

Recognition of Sins, the Way of Forgiveness and Purification Through Jesus Christ Based on 1 John 1: 9

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ABSTRACT

Crime is everywhere, from drugs, murder, drugs, free sex, to domestic violence which ends in divorce. This event is often encountered because of sin, where after the fall humans tend to commit sins. To overcome this problem, a savior is needed, namely Jesus Christ, where everyone needs to realize their mistakes by asking for forgiveness and repenting. The purpose of this research is for everyone to be aware of the problem of sin, and realize the need for salvation so that the problem of sin can be overcome which is increasingly rampant in every aspect of life. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method by analyzing data from reliable sources and concluding it according to the research object. Sin can only be resolved by Jesus Christ through his sacrifice on the cross. Everyone who wants to be saved just needs to come to Jesus to admit his mistake and believe in him as a savior

INTRODUCTION

Crime is a social problem that often occurs in every community life. Crime is a normal phenomenon in all societies and is characterized by heterogeneity and social development. (Camerling, 2020) Various kinds of sinful acts have been committed by mankind, including problems occurring in household life due to the crime of drug abuse, namely from January to July 2020, 426 divorce cases occurred, 92 husbands filed for divorce against their wives and the remaining 334 wives filed for divorce against their husbands. (Pardede et al., 2022) The 2021 Criminal Statistics publication provides a macro overview of the current security situation and conditions and developments over the past few years. The number of crime incidents (total crime) in 2018 was 294,281 incidents. Events in 2019 and in 2020 are 247,218 events. (Direktorat Statistik Ketahanan Sosial, 2010, p. 15) This shows that neither crime nor sin is still common.

The saddest thing is that evil behavior is no longer only among adults but at the level of children or adolescents. Student moral violations include brawls between students, drug use, free sex, and low respect for parents. In 2007, the Family Planning Population Coordinating Board (BKKBN) presented research conducted by Damayanti at the Faculty of Public Health, University of Indonesia, which showed that 5 out of 100 students had casual sex. (Janes Sinaga et al., 2021)

No one under heaven lives without sin. Sin is failure, error or mistake, crime, transgression, disobedience to law, wrongdoing or injustice. Sin is evil in all its forms. Sin is unbelief, sin is doubt about the good will and righteousness of God. Sin makes it impossible to truly love people, and there is conflict, divisions between nations and tribes, racial prejudice, and the formation of international blocs against one another. Sin causes separation, disconnection and conflict between humans, both in corporations, religions, communities, families and even church groups. Sin leads people to "exploit" one another. Humans had become selfish creatures, and fellowship between humans had become even more difficult. (Janes Sinaga, Sinambela, et al., 2022)

The fall of man into sin was not caused by God, the devil, or Adam and Eve, but was born from a selfish human heart, which did not want to be bound by God's rules and wanted to be an independent human being. The Bible also does not explain clearly the causes of sin, but the Bible writers lead people to admit their sins because the sins they commit are their own responsibility. Human responsibility is a form of human struggle for salvation. (Selestyani, 2014) Initially, people were endowed with noble and balanced thoughts. Man is physically perfect in harmony with God's will. His thoughts are pure and his intentions holy. But because of his disobedience, his powers changed, and selfishness replaced love. He is held captive by Satan and will remain under his control unless God explicitly intervenes. The Tempter's goal is to thwart God's plan to create mankind and fill the earth with painful disasters. And he will show that all of this came about as a result of God's work in creating man. (White, 2014, p. 17)

The most difficult thing for humans to do is admit mistakes, but to step to repentance requires an acknowledgment as a basis that he realizes he has made a mistake. The Word of God says: "He who hides his transgressions will not

prosper, but he who confesses them will forsake them and will be merciful" (Proverbs 28:13). The conditions for obtaining God's grace are simple, fair and reasonable. God does not demand that we receive the forgiveness of our sins. There is no need to undertake long and tiring journeys or make painful sacrifices, but grace will be given to those who confess and forsake their sins.(White, 2014, p. 41)

Confession is a form of awareness that he has been guilty, and confession is a statement he humbles himself and his heart before God. Only those who want to admit their mistakes need the salvation that God has provided. In other words, every sinner who does not realize and admit his sinfulness is declaring that what he is doing is right and does not need salvation. A wounded and humble heart conquered by true repentance will appreciate something of God's love and death at Calvary. And like a child confessing his sins to his beloved father, the sinner with all his heart brings all his sins before the Lord God. It is written: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).(White, 2014, p. 46) For solving the problem of sin, everyone only needs to be aware of it, confess and come to Jesus as Lord and Savior who is able to forgive and solve the problem of sin.

