

Equality of Sin. The wages of sin is death. It doesn't say the wages of sins is death.. It doesn't say the wages of a particular sin is death. Sin is not so much an act as it is an attitude. There are not gradations -- this is a mortal sin, this is a venial sin. This one doesn't matter. This one is terrible. We have to figure that way as human beings in trying to enforce laws. We have to make gradations. But in the sight of God all sins are equal. In our courts sometimes you will read that a man is held in jail and they have not yet decided what to accuse him of. He shot another man. If this other man dies, he is a murderer. If this other man recovers, he has-- is only guilty of assault with a deadly weapon. And so the other man lies there in the hospital and there is nothing he can do to make the man recover or to make him die quicker, and yet we don't know how much he is guilty of, whether something slight or something terrible until we find out what happens to the other man. You have to have that sort of situation with human lives. But in God's sight the man who attempts murder and fails because of his inefficiency or his poor aim is just as bad as the man who is more skillful and who succeeds in carrying out his purpose. Sin is not so much a matter of action as a matter of attitude.

Let's turn the gem over to another side. The Nature of Sin. God is the righteous ruler who has established the world and has established all that is in it for the good of all of his creatures. He is a loving God who is interested in the welfare of everyone and has established everything so that everyone can be happy together. And yet man looks in the face of God and talks of his unconquerable soul. Look out for No. 1 he says. He gives a slap in the face of God. He blames the other person for it and thinks that he is perfect in his self-righteousness. Each of our nations is apt to say, O that's the other nation. Look at those wicked people over there, and then look at this nation. Everybody blames the other people and we don't see the sin in ourselves. Sin is something that is the cause of all of our troubles in the world. It is the nature of sin. It is an attitude. Look at us in America here greatly disturbed whether 500 people who are prisoners of war will get back safely, and we should be. We should think of these people and their families, we should have a great interest in them whether they get back safely, but most of us are far more concerned with whether these 500 men get back safely than whether the communists succeed in taking control and murdering hundreds of thousands of people who