Sin

Intro: Preaching to the **converted again**, we all know what sin is and God solution. So why talk about it - So that we can **appreciate** it further. Play Bible Quote Bingo!

Why say we know **God loves** us and then have a panic attack, why say I **understand sin and repentance** and being right with God then feel condemned over something we have said or done.

Ro. 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Satan has **lost the battel** and wants us to feel bad about it.

Paul's Prayer for the Eph. 3:17 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,** 19and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

I'll use that as **my prayer** for us in **Hope church,** not a talk or preach, but **meditation or contemplation**.

Sin is Binary: **You either have or have not sinned, holy or not, clean/pure or not**.

Binary, 0's & 1's. Not 0-9, No fractions or decimal points.

We live in an increasingly Binary or **Polarized** World. **Polarized = Binary,** Black or White no grey.

You're either a miserable sinner destined for hell or a son of God saved by grace going to Heaven

Computer analogy:

Something **familiar to explain a concept**, traditionally everyday examples like farming. **Today**, Computers function on **Binary**, 0 or 1, in reality 0v or 5v, on/off. Computers work on many; **many switches** built into a processor chip.

Many logic switches, **no feelings** – even if they seem to **work against us**. No real intelligence, only logic, programs, switch settings. What is Ai just data, **logically analyzed**, outcomes logged and used. Yes, we learn from experience to, but that's different. We are already one step ahead.

If they don't see this clearly, **they don't function**. If they see a **1 when it should be 0**, then something goes wrong either obviously or hidden, **but something is wrong**. All our frustration with our experience with computers comes down to this, **one binary digit**. **IT experts** may look impressive, but all they are really doing is resetting the switches in a computer to how they should be. In reality could be many more than one, but in principle it could only take one to be at fault.

Similarly - If sin is binary, it only takes one wrong thought or action to make us impure just like one switch incorrect in a computer. Ro. 3:23 "All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God"

Missing the Mark: In ancient Greek (*hamartia*) and Hebrew (*chata*), the root meaning of sin is "**to miss the target"** or fail to live up to a standard of love, truth, or righteousness. Miss the **bullseye**, not 100% - not 1 or 0 - **Binary**

Search Assist

The number of pixels on a computer screen is determined by its display resolution, which is typically expressed as width × height in pixels. For example, a Full HD screen has a resolution of 1920 × 1080, totaling about 2.1 million pixels.

Binary 0 & 1, on & off, black & white. Switches, **2.1m** for basic **B&W image** – stick man, space invaders etc. For this to be right 2.1m switches have to be **set correctly**.

But worse than that

Bytes – 8 bits. 256 options, 2^8. **256 shades or colors**. For correct image 256x2.1m switches have to be set correctly. ~512m switches **(537.6m)**

But worse than that

For this to happen, the computer needs to send instructions to screen, **another set of SW**, so double this, **1037.2m** switches to be set correctly.

But worse than that

The computer normally has to **read a file**/picture to be displayed by the screen. So double this again? **2150.4m** switches to get an image from memory onto the screen.

But worse than that

The memory needs to know that the computer is talking to it so **double again. 4300.8m**

But worse than that

What we see and do on the **computer screen** is far removed from what the computer **understands**; several layers of software so double? This more times? **34,406.4m** switches.

Big numbers, all need to be correct for computer to work, **image to be correct** etc. And we wonder why computers don't work? Not all are seen, but all have an effect on the computers operation, that's how they work, **everything is significant**. That just how it is.

But worse than that - Simplified

It is more complicated and I have simplified it. Also, for a **video,** a moving picture, this needs to be refreshed **many times a second**.

Sin & Actions

We sin **against God** not each other. We can do each other **wrong**, which is sinful, but we sin against God. Sin is being **spoilt in Gods** sight, impure.

Ps.51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4**Against you**, **you only**, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5Surely I was **sinful at birth**, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; **you taught me wisdom in that secret place**.

Interesting concepts, **Sinful at birth yet with the wisdom to know it**. - Children not just mature adults. Born with the capacity to sin, willful selfishness, and the **wisdom to recognize it**, conscience.

Is it possible to be acting from **pure motives**, sinless, but act with **bad consequences**? - Yes, I am sure we do or have done. **Why is this**, Tactlessness, inexperience, wrong attitude (all done that) or is this just a **string of action some of which are sinful**?

Ro. 5:12-13 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**—13To be sure, sin was in the world before the **law was given**, but sin is not charged against **anyone's account** where there is no **law**.

The Law is the std. By which our actions are judged. (Gods laws not man made additions)
Ignorance of the law is no excuses, **Sins of omission & commission**, not doing what's right & doing what's wrong. - **No excuses**, both statements cover all situations. **Liturgy in many churches**

Without excuse, what has God given us to know that is right

- The OT law
- The rest of the bible
- The wonder of creation
- A conscience

And still we say "**I didn't know**"

About time someone wrote and **Ai program** to tell us what to do based on the bible for any given situation. Pattern it and put it in **bible software**

Actions have consequences that can and should be rated in seriousness, **scale**. Actions can or cannot be **sinful**; all actions have consequences regardless of sinfulness, **direction** +/-'ve.

Don't confuse the two; that is a trap from the devil. **Sin is binary;** it has no magnitude its a **state of being**. Actions have **magnitude** and direction. If you confuse actions with the **'Act'** of sinning, we can start to justify anything. Ai has no concept of sinning – **biblical based Ai Q&A can't fully work**.

It is for God to judge, and he will, **it is for us to understand**. **100% pass mark**? - Prob Solving **assessment** at work - Cheat

Few **quotes from bible** as we know most of them, but analogy to help understand.