METHODS

The research method is a scientific method for collecting data for specific purposes and objectives, including using the results, and investigating to solve problems.(Sugiyono, 2005, p. 1) Research methodology is also a step used in research that explains how research can be carried out so that research hypotheses can be tested scientifically, empirically, and rationally.(Iskandar, 2009, pp. 176-177) This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method by exploring library sources through the Bible, books, journals and other bibliography.((Zaluchu, 2020) Through this research, it is hoped that everyone can solve their sin problem by coming to Jesus Christ, who is God and savior.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background to the Epistle of John

In order to discover John's theology, it is necessary to identify the author of this epistle. The three letters of John numbered 1, 2 and 3 are commonly called the Letters of John. In the Letter to John the author is not called the author. But in 2 John 1:1 he calls himself an elder/presbyteros, as in 3 John 1. In his first letter he is very close to God (1 John 1:3). Of course, as someone so close to God, there was no doubt that he was qualified to become the bishop of the church. Moreover, the content of this letter is so authoritative that it has a lot in common with the Gospel of John, both in its teaching and in its words, so that it can be concluded that John the Elder is the Apostle John. "The similarities between the Gospel of John and 1 John are far greater than the similarities between Luke and Acts.(Simanungkalit, 2019)

Finally, these three letters are called letters (cf. 1 John 21:1, 26). Even more surprising, these three letters resemble spiritual sermons or messages. First John is specifically addressing the church where a "false prophet" appears (4:1) and

causes divisions (2:19). The Second Epistle of John is addressed to a particular church called the "Elect Mother and Her Children" (v. 1) and, as was customary at that time, was accompanied by itinerant Christian teachers. not going. Preach the true teachings (vv. 8-11). And the 3rd Epistle of John was written to advise Gaius on how to deal with Diotrephes (v. 9), who caused divisions in the church. These three letters also aim to deepen the reader's understanding and spiritual life, reminding them of false prophets and heretical teachings commonly called "antichrist" (1 John 7). They are either false teachers or people who do not believe that Jesus is God incarnate. (Simanungkalit, 2019)

On the one hand, the purpose of this letter is external, to counter the influence of the false teachers. The intent of this apologetic is most clearly expressed in its statement in 1 John 2:26: "All this I have written to you concerning those who will mislead you. John 2:18; 4:1). On the other hand, this letter also has an inner purpose to confirm the truth of the reader. (Lim, 2021)

The Origin of Sin

Before man fell into sin, man lived a life full of God's abundant blessings, and as the Creator, God met all of man's needs, but man lost his gratitude to the Giver. Before the entry of evil, peace and joy filled the universe. Everything is in harmony with the will of the creator. Love for God is supreme, love for one another is impartial. Sin is a distraction and a distraction, so there is no reason to allow its existence and presence. There is nothing more dangerous than the deception of sin. It is a deceptive, blinding god of the world. And lead to destruction. (Ellen G. White, 2013, p. 101)

Meaning of Sin

The biblical definition of sin includes: Breaking God's law (1 John 3:4), all those who do not do what they know well and do not do (James 4:17), and all things unfaithful (Rom. 14:23). The comprehensive definition of sin is deviation from the known will of God, failure to do that which God expressly commanded or which God expressly forbids. Sin is that which operates outside of principle and which goes against the great law of love upon which the sovereignty of God rests. (Ellen G. White, 2010, p. 516)

The Fall of Lucifer

There is one being who has abused the freedom that God has given to His creatures. Sin comes from those who are lower than Christ, are most honored by God, and are highest in power and glory among the hosts of heaven. Lucifer, the morning star, is the first cherub, pure and unblemished. He stood before the great and glorious Creator, shrouded in the eternal God emanating from him. This is the Word of God: Your perfect image, full of wisdom and beauty. You are in the Garden of Eden, God's garden full of gems. I have given you a place near the cherubs who are on guard. You are on God's holy mountain, walking among shining stones. You are not responsible for your actions from the day you were created until the betrayal (Eze 28:12-15). (Ellen G. White, 2011, p. 23)

