

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

April 18, 2008—Atonement—Sin: Like Changing Your Oil in a White Shirt

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p><u>Review</u></p> <p>1) Something is wrong: <i>As a rule, religions, philosophers, and social scientists agree that the world is not as it should be, that there is a problem with human existence individually and corporately.¹</i></p> <p>a) Recall the four broken relationships— i) With God, with self, with others, with nature</p> <p>2) We Are Complicit in What has Gone Wrong:</p> <p>a) Our fundamental mistrust of God i) We overreach: we want to exceed our finitude and be like God ii) We underachieve: we fail to fully live into who we were created to be</p> <p>b) Consequences of sin i) Personal and systemic ii) Examples</p> <p><u>Organic Nature of Sin²</u></p> <p>1) “Sin” in modern thought a) An act to be forgiven b) Punishment is often thought of as some unrelated penalty</p> <p>2) “Sin” in the Old Testament a) אָוֹן [ʾavon, ʾavown /aw·vone/] and related words i) Sense of sin, inequity, guilt, consequence ii) Includes the three aspects of: (1) The sinful act itself (2) The state of guilt into which the offending person enters (3) The consequences suffered by the offending person and the surrounding people and environment</p> <p>3) Sin distorts reality a) ʾAvon distorts reality so that we are incapable of seeing clearly or walking straightforwardly (Isaiah 59) b) Intention plays little role in the guilt of the offending person</p>

¹ *Missing the Mark*, vii.

² *Ibid.* 117ff

	<p>i) See Leviticus 4-5</p> <p>4) Sin's aftereffects linger in the world</p> <p>a) Individual sin effects others—Joshua 7:1-29 (The story of Achan)</p> <p>b) Sin aftereffects build up—Genesis 15:16 (Amorite land promised to Abraham)</p> <p>c) Generational sin is not an offspring blamed for the sin of the father, but the offspring's heritage: the sin is often repeated by the offspring—Matthew 23:29-36</p> <p>d) Two courses of sin:</p> <p>i) Effects <i>mature</i></p> <p>ii) Atonement and forgiveness <i>may</i> interrupt its life cycle</p> <p>5) Sin and punishment</p> <p>a) Modern view:</p> <p>i) My punishment is an event usually distinct from the sin itself</p> <p>b) Biblical view:</p> <p>i) Sin and consequences viewed together</p> <p>c) Three types of intervention:</p> <p>i) Human</p> <p>(1) A person may bring the offending person's sin to light</p> <p>(2) May speed the sin maturation process</p> <p>ii) God enforces of the moral order</p> <p>(1) "Sooner or later misdeeds bear fruit—sometimes God hastens the harvest, but God does not arbitrarily impose penalties."</p> <p>(a) Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6 ("I will not turn it back")</p> <p>(b) Romans 1:18-32 (God gave them over...)</p> <p>6) God's forgiveness (next week)</p> <p>a) God can forgive our sin, but the consequence often remains</p> <p><u>Case Study</u></p> <p>1) 2Samuel 12:1-15</p> <p>a)</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Biddle, Mark E. *Missing the Mark*. Abingdon Press, 2005.
- McGrath, Alister. *The Twilight of Atheism*. 2004.
- McKnight, Scot. *A Community Called Atonement*. Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books, 2000.
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not The Way It's Supposed To Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Volf, Miroslav. *Free of Charge: Giving and Receiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace*. Zondervan, 2005.
- Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Eerdmans, 1994.