



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 21-22
- Acts 6:1-8:1
- II Samuel 11-12

Title:

FORGIVEN... YET LIABLE

- Accusation
- Defense
- Consequences

If you are born-again, you will not be held accountable for your sins on judgment day; Y'shua has all of them covered. However, that does not blot out the consequences of your sinful behavior here on earth. Simply put, "You can escape eternal condemnation for your sin, but you cannot escape sin's earthly ramifications." Said another way, "You may not be punished for your sins, but you will be punished by your sins!" words that represent both a sigh of relief and sober warning. And let's be clear; there can be no relief without Christ. Absent a contrite heart and genuine repentance, your sins destine you to eternal condemnation and earthly suffering.

So, what is the subtle nuance here? When one comes to Christ, the born-again encounter is a result of a heart-change inspired by the gift of grace through faith and evidenced by repentance and confession. A contrite heart is proof of true repentance and God's promise to all those in Christ—you are forgiven! He covers all the eternal consequences of your transgressions and you are permitted to live with God forever! In other words, "You will no longer be punished for your sins."

However, you are not relieved of the potential devastating consequences that sin causes in this life, even when you are forgiven by God. Think of it this way; in God's economy there are no small sins and no big sins. Any sin not covered by the blood of Y'shua will land you in eternal damnation. However, here on earth, the more serious the sin, the more serious the consequences. And here's the rub. This is true even if those sins have been erased into eternity because you've repented and been forgiven.

On earth your sins have a cost. Steal bubble gum and you are condemned to hell without Christ, but here on earth, nothing will happen. Commit adultery, repent through Christ, experience His forgiveness, and your marriage is still devastated. Plus, you just might bring a child into a very damaged situation. The sin itself is the consequence. In other words, "You are punished by your sins."

Why such a dire warning? Because although God wants you to experience the significant relief, and confidence, and certainty that in Christ your sins are forgiven, He also wants you to be horrified by the prospect of continuing to sin. And if you are a Christian, don't see the consequences of sin on earth as God's condemnation, nor is it necessary to carry the burden of those sins for which you have been forgiven. That is not the point! It's best to rest in God's forgiveness, even when sin has caused difficulties and struggles and turmoil on this side of eternity, and rather see this as a sobering warning of sin's consequences! As a Christian, you will not be punished by God for your sins, but here on earth, your sin itself is the punishment!

PROPHETIC SEED:

“They also set up **false witnesses** who said, “This man [Stephen] does not cease to speak **blasphemous words against this holy place and the law;**” Acts 6:13 NKJV

“...they **cast him** [Stephen] **out of the city and stoned him.** And **the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.**” Acts 7:57-58 NKJV

“Now **Saul was consenting to his death.** At that time a **great persecution arose against the church** which was at Jerusalem...” Acts 8:1 NKJV

“**And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death,** and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.” Acts 22:20 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“...**he took Paul’s belt,** bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘**So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.**’ ”” Acts 21:11 NKJV

...“You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; **but they have been informed about you that you teach** all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought **not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.**” Acts 21:20-21 NKJV

“Men of Israel, help! **This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place;** and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”” Acts 21:28 NKJV

ACCUSATION

1. Paul is Falsely Accused

A. Paul knows what calamity awaits is and he is willing...

(1) Warnings on the Journey to Jerusalem (Acts 21:1-14)

(a) Ready to Die

1. “Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail, running a straight course we came to Cos, the following day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. **And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.** When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. **And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.** When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home. And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and **entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven,** and stayed with him. **Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.** And as we stayed many days, **a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”** Now when

we heard these things, both we and those from that place **pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.** Then Paul answered, **“What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”** So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, **“The will of the Lord be done.”**” Acts 21:1-14 NKJV

(2) Paul meets with James and other church leaders in Jerusalem... (Acts 21:15-19)

(a) Paul is welcomed to Jerusalem and he testifies about the fruit of his ministry among the Gentiles.

1. “And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem. Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge. **And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.** On the following day **Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.** When he had greeted them, **he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.**”” Acts 21:15-19 NKJV

(3) It's Time to Set the Record Straight! (Acts 21:20-25)

(a) Paul is accused that he has been teaching against circumcision and the law!

1. **“And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord.** And they said to him, “You see, brother, **how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law;** but **they have been informed about** you that you **teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses,** saying that **they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.** What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come. **Therefore do what we tell you:** We have four men who have **taken a vow.** Take them and **be purified with them, and pay their expenses** so that they may shave their heads, and **that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.** But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that **they should observe no such thing,** except that **they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.**””

Acts 21:20-25 NKJV

2. What happened to Stephen? **“They stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”**” Acts 7:59 NKJV
3. What happened to Paul? **“...they stoned Paul [in Lystra] and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”** Acts 14:19 NKJV

(4) Paul makes a definitive statement! (Acts 21:26)

(a) I am not teaching that coming to Christ gives you permission to forsake God's laws!

1. “Then Paul took the men, and the next day, **having been purified with them,** entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.”

