



# **The Bible Says**



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## **What Constitutes Sin?**

The word “sin” in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word *hamartia* “and literally means a missing the mark, but this etymological meaning is largely lost sight of in the New Testament. It is the most comprehensive term for moral obliquity. It is used of sin as (a) a principle or source of action, or an inward element producing acts...” (W. E. Vine’s *Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Volume 4, Page 32).

Let’s notice sin as defined by God. First of all, sin is a transgression of law. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness” (I John 3:4). Second, “All unrighteousness is sin...” (I John 5:17). Third, a failure to do good is sin. “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). And finally, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). (In this context Paul is not speaking of the “system of faith” [the faith - Jude 1:3] - the gospel that he spoke of in Galatians 3 when he used the word faith, but instead as the passage shows, he is speaking of that which one believes to be right or wrong, one’s personal faith - subjective faith). These passages set forth what the Bible calls sin.

### **Are We Guilty?**

All those who are accountable to God are guilty of sin regardless of their race, creed or color. “As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one;’” (Romans 3:10). “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). As we have noted in other articles, Adam and Eve fell by sinning in the Garden of Eden. “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression” (I Timothy 2:14). God made man with the power of choice. He made him a free moral agent. When man sinned his nature did not change, only his relationship with God. (More Next Week)

We welcome your questions and comments. **e-mail** [nebavecofc@gmail.com](mailto:nebavecofc@gmail.com)

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