**“ONE SIN AND OUT!”, LLBN Worship, 7/2/20. HAVEN, 7/18/20**

**INTRO.** A. **CLOCKS:** The old story, room of clocks in heaven, 1 clock for every person down on earth, every time they sin, clock moves a little. Some slow, some fast. Couldn’t find my clock—“Don’t worry, one of the angels took it to their room, using it for a fan.” Every clock’s moving.

B. Here’s the quote I had the hardest time with, growing up: **GREAT CONTROVERSY 483 “When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented, unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life.”** **ONE SIN. How long you been going without any sins? SUNDAE—We’ve been living really carefully, don’t want to get sick.** But—Sunday—went and got an ice cream sundae with some people. If I eat granola and brussels sprouts all the rest of the time—but eat one ice cream sundae—lost? **I know a Pastor—4-letter word in sermon. Guy told me—played golf on Sabbath one time—St Andrews in Scotland. Lost? I did a wedding for a couple—**few months before, asked if they could come see me. He had touched somewhere shouldn’t have touched, she’s going to break up. He was very sorry—but was he lost when he did it? **Golf last week—**hit a terrible shot, nobody’s looking, I got the ball back, did it over again, didn’t count it! Lost? **BIG SUR—**years ago, went backpacking with this guy at Big Sur. 12 miles, he told me there was this hot springs. So we get there, I have some shorts, we get in—next thing I know, this couple comes, takes off all their clothes, get in with me. I’m a pastor’s kid, missionary kid, I was getting married in 3 months—I had never seen anything like this before! I waited about 5 minutes, then got out. Lost?

**C.** Some people make a big mistake, can never get over it.  **BILL BUCKNER,** one ball between his legs, 6th game of world series**. FOOTBALL,** guy who missed the field goal in the super bowl**. GOLF—**guy who missed 2-foot putt on the last hole of the Masters. **People never let you forget it. Famous people die,** they write the obituary—always bring up a couple mistakes they made. They’re dead, still bringing it up. And here it says—One sin—name out of the Book of Life.

**I. THE ISSUE--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SIN AS A CHRISTIAN?** A. I grew up believing--moment you sinned--you were out. No longer a Christian. Had to go through the whole process, all the “Steps to Christ,” all over again, to get back in.

B. A **WEDDING** here in CA--five minutes after couple said vows, “I’ll love you forever”--cutting cake, groom got mad at something, threw cake at his new wife, hit her in the face, she threw back, big food fight, police had to come. We marry Christ, we get **BAPTIZED—saw a baptism at the beach this week—kids out there, freezing water, stand up for Jesus--**we promise to follow Him forever—then we sin? Are we Out? **HOLLY**--I went to visit couple, they had left a case of pop in the van, exploded, wife had just seen it, came out with a bad word--husband saw me, big grin, “**Honey, the pastor’s here!”** If she had died right that moment, just said that one bad word--lost? **My Mother in Law**, terrible accident, in ICU for months, bill like half a million. Nun came in, Mama worried about the bill. Nun says, “I’ll go to the Business Office.” Comes back—tells Hilda’s father, “Going to tell a little white lie, hospital going to forgive the whole thing.” Father says, “That’s not a white lie, that’s a whopper?” “**Never mind--God will forgive me on Sunday.”** But what if Jesus comes before Sunday—nun lost?

C. But here’s the hardest one--girl came to see **MORRIS VENDEN, pastor** at PUC, wanted to accept Christ. Read to accept Christ? No, I’ll come on Monday. Why? Going away for weekend with a married man. Lost if die before Monday? Committing sin, on purpose, knows better.

D. **My History—and my history is pretty close to most people’s history: #1--**I grew up--**No Assurance** at all. God could forgive your sins, but you could never be sure where you stood with God. Never be sure that you had all your sins forgiven. Never be sure if you had remembered everything to confess. Had a near accident in Thailand, almost went into the river–I spent hours wondering, if we had gone underwater, would I remember to quick get all my sins forgiven before drowning. **#2--**At 18 In Milwaukee, Wisconsin–pastor asked youth group, If Jesus were to come tonight do you know that you would be saved? I was a preacher’s kid, missionary, going to be a theology major, lived pretty straight, but I didn’t know. Argued with him. How could you know, until angel came off the cloud, picked you up–Then he gave me this text: **1 JOHN 5:13 “I write these things so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.”** Knelt down on bed one Saturday night, committed my life to Christ. Had that assurance.

