

SERMON- "The Sinfulness of Sin" HANDOUT. 2/18/24. Michael Stephens

As we gather to worship our God today, my prayerful plea is for all here to hear what the Word of the Lord has to say to us about sin and the sinfulness of sin.

It is critical that we understand how vile, defiling, corrupting, poisonous, and rebellious sin truly is.

As **Jonathan Edwards** said:

"The smallest sin is an act of Cosmic Treason against a Holy God."

Do we see sin in that way? It is my conviction that Jonathan Edwards is correct. I will seek to prove this from Isaiah 59 as well as from other passages.

The passage I want to review for today is Isaiah 59: 1-21. While this is a lengthy passage it is critical to hear God's view of sin and the effect on man. It also provides a clear indication of our hope in Christ.

A: The Scripture in View

So now let's open up our Bibles to Isaiah 59.

As we read, I would ask that you consider the key elements of this Chapter.

God's confirming that He can save and can hear.

Our Sin creates a separation between us and God.

Our Sin is indefensible.

Our Sin affects everything.

Our Sin deeply offends our God.

Our God provides us a Redeemer to overcome our sin.

Our God will remain with us to the end with His Spirit and Word.

Chapter 59

Separation from God

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short

That it cannot save;

Nor is His ear so dull

That it cannot hear.

2 But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God,

And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood,

And your fingers with wrongdoing;

Your lips have spoken deceit,
Your tongue mutters wickedness.
4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly.
They trust in confusion and speak lies;
They conceive trouble and give birth to disaster.
5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web;
The one who eats of their eggs dies,
And from what is crushed, a snake breaks out.
6 Their webs will not become clothing,
Nor will they cover themselves with their works;
Their works are works of wrongdoing,
And an act of violence is in their hands.
7 Their feet run to evil,
And they hurry to shed innocent blood;
Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing,
Devastation and destruction are in their paths.
8 They do not know the way of peace,
And there is no justice in their tracks;
They have made their paths crooked,
Whoever walks on them does not know peace.

A Confession of Wickedness

9 Therefore justice is far from us,
And righteousness does not reach us;
We hope for light, but there is darkness,
For brightness, but we walk in gloom.
10 We grope for the wall like people who are blind,
We grope like those who have no eyes.
We stumble at midday as in the twilight;
Among those who are healthy we are like the dead.
11 All of us growl like bears,
And moan sadly like doves;
We hope for justice, but there is none;
For salvation, but it is far from us.
12 For our wrongful acts have multiplied before You,
And our sins have testified against us;
For our wrongful acts are with us,
And we know our wrongdoings:
13 Offending and denying the LORD,
And turning away from our God,
Speaking oppression and revolt,
Conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart.
14 Justice is turned back,
And righteousness stands far away;
For truth has stumbled in the street,

And uprightness cannot enter.

15 Truth is lacking,

And one who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.

Now the LORD saw,

And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.

16 And He saw that there was no one,

And was amazed that there was not one to intercede;

Then His own arm brought salvation to Him,

And His righteousness upheld Him.

17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,

And a helmet of salvation on His head;

And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing

And wrapped Himself with zeal as a cloak.

18 According to their deeds, so will He repay:

Wrath to His adversaries, retribution to His enemies;

To the coastlands He will deal retribution.

19 So they will fear the name of the LORD from the west

And His glory from the rising of the sun,

For He will come like a rushing stream

Which the wind of the LORD drives.

20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion,

And to those in Jacob who turn from wrongdoing," declares the LORD.

21 "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."

This is the inspired Word of our God.

B: Exposition of Scripture

As we look at this chapter, we need to understand that Isaiah is addressing the nation of Israel primarily, but he is **ALSO** addressing us today as the church. Paul makes this clear in Romans 3.

What is sin? Sin is the willful transgression of God's law or character whether in thought, feeling, speech or action.

Ralph Venning the great Puritan pastor in London in the 1600's wrote the book 'The Sinfulness of Sin'. This sermon seeks to focus on that very point in his title. He tells us-

"The sinfulness of sin not only appears from, but consists in this: that it is contrary to God. Indeed, it is contrariety and enmity itself."

Here this means antagonism and deep-rooted hatred. Do we hear that? That makes the sinfulness of sin very clear.

With that background, let's now look at Chapter 59 in several parts with a focus on sin.

Part 1 - Verse 1-2

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short

That it cannot save;

Nor is His ear so dull

That it cannot hear.

2 But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God,

And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Verse 1

God lets us know up front that he is able to hear and save.

