

Reminiscence on "SIN" - Bruce Lister

Having been a member of First Church for over 75 years, my recollections go back into the 1930's. I especially recall one of my Sunday School lessons from that time. I was a member of a class of young boys (age 10-11), and Mr. Franklin Davison was our teacher. *(Both he and his wife, Beatrice Pettit Davison, were descendants of old line families going back in this area to the late 1600's. In fact, their son, Frank ("Bimmy"), was laid to rest from this Church earlier this year.)*

Our class met in the so-called "chapel" which was located behind the Sanctuary and where Whyman hall was later built. Our class lesson one Sunday was on "SIN," and Mr. Davison asked if we could tell him what "sin" was. We replied the obvious – that it was something that we did and shouldn't have done. I've never forgotten his response.

"You're only partially correct – A sin can also be NOT doing what you could or should have done. The first is a sin of "commission" and the second a sin of "omission." Sometimes, by not taking proper action, the second can be much worse than the first."