E. **BUT WHAT happens—every time you sin—are you out? 1 JOHN 3:6** “**No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning.”** Assurance only if not sinning? If sinned, lose assurance--had to repent, confess, be forgiven, repeat all the “Steps to Christ,” then have assurance again? I believed, if Jesus came or I died before forgiven–lost. I called it the **BEANBAG MODEL—**every time you sin, Jesus takes you off the List. Puts you on the **BUS back down to HELL.**

**1. JOKE—**too many people were coming into heaven, Peter asked Satan to take one group back to hell, come back in a week. Next week Satan comes back, bus of people. “Don’t ask me to do that again.” “What happened?” “Soon as we get down there, this guy **Billy Graham** sets up a pulpit, tries to convert everybody, this guy **Robert Schuller** starts raising money to air condition the place!” **Is that what happens when you sin, even one sin,** on a bus back down to hell, have to start all over again?

2. **MOODY–**man took students hostage. Swat teams, helicopters. Hours. Girl said–Want us to pray for you? Could use prayer. Prayed, others prayed. Led him to Christ! If the SWAT team came in right then, he dies—would he be saved—holding a gun—just accepted Christ?

F. Gradually**—Morris Venden, others—began to preach—You could still have Assurance even if committed Accidental Sins:** The text in 1 John 3 was not about accidental slips--it’s talking about sinning as a way of life, all the time. No, we’re Christians, we’ve changed—but sometimes still a sin here and there, but not as a constant way of life. You have no idea how exciting to hear this, early ‘70s, maybe hope, not the beanbag theory, not on a bus back down to hell every time you sinned, not kicked out of the house. **MORRIS--If you’re MARRIED**, you don’t go through a divorce every time you make a mistake, forget, do something selfish? Divorce is possible, but it has to be a pretty big issue, and over a long period of time. **CHILDREN** make mistakes, but you don’t put them out of the family. My kids were awful. Pulled shower off. One son wrecked 2 cars. 2 engines. Rooms were terrible—just close the door. Still our sons. **ELEVATOR**–if going up, fall down, get back up, still in the elevator, still going up. **SHOWER**--In shower, drop the soap, still in the shower, pick up soap, still in the shower.

**1. Didn’t have to be worried constantly. ROMANS 5:1”Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God.” ISAIAH 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE, whose mind is stayed on Thee.”** Can’t be perfect peace—if worried all the time every time sin a single time.

G. But this was all carefully limited to “**Accidental sins,”** slips, unintentional, unplanned. **HORN--** if working on car, kid snuck into front seat, hit horn, you banged your head on hood, out comes bad word–lost?  No. Lady who say the root beer explode all over her van said the bad word—not lost.

**II. KNOWN SIN:**. A. But what about **Known Sin?** What about the girl who wanted to go away for the weekend with the married man? Texts like: **PSALM 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, He will not hear me.”** People said–but if you commit known sin, cherished sin, premeditated sin–you’re out

**MOODY BIBLE—guy sitting there with the gun, dies—known sin.**

1. But then people said–isn’t that what most of us commit–we know it’s wrong, but we do it anyway?

B. Look at some people in the Bible: #1--**DAVID**--young man out in the fields--total heart for God. God calls him to be King. Kills the lion. Kills Goliath. Writes Psalms. Wins battles. Goes over and stays with the Philistines. Ends up marching with the Philistines against God’s chosen people. But **Patriarchs and Prophets says–David still had a heart for God. Just made a wrong choice.**

**1.** Becomes king--brings the ark to Jerusalem. Does many good things. Dances with joy before God. Too many wives. Then adultery with Bathsheba. Murder. Prophet has to come, “Thou art the man.” Guilty. But e repents, writes Psalm 51. Nathan says–**2 SAMUEL 12:13 “’The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.’”** **Incredible, radical, ridiculous, amazing grace.** Murder, adultery–still grace. **THERE IS ALWAYS MORE GRACE THAN SIN.** These were big sins, awful sins. Always more grace than sin.

