

Why are we responsible for our sins before we are saved? We are too weak to beat them. We don't have the power of the Holy Spirit. Reaping the bad that we sow? Is that fair?

God gave the law to reveal sin (Rom. 2:14, 15, 1 John 3:4). The whole world is guilty before him (Ro 1:20). Ignorance excuses no one before the law or before God because light has come into the world (Jn 3:19).

Jesus explained that the Father gave his Son (3:16a) not to condemn sinners (3:17a) but to convert them (3:17b). Salvation is for those who received him (3:18a, 21). Condemnation is for those who reject him (3:18b–20).¹

All men in Adam are sinners (Rom. 5:12–19).² Men are commanded to be perfect as their Father in heaven is perfect (Mt 5:48). To be seen positionally as righteous before God (Phil 3:9), one must be born again (Jn 3:7).

God is: good (Ps. 31:19) and just (Deut. 32:4). Man is not in a position to judge God; rather, the word of God will judge man (Jn 12:48).

One's view of God reflects his own character.

David wrote:

With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. Ps 18:25–26

God renders to men according to their deeds (Le 26:23, 24). He does not apologize for his wrath (Rom. 2:5–8). He has the fortitude to judge sinners (Ex 32:34, Rev. 6:16, 17).

Men must confess their sin (Ps. 51:3, 4) and lay it aside (Heb. 12:1).

The Lord has provided a fountain for sin (Zech. 13:1). He will: blot out (Is. 44:22), cast away (Mic. 7:19), forgive (Ex. 34:7) and remember one's sin no more (Jer. 31:34).

Willful sinners after receiving the knowledge of truth, have no additional sacrifice for sin (Heb. 10:26).

¹ Responsibility is increased by: sight (John 9:39–41), privilege (John 15:22, 24), opportunity (Matt. 11:20–24), continuance in sin (Matt. 23:31–35) and rejection (Matt. 10:11–15). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 529). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² The spiritual consequences for man due to the Fall included: separated from God (Eph. 4:18), born in sin (John 3:6), evil in heart (Matt. 15:19), corrupt and perverse (Rom. 3:12–16), in bondage to sin (Rom. 6:19), in bondage to Satan (Heb. 2:14, 15), dead in sin (Col. 2:13), spiritually blind (Eph. 4:18), utterly depraved (Titus 1:15), change from, not in man (Jer. 2:22), only God can change (John 3:16). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.