Then we move on to what we have done to break that communion with Him. As a reminder, these people are God's people. They were the ones that were sacrificing and doing the things commanded by the law, though not perfectly. We should most definitely listen to the words in this Chapter as being directed to us, His people in the church. As we mentioned Paul in Romans make this clear that this is for us as well.

Hab. 1:13a

He went on to affirm the holiness of God, and how God cannot tolerate evil: "You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, "

Verse 2

Wrongdoing is sin. The word means iniquity.

This wrongdoing, iniquity, this sin has caused a separation between you and your God.

Our sins have hidden His face from us so that He does not hear.

Micah 3:4,

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD,

But He will not answer them.

Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time

Because they have practiced evil deeds.

Zech 7:13

13 And just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen," says the LORD of armies

Psalm 66:18

18 If I regard wickedness in my heart,
The Lord will not hear;

1 John 3:22

22 and whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight

Sin is very serious. Our God takes it very seriously. He will not hear us while we are in our sin.

To re-establish this abiding and fellowship, we must face and kill our sin!

Part 2- Verses 3-8

3 For your hands are defiled with blood,
And your fingers with wrongdoing;
Your lips have spoken deceit,
Your tongue mutters wickedness.
4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly.
They trust in confusion and speak lies;
They conceive trouble and give birth to disaster.
5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web;
The one who eats of their eggs dies,
And from what is crushed, a snake breaks out.
6 Their webs will not become clothing,
Nor will they cover themselves with their works;
Their works are works of wrongdoing,
And an act of violence is in their hands.
7 Their feet run to evil,
And they hurry to shed innocent blood;
Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing,
Devastation and destruction are in their paths.
8 They do not know the way of peace,
And there is no justice in their tracks;
They have made their paths crooked,
Whoever walks on them does not know peace.

How can we not hear echoes of Romans 1:18-31?

Here we see all the sins that they committed, in clear detail.

Wrongdoing means Iniquity- activity that transgresses moral or civil law. It has the aspect of Habits and premeditation. The Hebrew word AWON means to do wrong, twist, to be bent.

Their sins are compared to venomous snakes, only poison comes from them and their offspring. They are destructive/deadly. They breed poison. The spider web shows they spin webs of deceit and iniquity. They work evil in all things. In their work, they use their hands, feet, and thoughts. Their Paths are crooked, no justice, devastation, destruction. In the end there is no peace for themselves or with others.

Part 3- Verses 9-11

9 Therefore justice is far from us,
And righteousness does not reach us;
We hope for light, but there is darkness,
For brightness, but we walk in gloom.
10 We grope for the wall like people who are blind,
We grope like those who have no eyes.
We stumble at midday as in the twilight;
Among those who are healthy we are like the dead.
11 All of us growl like bears,
And moan sadly like doves;
We hope for justice, but there is none;
For salvation, but it is far from us.

Therefore shows us the results of this sin.

No justice (corporate, individual)
No righteousness
No light (hope)
No direction, unsteady.
No Joy (worry, fret)
No deliverance
No relief from guilt/sin

Does this not remind us of America today? Judgment is here. It is upon us.

Part 4- Verses 12-13

12 For our wrongful acts have multiplied before You,
And our sins have testified against us;
For our wrongful acts are with us,
And we know our wrongdoings:
13 Offending and denying the LORD,
And turning away from our God,
Speaking oppression and revolt,
Conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart.

We see that once chained to practicing sin, it multiplies before God. Our sins testify against us!

Do we understand that we are offending, denying, turning from, lying to, speaking of oppression and revolt against God as we sin?

Part 5- Verses 14-15a

14 Justice is turned back,
And righteousness stands far away;
For truth has stumbled in the street,
And uprightness cannot enter.
15 Truth is lacking,
And one who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.

No righteousness. No justice. Truth is lacking and has stumbled so uprightness cannot enter. The people have no recourse. Those who seek to follow God become prey. The evil ones PREYs on those who obey God.

Do we not see this judgment on our country today? In the courts, in schools, in government, in business, in entertainment?

We are certainly seeing those who obey God becoming prey in the marketplace, in government, in culture, in the courts, in the schools.

Part 6- Verses 15b-19

Now the LORD saw,
And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.
16 And He saw that there was no one,
And was amazed that there was not one to intercede;
Then His own arm brought salvation to Him,
And His righteousness upheld Him.
17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;
And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing
And wrapped Himself with zeal as a cloak.
18 According to their deeds, so will He repay:
Wrath to His adversaries, retribution to His enemies;
To the coastlands He will deal retribution.
19 So they will fear the name of the LORD from the west
And His glory from the rising of the sun,
For He will come like a rushing stream
Which the wind of the LORD drives.