2. God comes to Solomon--you haven’t been like my servant David–a **man after my own heart.** He tells Jeroboam--**1 KINGS 14:8 “’You have not been like my servant David, who followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.’”** What? David only did what was right? Did God forget? **YES HE DID!** That’s what He *said*  He would do–**JEREMIAH 31:33-34 “’I will forgive, and remember their sins no more.’”** That’s what justification means. **STEPS TO CHRIST 62 “If you accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.”**

C. **#2--DISCIPLES**–example Morris uses--**MARK 9:33,34**--always arguing about who was the greatest. They knew better--they stayed back from Jesus. Didn’t want Him to hear. They knew it was wrong. What we do--do something we know is wrong, stay away from Jesus. When He asks them what they were doing--they don’t answer. They knew. Known sin. **Still disciples of Christ. With Christ. Still doing miracles. Jesus still walking with them. Still in relationship. LUKE 10:20** “**He said, ‘Rejoice, for your names are written in heaven.’” Jesus said, JOHN 15:15 “’I have called you friends.’” I will never forget, hearing Morris Venden preach on this—if there is no forgiveness for known sins—I’m a dead man.**

**III. GOD IS A CONSTANT:** A. Here’s the Gospel–God’s love is a Constant. The question is not, whether God takes away your salvation for accidental sins or known sins. God doesn’t take away your salvation for anything. He has already forgiven you for every sin you have committed, are committing, or will ever commit.

God never changes. **Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Christ you will see on clouds–same Christ on the Cross. He never changes. One sin, million sins.**

1. **ROMANS 3:21-23 “All have sinned, come short of the glory of God–BUT NOW, a righteousness from God has been revealed, apart from works of law.”** God’s love is settled. Slips of the tongue. Known sins. All sins. Any kinds of sins. Big sins. Little sins. **ROMANS 5:18 “By one man God has given life to everyone.” 2 TIMOTHY 1:9 “God gave us His grace before the foundation of the world.”**

**IV. BUT WHAT ABOUT CHEAP GRACE?** A. Everybody always gets scared, right here–what about cheap grace? Once saved always saved? **Cheap grace?** Here’s the answer: **MOODY--**The story about the guy with the gun—**If he dies, just accepted Jesus—holding the gun—still saved. BUT--If he lives—the gun has to go.** Either the relationship with Jesus will go, or the gun will go. The disciples arguing about who’s the greatest—still disciples. Still saved. But over time—either they will quit arguing—or they will quit walking with Jesus

B. The problem with sin–is not what it does to God–but what it does to us. Every sin–reacts on our own soul. It moves us a little bit away from God. Hardens our heart 1% against God. Pile them up layer upon layer–heart gets hard, lukewarm, and then we get cold. Sin never changes God’s heart for us–it changes our heart for God. The problem with sin is not that God will decide that now we’ve gone too far, gone over the line. The problem with sin is that it’s stupid. **Just because there’s grace, is no reason to be stupid. Why wreck your life? Living the godly life is the best way to live. Why mess up your life?**

**APPEAL:** **Hemingway**--Spain, father and son had a fight--son left, never saw him for years, put ad in Madrid paper, Pedro, all is forgiven, meet at train station, noon Sunday. 800 Pedros came. Why did they come? When they learned—Father had forgiven them. They thought 1 sin, hopeless. Found out—OK to come home.

**SECOND APPEAL:** A. **JOHN GRESHAM** writes all these lawyer books. He’s a Christian weaves in little Christian stuff. They made a movie about it, with Tom Cruise. He’s the best. Amazing wife. The smartest. Nails the Mafia. But he makes one mistake—on an island in the Caribbean, they set a trap for him, makes a mistake with a lady, someone takes pictures, sends them to his wife. She leaves him. The Mafia are after him. The law firm is after him. He beats them all. Comes home. They’ve destroyed his house. His wife is gone. One big mistake. When all of a sudden she comes driving up. **Forgives him.** Gresham sneaks in his picture of God—even if make a really big mistake—God will always forgive.