

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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If you aren't old enough to remember the TV show "Hee Haw" I understand you can order the DVDs. It was a comedy show with some country music thrown in. The comedy was of a down home variety, some of it was hilarious, and some of it was as corny as the cornfield setting. But some situations were strikingly similar to real life. One repeating scene was one at the doctor's office. Archie Campbell played the role of the country doctor and someone would come in and complain, "Doc, it hurts when I do this," as they raised their arm or moved their leg. Doc Campbell would then hit the patient over the head with a rubber chicken, exclaiming, "Well, don't do that!" Oh, if only our pain was that easy to remedy. Or maybe some of it is.

Pain that comes from sinful choices can be recurring or even constant. The consequences of sin that we live through can give us painful reminders long after the sinful choices and actions are over. The pain keeps us wishing we could go back and stop doing what we did. There are always lessons in painful trials. Lessons that can glorify God if they are learned well and responded to rightly.

Being caught in the trap of adultery led King David to other sinful choices. Conspiracy to deceive others and hide his sin led him to send Uriah, one of his mighty men to his death. David might as well have killed him with the sword himself. The thing that "hurts when we do that" often hurts others more than we can ever imagine. The greatest pain is that which grieves and injures God. God is the only truly innocent bystander. Consider the word of the Lord delivered through the prophet to the king:

*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. (2 Samuel 12:10)*

**THE PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IS IT SEPARATES US FROM HOLINESS.** Some may argue that David's family was innocent. Why did they have to suffer? But the reality is that all were born sinners just like David. Sin separates us from God. He is holy. Only He is truly innocent. And His name and the name of His people suffer the most.

**THE PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IS THAT IT CAUSES PAIN TO OTHERS.** David's entire family was ravaged. A son conceived in the adulterous relationship died. A daughter was raped by a brother who was killed by another brother. Another brother tried to usurp the throne causing a family rebellion that threatened the nation. The rebel brother was killed against David's wishes. Another son attempted to seize power and another brother had him executed. And that is just what we are told. Who knows the seething spiritual turmoil that David's descendants endured? And still endures?

**THE PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IS THAT WE ARE UTTERLY HELPLESS IN ITS BONDAGE.** Sin sets a snare and the more we struggle to cover it, the more we struggle against it, the more we become mired in it. It's like quicksand that pulls us down and suffocates us. Our only hope is to admit that we cannot control sin. It is our master until God is our Master. Only God can break the bondage of sin. Only His power is greater. His grace is greater than our shame.

**SIN'S POWER IS STRENGTHENED WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS DESPISED.**

God told the king that he had despised Him because he despised His word. God's character and His word are connected. Disobedience to His word is an attack and affront to His character. Even as believers we can practice the sin of unbelief. And it will surely hurt when we do that...

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam