

COMPILED BY
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"...the blood of
Jesus Christ his
Son cleanseth us
from all sin."

1 John 1 v 7

From about mid-March, and right throughout the summer months, many of the hedge rows across our country are covered in a bright yellow blossom that is found on what is known locally as the "whin bushes". I want to look at some things with regards to this plant to warn you about some of the dangers of sin.

Whin bushes are known for their rapid spread and growth. They will outgrow all the other plant life around them. They can grow up to three metres high in poor soil and survive on very little water. **Sin is the same.** Left unchecked, it will spread very easily into every part of your life; and what is more, it doesn't take very long for this to happen.

Whin bushes have a very attractive yellow blossom. From a distance, it is very appealing to the eye. However, whenever you get a little closer you will soon see, or perhaps feel, the thorns under the blossom. The thorns cover the branches from top to bottom. **Sin is the same.** From a distance, sin can look so attractive and appealing. Sadly, however, that same sin always brings hurt, pain

and even tears to all those who come too close to it.

For many years, before the introduction of chocolate eggs covered in colourful tinfoil, children would gather the yellow blossom from the whin bushes and use it to dye eggs. The yellow blossom stained the shell of the egg. The children would then roll the dyed eggs downhill at Easter. Again, **sin is the same.** Like the whin blossom, sin also leaves a stain on people's hearts and lives.

Whin bushes do, however, have one weakness, and that is they are easily burned up. What a reminder this is of those who remain in their sin. Isaiah 66:24 speaks of those who transgress against God ending up in hell where the worm shall not die, neither shall the fire be quenched. Thankfully, there is a remedy for all the stain and sorrow that sin brings. The Bible says that "...the blood of Jesus Christ his (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin." I trust that if you have not already done so, that you will come to the Saviour and know the joy of this wonderful cleansing in your life, even today. ■



QUIZ

There are many trees, bushes and other plants mentioned in the Bible that have connections with different people. Look at the list below and draw a line between the people and the plant life they are associated with. The name that is left over is the answer to our quiz.

NATHANAEL
JONAH
ZACCHAEUS
JOSEPH
MOSES

BUSH (Exodus Ch.3)
SYCOMORE TREE (Luke Ch.19)
GOURD (Jonah Ch.4)
FIG TREE (John Ch.1)

ANSWER:

PRIZES! Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to:
Rev Garth Wilson Email: answer@fpvision.org