Verses 15b-17

God recognizes and indicates His displeasure and amazement with the situation. He then intercedes. God brings salvation by the righteous one.

The Redeemer puts on the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation. He also puts on garments of vengeance for clothing. And wraps Himself in zeal as a cloak.

Here we see the perfection, passion, zealousness, and vengeance of the Redeemer.

Notice here that the Redeemer has the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation since only He is the possessor of these in and of himself as our savior.

In Rom 13:12-14 we see the armor of God applied to the people of God in the new covenant- in the Church.

Note that the Redeemer possesses the wrath, vengeance, retribution, and the zeal for God's righteousness.

we share that zeal of the Redeemer as true believers, but our focus is to be for the glory of God.

Verses 18-19

The Redeemer will repay the unbelievers that are His adversaries. They will receive wrath and retribution and fear the name of the Lord.

God's holiness demands His wrath on sin. The attributes of God revealed in Scripture show His holy perfection. Only those who are Christ's people, regenerated by God, repentant towards God and man, and having faith in Christ will be covered by Christ's righteousness and receive forgiveness for their sins.

Part 7- Verse 20-21

20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion,

And to those in Jacob who turn from wrongdoing," declares the LORD.

21 "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."

Verse 20

The Redeemer (Savior) did come to Zion or Jerusalem as prophesied here. The LORD indicates He also comes to those in Jacob that turn from their iniquity, transgression, and sin.

We see this salvation at the hands of the Redeemer declared in other parts of the Old Testament like Jeremiah and throughout the New Testament. The call to turn from their iniquity, transgression and sin was declared by Jesus. Also, by John the Baptist and the other disciples. While the salvation through the

Redeemer is more shrouded in the Old Testament, God's progressive revelation in the Bible makes this salvation crystal clear in the New Testament.

Unbelievers and the purveyors of a false gospel see man as savior not Christ. They, like Satan, seek to elevate man and in doing so commit the most offensive form of idolatry in self-worship. This is the lie of Satan. According to God's Word, you are either for God or Satan.

Verse 21

You can hear the echoes of Joshua 1:8:

Joshua 1:8

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

Paul quoted verses 20 and 21 in Romans 11:26-27 to support his argument that God has not rejected Israel but has a future plan to save a believing remnant. Paul also applied Isaiah's words to the Gentiles, who are also included in God's salvation through faith in Christ.

The New Covenant is in view here. The Holy Spirit and the Word is in and upon us and our offspring now and forever. Through the Spirit and the Word, He will maintain His covenant people.

In these two verses we also can point to Jer. 33:14-16 and hear of the LORD's new eternal covenant.

Jer. 33:14-16

14 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Charles Spurgeon:

"The Church of God shall have the Spirit of truth and the Word of truth ever abiding in her midst. God will not break his covenant by withdrawing his Spirit from his Church. The Redeemer has come, and his work of redemption is accomplished. The Spirit also has come, but his work is not as yet done; it is being performed from day to day, and the Spirit will never be withdrawn while any part of his ministry remains unfulfilled. The consequence of all this is the glory of the true Church of the living God. There are better days coming for the cause of Christ and of truth. Listen, and be encouraged, all ye that are heavy of heart!"

We have completed our review of this passage and have strong indication of God's view of us and our sin as well as the impact on man and society as a result.

C: What should we say about Sin?

As we now look more at sin, we continue to be focused on Isaiah 59 and the sinfulness of sin.

A proper view of sin can only come from God's Word. It does not come from the world or culture. These will always seek to devolve in the basest elements. History supports this simple fact. In developing this proper view, it is essential to first understand who God is in relation to sin in His personal character and commands. Once we understand sin in relation to God, we can see ourselves correctly in view of sin.

Ezek 36:23

23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Jeremiah 3:25

25 Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day. And we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

Isa 53:6

6 All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;

Ro 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ezek 14:6

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

Ralph Venning:

"Sin is contrary to all the names and attributes of God. It sets itself in opposition to them all:

- It denies God's all-sufficiency. As if there were not contentment and satisfaction enough to be had in the enjoyment of God... Every prodigal who leaves the Father's house says in effect, it is better to be elsewhere.
- It challenges the justice of God, and dares God to do his worst (Malachi 2.17). It provokes the Lord to jealousy and tempts him to wrath.
- It disowns his omniscience. Pooh! they say, God does not see, nor does the most High regard."

