

CHAPTER II.

WHAT IS SIN?

The Bible does not give a formal definition of sin.—Sin is lawlessness.—Sin is also a condition.—The Moral turpitude of different kinds of sin.—Wilful sins.—Moral values determined by motives and not actions.—The telling of a thing not true to facts not necessarily a lie.—Actions may be right under one circumstance and wrong under another.—There can be no sin without sinful intent.—Sins incur varying degrees of guilt.—The power of heredity.—We inherit moral as well as physical resemblances.—Heredity modified by environment.—Environment another factor in inciting to sin.—Involuntary sins.—Converted people do not commit wilful sin.—To speak of a sinning saint is as absurd as to speak of a round square.—Involuntary acts that are wrong ought not to be called sins.—Acts prompted by love are never sinful.

As to what sin is, it seems to be a question more easily asked than answered. The Bible, not being a formal system of theology, does not give a full or specific, or philosophical definition of sin, in a few words, and we have to take what it says and make our own definition. I. John 3:4, states, "Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness," and in the