Name

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Course

Date

Paul’s View of Evil

First, Paul views sin as something that is inheritable such that a person acquires sin from birth. Consequently, human beings are all sinners. Though human beings strive to live a life that is upright before God, none has achieved the glory that the Lord God intended for His people (Fitzmyer 71). In Romans 3: 23 Paul writes, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” This particular view of sin is consistent with the Old Testament view of sin. Psalm 51:5 states, “Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Clearly, Paul views sin as universal across the whole of humanity. In teaching about sin, Paul largely depends on the Old Testament. In Romans 5:12, Paul alludes to Psalms 51:5 when he writes, “therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned.” In particular, Paul believes that all human beings have sinned. However, Paul believes that human beings can achieve salvation through Christ Jesus. Further, Paul explains that the benefits of following Jesus are far more astonishing than the consequences of Man’s sin (Gaventa 131). In Romans 5:20, Paul states, “the law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” Paul states that by following Jesus Christ, Christians are freed from the power of sin.

To a large extent, I concur with Paul’s view of sin. In my view, sin is actually contagious. In practical normal life, it is common to find that children engage in behaviors that their parents engaged in. For instance, there are very high chances that at least one child of parents who drink alcohol also becomes an alcoholic in life (Tarter 189). Therefore, the fact that sin is contagious means that human beings are at great risk of sinning since they live in a society that is sinful. In a similar manner, righteousness and grace are contagious. Therefore, people can avoid sin by following Jesus. In Romans 5:19 Paul states, “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

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