Acts 21:26 NKJV

(5) Four Accusations against Paul (Acts 21:27-29)

(a) Even after Paul's definitive statement, some unbelieving Jews still continue to accuse him! And one of those accusations is actually TRUE!

1. “Now **when the seven days were almost ended,** the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, **stirred up the whole crowd** and laid hands on him, crying out, **“Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men**

everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)” Acts 21:27-29

2. “So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath**. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and **devout proselytes** followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.” Acts 13:42-43 NKJV
3. “Now it happened in Iconium that they went together **to the synagogue of the Jews**, and so spoke that a great multitude **both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed**.” Acts 14:1 NKJV

(6) Paul is Arrested in the Temple (Acts 21:30-36)

(a) Apprehended and dragged into Custody

1. “And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, **seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut**. Now as they were **seeking to kill him, news came to the commander** of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And **when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul**. Then the commander came near and took him, and **commanded him to be bound with two chains**; and he asked who he was and what he had done. And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So **when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks**. When he reached the stairs, he **had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob**. For **the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, “Away with him!”**” Acts 21:30-36 NKJV

DEFENSE

2. Paul Defends His Beliefs

A. Even with the perfect defense, false accusations prevail...

(1) Addressing the Jerusalem Mob (Acts 21:37-40)

(a) Paul asks for a moment to address the commander [Claudius Lysias] and then the people.

1. “Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, **“May I speak to you?”** He replied, **“Can you speak Greek? Are you not the Egyptian** who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?” But Paul said, **“I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people.”** So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. **And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,**” Acts 21:37-40 NKJV

(2) Paul’s Opening Arguments (Acts 22:1-21)

(a) “Hear my defense!”

1. **“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense** before you now.” And **when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent**. Then he said: **“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and**

delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and **all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters** to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. “Now it happened, **as I journeyed** and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly **a great light from heaven shone around me**. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**’ So I answered, ‘**Who are You, Lord?**’ **And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’** “And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. So I said, ‘**What shall I do, Lord?**’ And the Lord said to me, ‘**Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.**’ And **since I could not see for the glory of that light**, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. “**Then a certain Ananias**, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, came to me; and he stood and said to me, ‘**Brother Saul, receive your sight.**’ And at that same hour I looked up at him. Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For **you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting?**’ Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ “Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that **I was in a trance and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’** So I said, ‘**Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.**’ Then He said to me, ‘**Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.**’” Acts 22:1-21 NKJV

2. Later I was even stoned just as Stephen had been stoned! “*Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there [Lystra]; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.***” Acts 14:19 NKJV

(3) Paul’s Roman Citizenship (**Acts 22:22-29**)

(a) “*Depart, for I will send you to the Gentiles.*” This very concept triggers the unbelieving Jews...

1. “And they **listened to him until this word**, and then they raised their voices and said, “**Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!**” Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air, the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that **he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him**. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, “**Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?**” When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, “**Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman.**” Then the commander came and said to him, “**Tell me, are you a Roman?**” He said, “Yes.” The commander answered, “**With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.**” And Paul said, “**But I was born a citizen.**” Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and **the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.**” Acts 22:22-29 NKJV

2. *“For we are in danger of **being called in question** for today’s uproar, there being **no reason which we may give to account** for this disorderly gathering.”* Acts 19:40 NKJV

(4) The Divided Sanhedrin (**Acts 22:30**)

- (a) Coming next: Face-to-Face with his Accusers

1. *“The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, **he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear**, and brought Paul down and set him before them.”* Acts 22:30 NKJV

B. Preview: the rest of the story...

- (1) From the time of the first false accusations against him (Acts 21:21), and his claim of Roman citizenship as a defense (Acts 22:25), Paul spends the rest of his life defending himself against false accusations.

- (a) To Felix

1. *“For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. **He even tried to profane the temple**, and we seized him, and **wanted to judge him according to our law.**”* Acts 24:5-6 NKJV

- (b) Porcius Festus

1. *“When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and **laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove**, while he answered for himself, **“Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.”**”* Acts 25:7-8 NKJV
2. *“For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but **if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me**, no one can deliver me to them. **I appeal to Caesar.**”* Acts 25:11 NKJV

- (c) King Agrippa

1. *“And Festus said: “King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, **crying out that he was not fit to live any longer.**”* Acts 25:24 NKJV

- (d) Arrives in Rome (Acts 28:11-30)

1. Defense: *“And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: **“Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers**, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans,”* Acts 28:17 NKJV

CONSEQUENCES

3. **As a believer, you will not be punished by God for your sins, but here on earth, your sin itself is the punishment!**

A. False Accusations

- (1) False Accusations against Y’shua

- (a) They sought false testimony...

