

2 WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Praise be to Allah, King of kings, and Lord of the worlds. Praise to Him who leads, guides, and delivers from error and going astray.

I witness that there is no god other than Allah, the just Judge. He forgives and loves, hears and answers.

Oh, Allah, forgive us our sins and be gracious unto us. Lead us in the right path. Amen, oh Lord of the worlds.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- Two Groups of People
- Allah the Just Judge
- What Is Sin?
 - Where are you now?
- The Result of Sin
- The Real Problem
 - Where are you going after this life?

TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE

As for what follows, man is essentially an immortal soul. The body we live in is a temporary dwelling. Life here is a short introduction to the life to come. So during our years on earth, we are preparing ourselves for a life that never ends. Immortality is a fact. In eternity, people are divided into two groups, one group that will live forever in paradise, and another that will be tormented in hell. On the resurrection day, those

who have done good will rise to eternal life, and those who have done evil will rise to be punished.

ALLAH THE JUST JUDGE

It is clear then that people will be divided into two groups according to works. After life's journey, Allah will judge us according to our works.

Allah is going to judge everything we do, whether good or bad, even things done in secret.

So we should ask ourselves: What are my works like? Are they good or bad? It is those works which please Allah that He counts as good. Even if we think our deeds are good or great, if they do not please Allah, they are evil.

We learned in lesson one that Adam fell into sin because he disobeyed Allah's command. Since that fall, people have been dominated by a natural inclination to disobey. Sin has ruled over them. They have lost the friendly relationship with Allah Almighty, and they have become estranged and cast out. Sin has reigned over humans.

WHAT IS SIN?

But what is sin? Sin, my friend, is not only horrible and evil. It is not just obvious corruption, as so many people think. Sin is wandering from the way of Allah, no matter how slight that deviation might be. Sin is separation of the creature from the Creator. It is like a thick, high wall that separates people from Allah, glorified. Sin is like a wide gulf that hinders a person from approaching Allah. It is spiritual blindness that plagues people and makes them unable to see or understand divine things. It makes them unable to do good works that really please Allah Almighty. This is demonstrated by the fact that humans do evil. Godlessness, lack of faith, murder, adultery, fornication, wars, stealing, lying, cheating, fraud, deception, hatred, treachery, jealousy, and strife, whether deliberate or hidden, these are some of the symptoms that indicate there is a critical problem in people's hearts. The problem is that humans are rebellious and disobedient to their Creator. Certainly, this is a serious matter.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Because of Adam's fall, disobedience spread into all his offspring. How? We know from the laws of nature that a creature produces after its own kind. And no creature can bring forth offspring that is not of its own kind. A cat, for example, cannot give birth to a dove.

A fig-tree . . . cannot bear olives; a grapevine cannot bear figs.

This law also applies to people. Adam, who was the father of all mankind, lost his innocence. He lost his fellowship with Allah; and so he was expelled from the garden. Then he fathered children. Would his children be like their father or different from him? Adam's descendants were not better than their father. They came, having the same nature that causes humans to commit sin and rebel against Allah, mighty and exalted. The soul of humans is prone to evil. And we have the evidence: one of Adam's sons killed his brother. All of Adam's descendants were inclined to disobey and fall into sin.

Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it.

Evil is present in people's hearts and their deeds prove it. Sin is a result of the corrupt nature all humans inherit. Look at a little child when you tell him: "Come here!" and he doesn't come. You tell him: "Don't go over there," but he disobeys and goes anyway. Why does he do that? Did a teacher sit beside him and say: "When they tell you to come, don't go?" Of course not. That is our sinful human nature which does not need to be taught to rebel.

Sin is the fever that has touched everyone, the sickness that has spread in humans of all races. It is the reason for sickness, ignorance, misery, and humiliation. It takes away beauty and joy from life. Sin is the spiritual blindness that causes man to do evil things which ruin his reputation and dishonor him.

