



“That Great Sin of Omission”

“That Great Sin of Omission”

- Hosea 10:12 - “Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.”
- James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- “I would esteem above every other gift that could be bestowed upon me as a preacher the power to adequately conceive what sin is and to adequately set it before the people.” *(J. W. McGarvey)*

“That Great Sin of Omission”

- Why was this ability so important to McGarvey? Because of the consequences of sin.
 - Isa. 59:1-2 - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - John 8:21 - “Then Jesus said to them again, ‘I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.’”

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- We understand sins of commission; in fact, they are often the only sins that come to mind for some Christians.
 - Col. 3:25 - “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”
 - Commission of sin is something that is done by desire and by design, whether engaging in forbidden activity or avoiding commanded behavior, it is done willingly and by conscious effort.
 - The sin of omission is not named as such in the scriptures, but it is spoke of often.

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- Omission - “Failure to perform an act agreed to; the oversight, deliberate or unconscious, of a duty to God, an individual, or a group to act.”
- Omission can mean failing to pray, give thanks, follow instructions; the category that encompasses the sins of not doing what we should have done.
- It can also mean doing something without thinking or considering that it is sin. Planned or not, it's still sin.

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- Sin sometimes is doing nothing.
 - Prov. 24:11-12 - “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. 12 If you say, ‘Surely we did not know this,’ Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?”
 - Sometimes called “the sin of knowledge without practice.”
 - When we know the right thing to do and have the means to do it, to do nothing is a sin.
 - Rom. 7:15 - “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.”

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- Many commands require positive action.
 - “Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you” requires doing.
 - “It is more blessed to give, than to receive” requires giving.
 - “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel” requires going.

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- One preacher calls Matt. 28:19-20 “The Great Omission.”
 - And he says the most well-kept command of the Lord is Luke 9:20-21
 - “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered and said, ‘The Christ of God.’ 21 And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one.”
- The one talent servant didn’t lose or abuse his talent; he just didn’t use it.
 - Matt. 25:26 - “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant.’”

Defining The Sin Of Omission

- James 2:14-17 - “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- 1John 3:16-19 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.”

Commands Christians Commonly Omit

- Be humble.
 - 1Peter 5:5 - “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”
- Visit the sick.
 - Matt. 25:41-45
- Take care of widows and orphans.
 - James 1:27 - “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Commands Christians Commonly Omit

- Help the poor.
 - Psalm 112:4, 9 - “Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous... 9 He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.”
- Give as prospered.
 - 1Cor. 16:1-2
- Assemble with the saints.
 - Heb. 10:25

Commands Christians Commonly Omit

- Sing praise.
 - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
- Pray.
 - 1Thes. 5:17 - “Pray without ceasing.”
- Study.
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Commands Christians Commonly Omit

- Provide for our families.
 - 1Tim. 5:8 - “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- Be thankful.
 - 1Thes. 5:18 - “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- Teach the Gospel to the lost.
 - Matt. 28:19-20

“That Great Sin of Omission”

- “Most of us fall short much more by omission than by commission. While the world perishes we go our way: purposeless, passionless, day after day.” (*P. Pilgrim*)
- “The omission of good is no less reprehensible than the commission of evil.” (*Plutarch*)
- “It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.” (*Molière*)

“I Never!”

“I never cut my neighbor's throat;
My neighbor's gold I never stole;
I never spoiled his house and land;
But God have mercy on my soul!
For I am haunted night and day
By all the deeds I have not done;
O unattempted loveliness!
O costly valor never won!”

(Marguerite Wilkinson)