Gradually, Lucifer gave in to the urge to rise. The Bible says you are proud of your beauty and destroy your wisdom for luxury (Ezekiel 28:17). All his glory comes from God, but this mighty angel feels it comes from himself. Dissatisfied with his position, even though he is revered above all the hosts of heaven, he

seeks to usurp the honor bestowed only on Halik. Instead, they seek to make God special in their love, service, and loyalty to themselves. Aiming for the glory that God the Father had instilled in His Son, the angelic leaders had sought the power which was Christ's inalienable right. Lucifer let go of his jealousy of Christ and became even more determined. To challenge the authority of the Son of God is also to challenge the wisdom and love of the Creator, making it the goal of the angelic leaders.(Ellen G. White, 2011, p. 24)

Not content with his position in God's government (Jude 6), he begins to covet God's own place (Isa 14:12-14). In an effort to dominate the universe, this fallen angel sowed seeds of discontent among his fellow angels, and earned the loyalty of many angels. The resulting Heavenly Conflict ended when Satan, now known as Satan, the enemy, along with his angels were cast out of heaven.(Departemen Kependetaan, 2019, p. 91) Instead of trying to excel in creation's love and loyalty, Lucifer seeks to win their service and respect. And because he wants the glory that Heavenly Father gave His Son, the Archangel wants the power that belongs only to Christ.(Ellen G. White, 2010, p. 517)

The same behavior of fallen Lucifer is being practiced by humans since ancient times. Dissatisfaction with God, with his leaders and with others often arises in the human heart which leads to rebellion and betrayal. Dissatisfaction can also cause jealousy, because you want more and more than others so that everything you can do to have what is not yours. People are warned not to do it because it is said, your father the devil if he does the same thing as the fallen angel.

The Fall of Man into Sin

Man's fall into sin was initiated by God's first creation, namely Adam and Eve. In order to further his work without being noticed, the devil decided to use snakes as his tools. At that time, snakes were one of the most intelligent and beautiful creatures on earth. He had wings that glittered in the air and had a beautiful and alluring golden color.(Ellen G. White, 2011, p. 48)

Satan tempts Eve by offering: I eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. The fruit of this tree is delicious to eat and pleasing to the eye, so it is also interesting in terms of conveying its meaning. Then she took some fruit, ate it, and gave it to her husband who was with her and he also ate it. And now, having committed an offense, she becomes an instrument of Satan in destroying her husband. After the transgression, immediately the thought of his sin filled him with dread.(Ellen G. White, 2011, p. 48) They fail to understand what God has revealed, and they ignore His clear instructions and aspire to escape God's wisdom, trying to understand what God chooses not to give to living beings.(Ellen G. White, 2016, p. 22)

The coolness everywhere, the atmosphere of love and peace that they enjoyed now was gone, and instead they were filled with guilt, fear of the future, and an empty soul. The cloak of light that had surrounded them was now gone, and they were instead trying to hide themselves. Because when they are naked they cannot see the eyes of Allah and the holy angels.(Ellen G. White, 2011, pp. 52-53) Since then, mankind has been assailed by Satan's temptations. Adam had

to work painstakingly and anxiously instead of the happy, joyful work he had enjoyed before. They will experience disappointment, sorrow, and pain and finally separation. They were created from the dust of the ground, and they will return to dust. (Ellen G. White, 2016, p. 27)

From the time man was created, Satan has always been plotting to undermine God's plan for His people to live in fellowship with Him and His people. First he persuaded Adam and Eve to rebel against God and then against each other. And ever since that day in Eden, Satan has been trying to undermine God's plan to repair all broken relationships. Since Satan knows that when God's followers live together in unity there is an extraordinary power for good, it is not surprising that Satan works hard to create division, division, alienation, and enmity among God's people. (Gibson, 2013, p. 71)

Peace in the first household that God established was damaged by sin, it is almost difficult to find happiness in the household. This can be seen by the many problems in the household that have an impact on divorce. It is an undeniable fact that some Christian marriages fail and end in divorce. The couple's divorce rate in Indonesia continues to increase dramatically. The Religious Courts (Badilag) of the Supreme Court (MA) found the divorce rate between 2005 and 2010 increased by up to 70 percent. Since 2005, the divorce rate has increased by more than 10 percent annually. (Janes Sinaga, Pelawi, et al., 2022) This is very heartbreaking, because God never willed divorce.