The more we learn about the holiness of God, the more we will become consumed with His glory and be less focused on ourselves enabling us to become true worshippers of Him and true haters of the sin that so offends Him.

To reiterate:

-Sin is idolatry and rebellion against God.

-Sin is the willful transgression of God's law or character whether in thought, feeling, speech or action.

-Iniquity is sin that is intentional, pre-meditated and progresses into habit. It also takes on the aspect of being evil with no fear of God. It becomes a sin that we practice!

If we look honestly at sin and shine the bright light of God's truth upon it, we see that we seek to minimize it. We seek to convince ourselves that God doesn't really care about insignificant or hidden sins. We seem to think we can negotiate with God, especially if we believe we are saved.

It is easy for us to focus on the more serious sins like murder and sexual sin and for good reason. However, it is not acceptable to make peace with other sins that can be just as horrendous. We have found a way to make these other sins acceptable by overlooking them, minimizing their seriousness, or by learning to accept them and not even seeing them as sin. These sins we tend to 'make peace' with we work to justify.

Some of these sins we seek to justify are 'secret' sins that we protect, keep private, or seek to not give up. We must reflect and expose these. It is these that are often the reason for broken fellowship/abiding with God that we are blinded to.

Psalm 66:18-19.

18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

Thomas Brooks:

"Secret sins commonly lie nearest the heart."

We often abstract these justified or secret sins in order to hide, overlook, divert or even ignore them. What I mean by abstracting is that we seek to define it in less offensive or acceptable ways. We find a way to make peace with these sins. Our society has gotten very good with this and so have we.

Here are some examples of the abstractions we have created:

We call provocative dress or lack thereof self-expression instead of sensuousness/immodesty.

We call dishonesty 'exaggerations' instead of lies.

We call materialism/arrogance 'success/blessing' instead of pride/covetousness.

We call sexual sin 'alternative lifestyles' instead of deviant relationships and abominations.

We call sexual sin 'affairs' instead of adultery.

We call sexual sin 'living together' instead of fornication.

We call the unborn 'fetus' instead of baby.

Finally, we call the action of sinning as being 'triggered' instead of simply accepting that the sin is ours and not due to someone or something else.

We need to see ALL sin equally offensive to our God. We are commanded to turn from it ALL. We don't get to have hidden sin!

Sin includes all that the Bible says is sin. Sin includes worry. Sin includes deceit. Sin includes control/manipulation. Sin includes pride/condescension. Sin includes favoritism. Sin includes superiority/arrogance. Sin includes materialism manifested in wants beyond needs. Sin includes men and women abdicating or usurping the other's Biblically defined roles. Sin includes abusing/twisting/misinterpreting the Word of God to support your sinful desires.

**Sin causes us to hate God. We mock, rebel, and do so willfully!
Walking in opposition to God! And to think we do that as His children!!!**

Another key point in relation to sin is to understand that a key root for much sin is idolatry. I would even argue that all sin can be understood as derivative of idolatry.

As we said earlier, sin is self-worship (Idolatry) and rebellion against God.

Idolatry is us putting self before God. It is demanding that which we are not to have.

Idolatry sits right at the heart and shows that we worship ourselves in rebellion against God seeking things that are not permitted. This then manifests in different forms depending upon where our thoughts and base desires take us.

Our nature is sinful. We start with desires where we want something we are commanded not to pursue. Then we chase it, obtain it. The desire is sinful, the thought is sinful, the action is sinful, the hiding is sinful, the justification is sinful.

Consider the commandments our God has given to us. In Exodus 20 we see the two tablets comprised of the 10 commandments. The first five focused on idolatry. Idolatry against God and parents. He makes it clear that He will not abide with this. We are to have no other gods! This includes all gods including material and spiritual that come before Jehovah. Even the 5th is to honor your mother and father is rooted in idolatry as idolatry is rebellion against what God commands and the mother and father are His ambassadors on Earth for children.

The last five commands expand on this idolatry as it manifests in murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness, and coveting. All is rooted in idolatry and entirely sinful as rebellion against God and what He has commanded.

Understanding this should undo us. If we truly hear this, we begin to see how truly sinful we are even when saved by Christ and our humble thankfulness will grow.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones:

"The nearer a man gets to God, the greater he sees his sin."

D: -APPLICATION. What should we do about Sin?

As we consider what we are to do about sin, we return to hear **Ralph Venning:**

"Be as willing to die to sin as Christ was to die for sin, and as willing to live to Him as He was to die for you. Be as willing to be His, to serve Him, as that He should be yours to save you. Take Him on His own terms, give up yourself wholly to Him."

