



Lewiston Church of Christ

April 14, 2019

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes



Great Words in God's Word

(Eighth in a series of bulletin articles on Bible words)

“Hamartia”

In classical Greek, **hamartia** meant to miss the mark or make a mistake. In the New Testament, however, **hamartia** is not a mere mistake nor is it just something we do. It is a power we are “under” (Romans 3:9). Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.” (John 8:34). **Hamartia** is an evil occupation-- a deceitful force that hardens the human heart (Hebrews 3:13) actually making us into God's “enemies” (Rom. 5:6-11). Ouch!

The apostle Paul saw **hamartia** not just as something to avoid, but as an oppressive force inside of us that must be killed and buried in a water grave (baptism; see Rom. 6:3-7). Paul warned his readers not to “let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts” (6:12).

Hamartia is universal. It's not a sporadic outbreak of a disease infecting some. It gets us all and it is 100 percent deadly for all held under its enslaving spell (Rom. 6:23). Paul personally experienced **hamartia** as a malignant force of the flesh waging war against him (7:23-25). All this is far more serious than just missing a mark, unless of course that mark is God Himself. Nothing is more serious than that!

In a godless world, there really is no mark to miss. Without God, moral standards are easily ignored, shifted, twisted, and rejected left and right. Why not? If there is no God, there can be no sacred standard. Without God, right and wrong are just human opinions. We make up our morality as we go. **Hamartia** is just an ancient Greek myth.

It is only when we stand by God in faith that we begin to understand **hamartia** in all its lethal ugliness. In the New Testament, **hamartia** is not merely defined intellectually, biologically, materially, psychologically, politically, philosophically, legally, emotionally or sociologically. It can only be understood theologically. Paul defined sin this way:

- “Whatever is not from faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23).

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