1 Jn. 1 The Incarnation of the Word of Life

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4We write this to make our joy complete. - Written by those who **did see Jesus**.
(**We too have experienced** this, we **know Jesus even though we have not seen him**) **Jn. 20:29** Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed** are those who **have not seen** and yet have believed." **Jesus Speaking to Thomas** – **faith** for our benefit that Thomas questioned

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

5This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us**. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10**If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar** and his word is not in us.

God sets the rules, But he also provides the answers. - Taking analogy further

But worse than that - Door to heaven with Lock & our actions operate the lock.

What if that was the **code for the door** of heaven? **Very long binary code or combination lock**

But worse than that - How do we operate the lock to get in

Our actions and thoughts are the way to **operate** this lock, **Long code – lots of actions in our lives**

If we are going to get into heaven on our own merit, On the basis of following the law we need to get this **code correct.**

But worse than that - Not 111111…. or 00000…..

We don't **know which way** the switch should go to be correct, sinless. It's not **difficult**, 50/50.

The story and classic logic puzzle of the **Two Doors and Two Guards** features a traveler facing a **life-or-death** choice; a binary problem. Life or Death, **Sin or Sinless**.

The Setup – the trap, Satan's trap or lie

- **The Doors:** Two doors, one leads to freedom, the other to doom. One right, One Wrong

- **The Guards:** Two guards, one **always tells the truth**. The other guard **always lies**.
- **The Rule:** You are allowed to ask **only one question** to **one** of the guards.

But actually, much worse than that – Pre-Programed to fail

We do **know or should know** the right answer, God has given us the **law or the key**. We can't **blame the guards**, there are none, we can't even **blame Satan**, but he is at the **root** of it. - **It is our choice**.

Is. 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Jn. 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Everyone has to be sinless for us to get into heaven, to be holy in god's sight. **Big number of action in life**, God will be the judge of them all. **Without grace** this is the combination number for entry into haven.

Rom. 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19s**ince what may be known about God is plain to them**, because God has made it plain to them. 20For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse**. 21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Although they claimed to be wise, they became **fools** 23and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles**.

Another implicit **warning**, no big bang, no evolving from animals. We are Gods creation; however he chose to do it. **Not just Idolatry** in traditional sense but making man's theories/understanding fact is **idolatry**.

For us to get into heaven each action **has to be correct**, each switch **set correctly**, each one is binary. 0 or 1, sinless or sinful. **That's the Law, its just how it is**.

Painted a bad picture – But……. its actually much better than that

10 bad steps 1 good step wipes that out. **Gradual slide away from God**, one step back. **Cumulative effect of sin, consequences.** The further away we go from God the **harder it is for us to turn back**, but when we do its just one step. **Grace**.

2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had **no sin** to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the **righteousness** of God.

1 Jn. 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But **if anybody does sin**, we have an advocate with the Father—**Jesus Christ, the Righteous One**. 2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the **sins of the whole world**.

Under the law we could **repent,** But this just **resets the Code -** A chance to start again.

Jesus didn't come to do away with the law, **but fulfil it**. He is the only one who live his life **switching the switches set correctly - Just as well it was only 30+ years!!!** This makes and **misses** the point, we can't achieve this, but Jesus could/can however long he lived!

Jesus **death on the cross** did away with all this. **Replacing** Law with grace.

Ro. 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.

No matter how **short our life is**, we will never make it; we are sinful. If it was only one bit long, we would get it wrong. **Our default setting is to sin, preprogrammed to sin**.

No matter **how long Jesus lived on earth** he will achieve this, he is preprogramed not to sin. That's just how it is.

To see life as **just** a series of actions to take with right or wrong outcomes judged against the Law is also **missing the point.** We are **pre-programed to sin**, it **won't be long** until our actions are sinful.

If we persist with this **code analogy** then there is **only one code that works**, Jesus's code the one **he lived out**. **He got it right first time, one attempt, perfection**. We will **never match/find** that code.

We need to be re-programed with a change in firmware, re-boot. Discipleship after Gods Grace is reprogramming via conscience.

Dealing with sin should improve our character and grow fruit by changing our propensity to sin. Its the **reprograming** we need to make better or correct choices.

But:

- It takes more than a lifetime to achieve
- We should see the results of this in our lives.

The good news is: Jesus Took the **lock off the door**, took the keys of heaven and hell and replaced it with **Grace**.

Rev. 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the **keys of death and Hades**.

Not **physical keys**, but authority over death & Hades. Hades, not hell. Hades is a temporary **holding place** after death before judgement and our final destination.

When we stand before God, he looks in the books, to **judge our actions**. but **Jesus** steps forward and says, this one's **name is in my book**.

Jesus' name is **not in the book** of life it is **on the** front cover.

What is in the books

Life – names only

Judgment – names and all the things we got wrong and all the things we got right.

Books at the record of our **actions and thoughts**, the **combinations we have dialed into the fictious lock** on the door of heaven.

Discarding the part of number – computers are good at this. Taking the Good or the Bad out of the number. **Computer is good as taking what it needs**.

Judgment books – if your name is in the book of **life** the all the parts of the **code that is correct** is taken and **recorded for reward**, the **wrong is discarded.** - (Sin) as far as the **east is from the west**.

If your name is **not** in the book of life all the **good** you do is **discarded** and you stand before God with only **a record of wrongs**. Even if it only one digit, **its wrong**

It **our responsibility** alone to get ourselves write with God, even before we worry about anyone else.

Summary:

- If not right with God, get right now
- Appreciation of what god has done for us
- Get as bigger number in the book you can, seek first Gods kingdom