1. "Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council **sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death**, but found none. **Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none**. But **at last two false witnesses came forward** and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to **destroy the temple** of God and to build it in three days.'" Matthew 26:59-61 NKJV
- (2) False Accusations against Stephen
 - (a) They secretly induced false testimony...
 1. "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Then **they secretly induced men to say**, "We have heard him speak **blasphemous words against Moses and God**." And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up **false witnesses** who said, "**This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law;**" Acts 6:10-13 NKJV
- (3) False Accusations against Paul
 - (a) Someone has informed the church leaders in Jerusalem that Paul is teaching false doctrine? Is it true?
 1. "And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; but they have been **informed about you** that you **teach all the Jews** who are among the Gentiles **to forsake Moses**, saying that they **ought not to circumcise** their children nor to walk according to the customs." Acts 21:20-21 NKJV
 2. "crying out, "Men of Israel, help! **This is the man who teaches all men everywhere** against **the people, the law**, and ***this place**; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."" Acts 21:28 NKJV
 3. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**." Gal. 6:7 NKJV

B. Forgiven but still consequences

- (1) Paul
 - (a) Stephen was stoned to death based on false accusations
 1. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city **and stoned him**. And the witnesses laid down their clothes **at the feet of a young man named Saul**." Acts 7:57-58 NKJV
 2. "**Now Saul was consenting to his death**. At that time a **great persecution arose against the church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." Acts 8:1 NKJV
 3. And here in Acts 22, Paul acknowledges why he is being accused of such lies... "*And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, **I also was standing by consenting to his death**, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.*" Acts 22:20 NKJV
 4. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**." Gal. 6:7 NKJV
 - (b) Like Stephen, Paul was also stoned!
 1. "Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead**." Acts 14:19 NKJV
 - (c) Paul faced constant persecution...

1. "When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, '**So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt**, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "" Acts 21:11 NKJV
2. "...For **I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die** at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."" Acts 21:13 NKJV
3. "...seeing him in the temple, **stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him**," Acts 21:27 NKJV
4. "Now as they were **seeking to kill him...** And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, **they stopped beating Paul.**" Acts 21:31-32 NKJV
5. "**Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!**" Acts 22:22 NKJV

(d) The consequences of past sin!

1. "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***" Gal. 6:7 NKJV

(2) Woman Accused of Adultery (John 8)

(a) Go and sin not more!

1. "Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him **a woman caught in adultery**. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "**Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned.** But what do You say?"" John 8:3-5 NKJV
2. "When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, **where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?**" She said, "**No one, Lord.**" And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**" "" John 8:10-11 NKJV

(3) David's Fiasco

(a) David and Bathsheba..The Sin

1. "Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? **You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife**, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon." II Samuel 12:9 NKJV

(b) The Consequences

1. "Now therefore, **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' **Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house;** and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.**' "" II Samuel 12:10-12 NKJV

(c) Repented, Forgiven, yet still Liable

1. "So David said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" And Nathan said to David, "**The Lord also has put away your sin;** you shall not die. **However, because by this deed** you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, **the child also who is born to you shall surely die.**" "" II Samuel 12:13-14 NKJV

(d) The Psalm David wrote about his authentic repentance!

1. "Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, **Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.” Psalms 51:1-4 NKJV (see Psalms 51:1-19)

(e) Consequences for past sin!

1. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**”* Gal. 6:7 NKJV

(4) Contrast David’s repentance from Saul’s bleating sheep—

(a) Saul is ANYTHING but truly repentant!

1. “Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and **has not performed My commandments.**” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he **set up a monument for himself;** and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! **I have performed the commandment of the Lord.**” But Samuel said, **“What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”** And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; **for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.**”” I Samuel 15:10-15 NKJV

2. “And Saul said to Samuel, **“But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”**” I Samuel 15:20-21 NKJV

C. God’s forgiveness does not free us to keep in sinning!

(1) That is why grace is not an excuse

(a) Forgiven... through Y’shua

1. “O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with the mind **I myself serve the law of God,** but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

(b) No condemnation... with Y’shua

1. “There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **free from the law of sin and death.**” Romans 8:1-2 NKJV

(c) Grace triumphs over sin!

1. “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,** so that as **sin reigned in death,** even so **grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

(d) Do we keep sinning, so grace becomes more evident?

1. “What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”** Romans 6:1-2 NKJV

(e) Coming to faith does not redefine sin!

1. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**" I John 3:4 NKJV
2. "Do **we then make void the law through faith?** Certainly not! **On the contrary, we establish the law.**" Romans 3:31 NKJV

D. Don't sin!

- (1) You have power over sin!
 - (a) Do not sin!
 1. "'Be angry, and **do not sin**: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.'" Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV
 2. "Awake to righteousness, and **do not sin**; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame." I Corinthians 15:34 NKJV
 - (b) Be perfect!
 1. "Therefore you shall **be perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48 NKJV
 - (c) Do not let sin reign in your life!
 1. "Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as **instruments of unrighteousness to sin**, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." Romans 6:12-13 NKJV
 - (d) Whoever is born-again and abides in God does not sin—cannot sin!
 1. "Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he **cannot sin**, because he has been born of God." I John 3:9 NKJV
 2. "**Whoever abides in Him does not sin.** Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." I John 3:6-7 NKJV
 - (e) Abide in God's love by obeying God
 1. "**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love**, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." John 15:7-10 NKJV
 - (f) The consequences of past sin!
 1. "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***" Galatians 6:7 NKJV
 - (g) And never ever forget you were forgiven!
 1. "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**" II Peter 1:9 NKJV