

## Briefing Document: 1 John Lesson 38

Date: October 1, 2025

### Executive Summary

This lesson, titled “The Heart of the World,” examines the nature, origin, and consequences of sin.

- Sin is not external (from the devil, society, or even God), but an intrinsic condition of the corrupt human heart.
- Five devastating results of sin are identified:
  1. Overpowering of man by evil
  2. Subjugation to Satan’s control
  3. Subjection to God’s wrath
  4. The miseries of life
  5. Eternal damnation
- God’s Law paradoxically acts as a catalyst for sin in unregenerate people because of humanity’s rebellious nature.
- The world system tempts believers through the “three gateways”: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life.
- The lesson concludes that only the saving work of Jesus Christ is the remedy for sin.

### 1. The Nature and Universality of Sin

Sin is defined as defiling, rebellious, ungrateful, incurable, and deadly. Humanity does not merely fall into sin but actively pursues it. Described vividly: “People go to hell sweating, making amazing effort in their desire to sin.”

Universal scope of sin:

Romans 3:23 — “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:10 — “There is none righteous, no, not one.”

Romans 5:12 — “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

### 2. The Consequences of Sin

Consequence	Description
<b>Overpowering by Evil</b>	Man becomes “utterly and totally dominated by evil.” The mind, will, and affections are corrupted.
<b>Subjugation to Satan</b>	The unsaved walk according to the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).
<b>Subjection to God’s Wrath</b>	Sinners are “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3). God’s judgment is inevitable for unrepentant sinners.

<b>The Miseries of Life</b>	Job 5:7 — “Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” Solomon calls earthly pursuits “vanity of vanities.”
<b>Eternal Damnation</b>	The final result of sin is hell, taught with clarity by Jesus (Matthew 8:12; Matthew 13:42, 50).

### 3. The Internal Origin of Sin

Refuted External Sources:

1. The Devil — The phrase “the devil made me do it” is dismissed. It wrongly makes the sinner a victim.
2. Society — Blaming TV, media, or coworkers fails to address the root issue.
3. God — Claiming God is at fault echoes Adam’s excuse: “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate” (Genesis 3:12).

The True Source: The Human Heart

Jesus taught: “There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man” (Mark 7:15).

From within the heart proceed: “evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness” (Mark 7:21–22).

Reinforced by:

Jeremiah 17:9 — “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

James 1:14 — “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

### 4. The Arousal and Avenues of Sin

The Law as a Catalyst

Romans 7:5 — “For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.”

Human nature rebels against prohibition, just as a child longs for what is forbidden.

The World’s Avenues of Appeal

1. The Lust of the Flesh
2. The Lust of the Eyes
3. The Pride of Life

1 John 2:16 — “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

### 5. Sin’s Persistence and the Sole Remedy

Millennial Kingdom Example:

Perfect environment: Jesus reigns, Satan bound, righteousness prevails.

Outcome: Despite ideal conditions, people still rebel at the end (Revelation 20:7–9).

Proof: Sin originates within; even in perfection, sinners will sin.

Final Remedy: Only the saving work of Jesus Christ can cure sin.

## **Appendix: Administrative Notes and Community Prayer**

### **Church Events & Business**

OCC Boxes: Collection due end of October.

New Life Kids Christmas Store: Donations being gathered.

Fall Break: New Life Kids canceled this week and next.

Fundraiser: Intended Hope Spaghetti Dinner — Friday, October 3.

Wedding Shower: After AM service, Sunday.

Men's Breakfast: October 11, 7:30 AM.

Upcoming Sermon: Teaching on "What happened to Dan" (the missing tribe in Revelation).

### **Prayer & Praise Report**

Praise: Baby boy expected for Miles Reed's family in March. Joyce returned to church.

Requests:

- Steve's granddaughter's recovery.
- Salvation for Steve's daughter and family.
- For Joe Nastal.
- For Steve's job and patience.
- Unspoken request from Nicki.