Perhaps you are bound by bad habits. Perhaps you are given to sadness, to adversity (misfortune), to loneliness, and to fear. The cause of all that is sin and rebellion. Perhaps you feel a heavy weight on your shoulders (your conscience) that worries you, causes you stress, and bothers you. Perhaps you do not know what that heavy weight is, and you do not know what to call it. But I tell you the truth: it is called sin.

THE RESULT OF SIN

Sin humiliates humans and makes them tired. Sin is not limited to adults, children, rich or poor. Sin treats you in a perverted way and makes you a slave. It starts with a simple look, then with a deceitful idea, then with an uncontrollable desire. Afterwards you find yourself bound by chains you cannot break and in a prison that you cannot get out of. Rebellion deserves punishment, and the wages of disobedience is hell. For the punishment of sin is death.

Death here is spiritual death, which, as we said in lesson one, involves perishing in eternal hell. Sin, my friend, is what makes you worried, tormented, and lost. You have no peace of heart. You experience no real happiness, and joys are not lasting. You laugh on the outside, but in your heart you cry and suffer. You have some money, but you are not satisfied. Perhaps you have many friends, but you do not feel secure. Or maybe you are from an honorable family or you have achieved a high level of education. Can the family or the diploma buy you happiness in eternity? No. You try to do the right things and to build good relations with people, but disappointments come. Maybe you try to fulfill all your religious obligations in the best way. You do your prayers, you fast, you give alms, and you are proud of your good deeds. But actually, you do not know Allah in a real way. On the contrary, you feel He is far from you. So on the outside you may look successful, but on the inside you are actually miserable and lost.

I read the story of a man who had a clock that did not give the exact time. So he opened the clock and removed the hands. He took them to a watchmaker and asked him to repair them. The watchmaker said: "I can't repair these hands if you don't bring me the clock." The man answered: "The clock hasn't stopped running, so the problem has to be with the hands." The watchmaker answered: "If the hands don't give the exact time, the problem must be inside the clock. That's what needs to be repaired."

THE REAL PROBLEM

And you, my friend, the cause of the confusion in your life is sin. The problem is not the things on the outside, the things we see; the real problem is that your soul has strayed from the right path.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Then, what about the Day of Judgment? You know that the Day of Judgment is certainly coming. Allah, glorious and almighty, will judge you. But you do not know what is going to happen to you on that day. You do not know where you are going. Will Allah forgive you for your sins or not? Where will you go after the judgment—to paradise or to hell? You have no assurance, although this is a very serious matter.

So, my friend, we have discussed two important things. First: **Where are you now?** The answer is that all people are in sin. Second: **Where are you going after this life?** You do not know, and that causes you worry and trouble.

Is life then worry, misery, and guilt feelings? Has Allah Almighty created us to live in misery? No, no my friend. He is forgiving and compassionate. And no matter how hopeless and miserable you are, there is hope; there is a bright hope for you. Allah Almighty wants you to enjoy and delight in eternal life and its eternal joys. How is that? In the next lesson, Allah willing, we will discuss this important subject together.

In the keeping of Allah.

Your friend,

Sheikh Abdullah

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please complete the following statements in Part A. Then answer the questions in Part B. You may write in your book or on separate paper. After you complete this assignment you may compare your answers with the correct answers provided in the section called *To Help You Learn – Answers* toward the back of this book.

Completing this part of lesson two called *To Help You Learn* will help you remember the important truths of this lesson.

A. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

1. Man is unable to do the things that please Allah because of

2. Godlessness, lack of faith, murder, adultery, and so forth—all these indicate a critical problem in people’s heart which is

3. Sin came into the world through one man. His name was

4. According to the lesson, when Adam fell into sin, he lost his _____ and his _____ and was expelled from the _____.

5. The punishment of sin is death—that is spiritual death, which involves _____.

B. ANSWER BRIEFLY

1. What is sin? _____

2. Why did rebellion spread into Adam’s offspring?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

3. According to the lesson, what makes you troubled, confused, and worried? _____

4. The lesson mentions several illustrations to explain sin. Give two here.
 - a. Sin is like _____
 - b. And it is like _____
5. Is it possible to know where you will spend eternity or to have the assurance of eternal life?
