

Describe the last time you were breath taken by something awesome.

Describe the last time you were breath taken by something awful.

Why does Paul take time to remind those who have been saved how awful sin is?

What is sin?

- Sin is awe-ful.

Describe the awful effects of sin committed against you.

Why do we tend to maximize the effects of sins committed toward us and minimize the effects of sins committed by us?

- Sin is crossing the line. (v.1)

List as many of God's commandments as you can. Do you take God's commandments serious? What does it say about you that you can't name them all?

Discuss this statement: *"God's legal boundaries should bring a breathtaking awareness of sin."* Do they?

- Sin is missing the mark (v.1)

Discuss this statement: *"What is breathtaking is not just that I have crossed the line and missed the mark but that inside I hate the line and despise the mark. My biggest problem is not that I'm a law-breaker. My biggest problem is that living in me is a law-hater."*

What tempts me to sin?

- The course of this world. (v.2)

Describe the world's attitude toward sin. What sins are still considered sin by the world?

- The prince of the power of the air. (v.2)

What power does Satan use to entice you to sin?

- The passion of the flesh. (v.3)

Discuss this statement by John Piper: *"God is not a kill joy. He just opposed what kills joy."*

Discuss this statement. *"Sin is fulfilling a God-given desire in a God-forbidden way."*

What does sin do?

- Sin kills. (v.1)

How much capacity does a dead man have to relate, work, perform, or achieve? Why do most people think they can outweigh their sinful deeds with good deeds? Do you think that...really?

- Sin invites God's wrath. (v.3)

Does the thought of God's wrath take your breath away?

Where has the wrath of God been directed for those who are in Christ? Does the cross still take your breath away?

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- **Sin infects everybody. (v.3)**

Which of these two paths do you take when you are convicted of sin?

- 1) Excuse, justify, rationalize, defend, hide, blame.
- 2) Confess. Agree with God. Acknowledge my need.

Additional Scripture

- Genesis 3:1-5
- Psalm 51
- Romans 6
- Romans 7:7-8
- Romans 8:7
- 1John 3:8
- James 4:17