Impact of Sin

As a result of the fall into sin, crimes often occur. Crime is a social problem that often occurs in every community life. Crime is a normal phenomenon in all societies and is characterized by heterogeneity and social development. (Janes Sinaga, Siswanto, et al., 2022) Humans are more inclined to love the world by seeking wealth and pleasure in a world that is under the curse of sin. (Japolman Sinaga, Hutagalung, et al., 2022)

Due to the effects of sin on humans, humans lost their original identities. There are three main effects of sin on a person: First, man cannot reach God. It means that sin does not bring anyone in this world to reach God. All forms of human effort and perseverance aimed at reaching God will surely fail. Second, man becomes the enemy of God. This means that sin makes a person unable to fellowship and communicate with God. Sin renders man incapable of meeting God and makes him God's enemy forever unless the dispute is resolved. Third, humans will experience eternal destruction. This means that not only did sin make people unable to reach God and made them enemies of God, but sin also caused people to experience eternal destruction. Because of sin, people are cast into hell forever. (Randa, 2020)

Realizing the very bad impact of sin, namely separation from God as the source of life and the consequences of that sin, every human being who has fallen into sin feels it is important to get out of this sinful state of life and world. Humans need to realize that it is impossible for humans to get out of sin and its effects by their own efforts, that's why only God the Almighty can deliver humans from sin and its consequences.

The Path of Deliverance From Sin (Salvation)

The corruption of the human heart that affects the whole person. In this light Job cried out, who can bring out that which is clean from the unclean? Not a single one! (v 14:4). David said, indeed in guilt I was begotten, in sin I was conceived by my mother (Psalm 51:5). Even though as children we acquire sinful behavior through imitation, the verses above confirm that we inherit the basis of our sinfulness. Universal human sin is proof that by nature we tend to be bad, not good. Any attempt to attain a righteous life through one's own strength will be doomed. Christ said that everyone who has sinned "is a slave to sin." Only divine power can free us from this bondage.(Departemen Kependetaan, 2019, p. 94)

Confession and Repentance

Confession and forgiveness set us free and make peace with others. With this confession a person honestly sees his sin that he is a sinner. He is responsible for his sins and thereby opens himself again to God.(Sukendar, 2017) Sins must be confessed, and there must be a greater work of grace in the heart.(Ellen G.White, 2016, p. 79) When we meditate on Jesus in humble repentance and trust, we are wounded by sin and burdened by suffering, but we can learn to follow in His footsteps, being transformed into the image of His divinity. And when this work is successful in us, we confess our own innocence and praise Jesus Christ by placing our souls upon His merits.(Ellen G. White, 2007, p. 9)

Every hindrance, every enemy of the soul only increases the need for Christ. He has come to take your heart of stone and give you a heart of obedience. Expect special graces from Him to overcome your particular faults. When temptation strikes, resist these evil suggestions with determination. I say to your soul: How can I offend the Redeemer? I surrender myself to Christ. I don't want to do Satan's work. Seek help from our beloved Savior to cast off all idols and cast away all the sins you love. Look with faith at Jesus, who stands before the Father's throne, stretches out his wounded hand and pleads for you. Believe that strength comes through our shining redeemer.(Ellen G. White, 2007, p. 84)

God does not leave us with our sins alone. We can be wrong and grieve His Spirit. But if we repent and approach Him with a repentant heart, He will never reject us.(Ellen G.White, 2016, p. 79) God is not a cruel and unjust person. God appreciates every person who comes full of regret confessing all his sins, because confession is a way of repentance.

Repentance is seen as a human response to God's offer of mercy. Despite the great distance between God and sinners, repentance allows people to know the greatness of God's kindness and love, and allows sinners to develop a close relationship with God. Repentance requires openness, humility, courage to start a new life, acceptance of God as the source of life, and experience of God as unconditional love.(Janes Sinaga, Sinambela, et al., 2022)

Repentance also includes repentance and turning from sin. We will not leave these sins until we understand how terrible they are. There is no real change in your life until you remove it from your mind. Many do not understand the true state of repentance. Many grieve because they have sinned and are outwardly converted. But the Bible does not speak of this kind of conversion.

