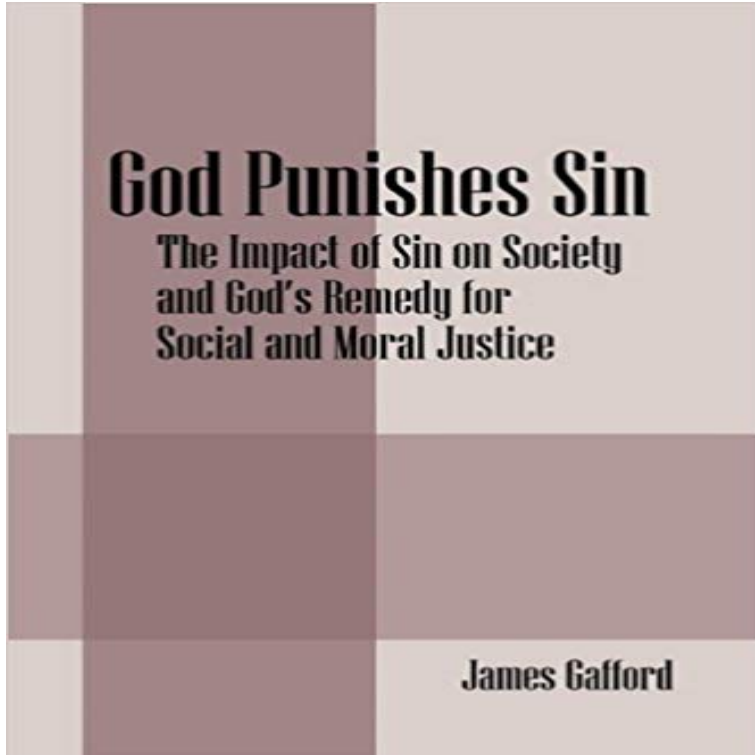


God Punishes Sin: The Impact of Sin on Society and Gods Remedy for Social and Moral Justice



MUST WE CONTINUE IN SIN? How can we expect to please our God in this twenty-first century and enter the narrow gate of the kingdom of heaven if we continue in sin? Jesus was exceedingly clear when He said, Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied, cast out devils, and done many wonderful works in thy name? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt. 7:21-23). The point of verses 21 through 23 is that not everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven. But the question is on what basis will some be granted the privilege to enter and others will not? Who will be accepted into the kingdom and who will be cast into the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone to live in eternity with no chance of ever appearing again in the presence of the Lord (Rev. 21:8)? We must ask ourselves in this day and time how can we survive the curse of death in a society where mud-slinging, corruption, and disrespect for human dignity exist as a state of art in both the political and social arenas? Sin is the crux of the problems in this world? This debilitating human malady, as the result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden, runs through the whole Bible. Historically, its impact produces negative effects on social and moral justice in every aspect of society. It keeps this world in turmoil and restlessness. How can this sinful nature be minimized or eliminated? Can the penalty of death annihilate sin and save the victims and victimizers? Would abolishing the law or harsher penalties eradicate the problems? Is the death penalty the only permanent cure for sin? Would it please a loving and peaceful God if every man suffered the curse of death on a tree?

Should every man be punished according to the gravity of the sin he commits? Would it be fair for God to sentence certain finite beings to longer terms of punishment than others? How has God dealt effectively with this malady? According to some commentators, early Christianity spread rapidly because people were searching for meaningful, constructive, moral and just principles that were not found in Epicureanism, Platonism, and Stoicism. Although many of them suffered both internal and external hardships, they continued in faith. They trusted the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them through difficult times, as substantiated in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles (Act. 5:1-10; 6:1-5; 16:16-26; II Cor. 8:2 & 9; 11:25; Phil. 1:12-18). These Christians identified and embraced suffering as a natural part of Christian living because all people suffer in this world. Does suffering produce ungodliness or does ungodliness produce suffering? Christian suffering in modern society is no greater or lesser than the suffering of the early Christians. For as long as man seeks to define his security, values, and self-worth in terms of pleasure, power, capitalism, and materialism instead of God, he will continue to dismiss Isaiah 11:5-9 and 65:25 as wishful thinking and idealistic. The worship of pleasure, power, money, and things are idols of the heart but none of us will honestly admit that we are idol worshippers. The word of God clearly states, Thou shall have no other gods before me (Exod. 20:3). Why do we continue to straddle the fence between idol gods and the One and Only True and Living God? Is there a better way of dealing with this sinful nature that dwells in our flesh? Why are so many of us still reluctant to admit that we need help and submit to God?

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