

## The Sinner's Ruin

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by Wayne Goff

Many today *cannot* be saved because they refuse to admit that they are sinners! But God's Word affirms that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). What else does the Bible say about sinners?

- **Sinners are "...by nature children of wrath, just as the others" (Ephesians 2:3).** That is, both Jews and Gentiles are "*children of wrath.*" This resulted from the "mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature" (Thayer). The text does not bear out the claim that we were "**born** that way," but we **became** children of wrath because "*we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind!*" Until one is willing to give up this sinful lifestyle, he cannot be saved.
- **Sinners are "...like sheep ... gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).** In practice, we have all wandered away from God while pursuing our own thing, our own ways, and our own lifestyles. "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*" (Prov. 14:12). While sinners were out gallivanting around, Christ died to save them.
- **Sinners' minds stand in rebellion to God. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8).** There must be a change of mind that results from the *evidence* and *teaching* of God's Word for one to turn to God. Each one of us makes that choice for himself, Acts 2:37.
- **Sinners are guilty before God. "...that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Romans 3:19).** God will *always* be true, and rebellious man will *always* be a liar in the battle between the two (Romans 3:4).

God gave His only begotten Son that men *might not* perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)!

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