They mourn misery more than sin itself A sincere, heartfelt, deep-hearted repentance. With no desire to escape the impending punishment, he continued to pray.(White, 2014, pp. 25-27)

Some sinners tend to come to God regretting, confessing sins and asking for forgiveness just because they are afraid of the consequences of that sin, only afraid of the punishment that God will give. It is not yet called true repentance, true repentance is realizing the consequences of sin, there is separation from God and realizing how heinous sin is, and this will make it not fall again into the same sin.

Forgiveness

According to KBBI, the word forgiveness means exemption from punishment or prosecution.(Arti Kata Ampun - Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) Online, n.d.) In the New Testament, the term forgiveness comes from the Greek term (aphiemi). This term is now actively denoting indicative. This usage makes it clear that the term refers to an action that is performed continuously.(Korengkeng, 2020)

Repentance, like forgiveness, is a gift from God through Christ. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we are convicted of sin and feel the need to be forgiven. Only those who repent will be forgiven. But only the grace of God causes hearts to repent. He really knows all our weaknesses and helps us.(Ellen G.White, 2016, p. 80)

The gospel is the good news, that even though we sin by breaking God's law, we believe in what Christ has done for us on the cross. The good news is that you will be forgiven.(Norman R. Gulley, 2018, p. 10) God solved the problem of sin through His sacrifice died on the cross. God substitutes death for every sinner's death as the wages of sin. His Word writes "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 6:23). In Jesus eternal death is replaced by eternal life.

Forgiveness is based on the atoning and redeeming work of Christ, because it is an act of grace (1 John 1:9). Christ will always give forgiveness, but from the human side it is required to confess all sins and mistakes. As John said in his first letter: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).(Sukendar, 2017)

Purgatory

Our Savior claims all that we have and seeks our first and holiest thoughts. The purification mentioned in the scriptures applies to all states of mind, soul and body. Sanctification is a progressive work. The sequence of steps is indicated in Peter's words: "For this very reason you should earnestly strive to add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, and to godliness perseverance, and to godliness love for brethren, and love for brethren love for all men. For when you have an abundance of these things, you will be active and successful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord" (2 Pet 1:5-8).(Ellen G.White, 2016, pp. 70-71)

Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, or a day. It is a constant growth of grace. I don't know one day how hard I will fight the next day. Satan is alive and active, and we must earnestly ask God for help and

strength every day to fight him. You must overcome all temptations and never give up. I can't say that I have achieved everything.(Ellen G.White, 2016, p. 71) True sanctification is a daily task and takes a lifetime. Everyone who struggles daily against all temptations and overcomes the inclinations of their hearts.(Ellen G. White, 2007, p. 11)

Holiness is a gift of God and a commandment of God. Therefore, we must pray for holiness and strive to manifest it every day, it is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5: 16, 22, 25). Believers are warned to remain chaste. For without holiness no one can see God (Heb 12:14). God's acceptance of all believers is perfect at first, but our growth in sanctification is a lifelong process, allowing us to be completely transformed into the unblemished image of God who has saved us. Moreover, it must be continuously improved.(Hasel, 2017, p. 67)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no one under this sky who does not fall into sin. He may fall into sin due to an intentional act of committing a crime or due to failure to carry out God's commands or the truth. However, this does not make everyone freely commit sins and live in sin. Everyone is expected to realize that sin has consequences/effect, both directly and indirectly, which are detrimental personally and those around them. And most importantly, everyone realizes that sin has an impact on eternal death. So that there are efforts made so that the problem of sin can be resolved.

Sin must be resolved, and only through Jesus Christ can the problem of sin be resolved. Sins are resolved not by achievement, possessions or gifts but in an easy and affordable way, namely the existence of an acknowledgment of sin as proof that a sinner realizes that he has been wrong and asks God for forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Having confession and asking for forgiveness will lead to a step of repentance and this will also lead to purification of all one's sins. God will be faithful and just to forgive all the sins of every human being who comes to ask Him for forgiveness.

FURTHER STUDY

Each study has limitations, thus this research can still be developed for the good of further research through a more comprehensive analysis process.

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