's father needed to relax, he drank.
 - 3. Therefore, Dan picked up those same habits.
- B. Children often imitate the dysfunctional patterns of their parents (Ex 34:7).
- C. Although children learn the dysfunctional patterns of their parents, children are still responsible for their own sins.
- D. This morning, we need to examine the individual nature of sin.

THE SINNING SOUL DIES, vv 1-4

- A. The Israelites in captivity thought that they were being punished for the sins of their forefathers.
- B. They, therefore, formulated the proverb: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."
 - 1. The meaning of that proverb is apparent—parents sin, and children pay the consequences.
 - 2. These Israelites thought that they bore the guilt of their parents' sins.
- C. The Lord forbade the use of this proverb in Israel, v 3.
 - 1. All souls belong to God.
 - a. God created all souls.
 - b. He, therefore, governs all souls.
 - 2. The soul which sins shall die.
 - a. Death is the penalty for sin (Rom 6:23).
 - b. We aren't punished for the sins of others—only the soul who sins shall die.
- D. The idea of "original sin" is false.
 - 1. Some teach that all mankind bear the guilt of Adam & Eve's sin.
 - 2. Such a view is not correct.
 - a. This passage refutes such an idea.
 - b. The definition of sin refutes such an idea.
 - 1) Sin is something one does (1 Jn 3:4).
 - 2) How can children commit lawlessness?

THE SINNING SOUL DIES FOR HIS OWN SINS, vv 19-20

- A. The Israelites could not understand why the children would not bear their parents' sins, v 19.
- B. Children who do what God says shall not bear the guilt of sin, v 20.
- C. God says that each person is responsible for his actions, v 20b.
 - 1. Many teach that one isn't responsible for his actions.
 - a. Individuals commit sexual molestation because they were molested as children.
 - b. Teens kill students & teachers because they have a bad home life.
 - 2. God refutes this idea—each person is responsible for his own actions.

THE SINNING SOUL DIES UNLESS HE TURNS, vv 21-24

- A. The sinning soul can change, vv 21-23.
 - 1. If the wicked man turns from his way & does what is right, he shall live & not die, v 21.

2. None of the sins he has committed shall be remembered against him, v 22.
3. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, v 23.
 - a. Some have the idea that God wants individuals to be lost; such is not an accurate view of God (2 Pt 3:9).
 - b. God doesn't want you to be lost.
4. This passage teaches that individuals can change.
 - a. Some hold out no hope for themselves.
 - 1) They believe that God would never forgive them.
 - 2) They believe that they could never change.
 - b. Yet, this text teaches that God does forgive those who repent.
 - 1) God delights in forgiving people of their sin (Mic 7:18).
 - 2) God forgave those who crucified his Son (Acts 2:36-38).
 - c. This text teaches that individuals can change.
 - 1) Paul was a person who changed.
 - 2) The Corinthians were Christians who changed (1 Cor 6:9-11).
- B. The righteous soul can change, v 24.
 1. If a righteous man turns from what is right & commits iniquity, he shall die for his iniquity.
 2. Christians can fall from grace.
 - a. Gal 5:4.
 - b. 1 Cor 10:12.

THE SINNING SOUL DIES BECAUSE OF JUDGMENT, v 30

- A. The Lord promised to judge everyone in Israel according to his works.
- B. We know these truths:
 1. We shall all be judged.
 - a. 2 Cor 5:10.
 - b. No one is going to escape judgment.
 2. We shall all be judged according to our works (Rv 20:12).

CONCLUSION

- A. The Lord begs his people to repent.
- B. He asks, "Why will you die, O house of Israel?"
 1. Israel could turn & live.
 2. You can turn & live.
 3. Why will you die?