We show ingratitude by taking all he gives and then we betray our Father, Our Savior by becoming a friend of his enemy- Satan. We are letting Satan stamp his image on us when we sin.

For the Christian we must grasp that God is not hearing us while we are in a state of sin.

We see this in Isaiah 59:2. It makes sense. God cannot condone or be a part of sin.

We need to be clear, a believer who sins, does not lose their salvation. These are true believers. They are to be corrected, rebuked, and restored to fellowship with God. This is done through the church as part of fellowship, preaching/teaching, and discipline.

When we sin, we break fellowship with God. We lose our communication to grow and abide in Him. The seal of the Holy Spirit received at salvation, regeneration, repentance, and faith is still in us.

If you truly love God and are grateful and thankful for what He has done for us in salvation, we will strive zealously to uproot and kill ALL sin in us and repent. It is what He commands us to do.

Charles Spurgeon:

"If you will not have death unto sin, you shall have sin unto death. There is no alternative. If you do not die to sin, you shall die for sin. If you do not slay sin, sin will slay you."

So, we have shown that:

- a. Sin is Serious.
- b. God judges sin.
- c. God commands us to kill it (Thought/Word/Deed).
- d. We must fight to kill it and repent.
- e. God is faithful to assist us.
- f. We will grow in Christ and re-establish our abiding.
- g. We will be His faithful holy people.

God is the perfect Holy standard. He doesn't call us to be perfect like Him because we cannot, but He does call us to be Holy in 1 Peter 1:14-16.

1 Peter 1:14-16

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written: "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

John Owen:

"Be killing sin or it will be killing you."

How do we kill sin?

1-Reflect/Rip it out/Aggressively Pursue Repentance

Pray that God will grant you repentance.

Reflect moment by moment and repent moment by moment.

2-Engage in the Christian walk

Do not allow anything to infringe.

This includes prayer, study, meditation, fasting, fellowship, worship.

Reflect deeply to expose secret/private/favored sins.

3-Practice turning from sin.

Do not allow self to be in position to sin in thought, word, deed.

This includes removing apps, sites that seek to engage you with sin.

Do NOT give into temptations. Look to Christ. Memorize Scripture.

4-Develop pure habits.

Start simply but change what is feeding your mind and heart.

Listen to teaching/preaching, study and memorize Scripture, and fasting, to maintain focus and zeal.

Fill your time with fellowship/sharing/accountability.

5-Learn about God.

Pray deeply, conversationally, focused on the glory of God.

Grow in knowledge of the character and attributes of God to know who He is by His Word.

Grow in the knowledge of God's faithfulness and His love for His children by His Word.

In heaven, side by side with the giants of the faith, brothers, and sisters, we'll answer for every idle word, thought, deed.

Do we really want to be excusing ourselves because we didn't take sin seriously and hide our private sin and its offense to God and impact on us?

E: -Conclusion

In looking at Isaiah 59, we have seen the sinfulness of sin, its impact, how God views it, and what we have to do about it to be reconciled with God.

In all humility I call on each and every one of us, saved and unsaved to hear this...

Know who we are...	Desperately sinful, lost for eternity.
Know who God is...	Perfectly Holy, cannot abide sin.
Know what sin is...	Disobedience, denial of authority, rebellion, and idolatry (self-worship)
Know need for salvation...	Lost, fallen, needing Reconciliation with God
Know the only way is...	In Christ

Despite what the world says through Satan, there is only 1 way to heaven, eternity, salvation, reconciliation, and forgiveness. It is through Christ and Christ alone.

For believers- In sin we lose our fellowship not salvation. We must confess, repent, and abide.

Unbelievers- These are those that are not true believers. Unbelievers are those that have never truly repented of sin, have not been regenerated by God through the Spirit, or accepted Christ in faith.

Our appeal is for you to hear and see the truth of sin and seek forgiveness, reconciliation, and salvation through Christ.

We must face our sin, all our sin and repent.

Brothers and Sisters, we are called and commanded to purge sin from every part of our lives. Our loving, just, merciful, pure, and faithful God has called us to be Holy. It is our duty, it is our responsibility, it is our calling, it is our witness before the World and our Father. Most of all, the motivation for mortifying all sin is out of gratitude and thankfulness for what the Father has done through His Son and by the Holy Spirit. We obey out of love and thankfulness. To not mortify sin aggressively, relentlessly, and zealously always is to mock the sacrifice of Christ.