

Battling Sin With the Gospel

By Andrew Beauchamp

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Friendship Primitive Baptist Church
2696 Crossroads North Rd
Subiaco, Arkansas 72865

Website: www.friendshipbbc.org
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/friendshipbbc

Please take your Bibles and turn to Isaiah 53. I've had some follow-up thoughts from last week where we asked the question: where is the gospel in discipline? And the presumption in that case is that the church is a called out assembly, and it's a called out assembly of believers and these believers are committed to following the Lord Jesus Christ. They are disciples is how the Scriptures describe them. A disciple is simply using the Greek word behind that word is simply one who is being taught, one who is learning, and so the disciples of Jesus Christ were those who were following him and learning from him.

So the church is made of disciples. The church is made of believers and someone who, a sinner, a sinner which each of us is, a sinner who professes Jesus Christ and desires to commit himself to following him in the church, is to be baptized upon a profession of his faith, and many Scriptures make very clear that there is to be evidence of that profession being genuine and that evidence is fruits of repentance. That fruit of repentance is necessary because we're talking about the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Sovereign over all and he requires our submission to his authority. And so anyone who professes the name of Jesus Christ and says, "I believe Jesus Christ. I believe who he is. I believe that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that God has provided righteousness for sinners in Jesus Christ. I believe that he was what he said he was, and he did what he said he did, and that he died and was buried and rose again of his own power, the resurrection of life. I believe all this." The necessary walk that follows a profession as that is one of repentance and faith, and so the practice of what we would call preventative or regular discipline in our lives spiritually is that practice of living according to the profession.

It takes a spiritual discipline to do so, just like it takes a, when someone is a professor of electricity or mechanical engineering, or a professor of logistics, that is his discipline which means that he is submitted to the learning thereof and the application of what he has learned. And so we are professors of Jesus Christ and that discipline is to learn from Jesus Christ and to apply what we have learned in following him, and the gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that he has come, that God has provided righteousness in him, and he died and was buried and was risen again in three days, that very very good news is at the center of the motive of our spiritual discipline.

Well, because we're sinners, a critical element of that is our battling against sin because we're being changed into the image of Jesus Christ in whom is no sin, and when that good work that's been begun that Paul speaks of in Philippians, "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." What that's gonna look like, y'all, is gonna be better than you've ever experienced. It's going to be magnificent. You will be without sin. You'll be totally actually spotless. You are legally before God today, praise God, he's cleansed you by the blood of Jesus Christ. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin and that has happened, and so you are not condemned today before God according to Romans 8 but, my brother and sister, you will actually experience the spotlessness of the righteousness of Christ and there will be no sin in you when you are finally glorified and that work that God has begun in you is totally accomplished and the end has finally arrived. I can't wait for that day. What a day it will be, Brother Thomas. What a day it will be.

So our battle today is a good battle, it is a good fight to faith, and the Lord has designed that the church is gathered together to help each other, just like an army. If a king just had one person in his army, in his force to go and conquer the land, to fight and destroy the enemies, that would not be very successful, would it? But when you have an army and everyone's working together, then you have power, power to fight the enemy. And this is what the Lord Jesus Christ has done as he has set up the church for us to be together, and equipped us with the tool that we need, the tools that we need to fight our greatest enemy which is not the bad guys out there, it's the bad guy in here. I know it's not comfortable but that's the reality, our greatest enemy. Because, remember, Satan's already defeated. He's wily. What is he called? He's the father of lies. The father of lies, but those lies are only effective because the heart that is within me is easily deceived. Jeremiah tells us that the heart is desperately wicked, it's deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it? An uncomfortable truth about the heart that is within me. That's not an easy profession, is it? I don't just am happy to go around expressing the truth about my heart but it is deceitful and desperately wicked.

So it's because of that, that the father of lies can have an impact because he can take that heart, he can work on that heart that is easily deceived and he can make us think that a sin out here, or a sin over here, or the sin of thought, or the sin of behavior, that it all starts from within, that it's acceptable, that it's really okay, that it's not that bad because the father of lies is a master of disguise, a master of convincing the heart that's so easily deceived that a sin here is okay, and a sin there is okay. So the question is: how can we overcome the great deceiver? How can we have victory over the sin that is within that God has purposed to sanctify us out of, and will indeed sanctify us out of? How can we have success? Well, here's the concise answer and this is what we're going to elaborate on this morning, and if you're not a sinner this morning, this may not be a relevant message but I think we may have a few in the congregation.

The power that you require to have victory over sin comes from the same source that has already had victory over the final and greatest enemy. What does sin end in? Sin ends in death. Sin brings death and what has Jesus Christ done on the cross? What is the good news of Jesus Christ? The good news of Jesus Christ is that Christ has defeated death for

you. And so the sin, even though you still battle with it today, it does not have the condemning power that it had before Christ battled it, but because of Christ's work on the cross on your behalf, my brother and sister, he represented you on the cross, he went in your stead and he took your sins and he carried them on his back, and he did, he suffered the penalty of your sin, the wrath of God, and he destroyed the power of sin which is death, and so you will not experience the death of sin, praise God. So that is the power that has destroyed our greatest enemy and our final enemy. That's the power, Jesus Christ, his work on the cross, the gospel, as in that which the gospel is presenting. The perfect work of Jesus Christ on the cross, that's the power that has overcome your greatest enemy, your final enemy, and it is from that same source that you will have the power to fight the sin today.

Now we could stop right there and you would have the essential information that you need to get to work battling your sin, but I have good news, the Lord gives us more help than the principle truth, but we have to start there because, you know, you know what it's like, I know I do, how many different ways do we try to battle sin? Sweep it under the rug, get rid of sin that way? Hide it? Try to just stuff it out, or you know, snuff it out with other distractions? I've tried to defeat sin in so many ways that was not by the power of Jesus Christ and it always comes back to bite. Maybe that's been your experience too, but I'm telling you, the Lord Jesus Christ has power to defeat sin in your life and that is great news, that is great news if you're a lover of Jesus Christ.

So let's look at this for a few minutes this morning because I very much, we're a church of professors of Jesus Christ and we need to know that we have a defeated foe, we need to know that we can defeat the sin today and that we can have victory over it, that Jesus Christ has given us what we need to have victory over sin, because if we don't know that, then we walk ignorantly and we walk as though we were a defeated foe which we are not. Let's begin in Isaiah 53 because the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the center of our battle against sin. Isaiah 53, one of the clearest and prolific accounts of the gospel of Jesus Christ, of the work of Christ here in the Old Testament. "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not." This was man's natural response to the Son of God when he came to earth.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs." Can we make this personal? Can you make this personal this morning, speaking of Jesus Christ. "Surely he hath borne my griefs, he has carried my sorrows: yet I did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for my transgressions, he was bruised for my iniquities: the chastisement of my peace was upon him; and with his stripes I was healed. Like a sheep I have gone astray; I have turned to my own way; and the LORD Jehovah has laid on him the iniquity of every one of us." That's powerful, isn't it? That's powerful when we make it personal.

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth." Why didn't he speak? Why didn't Jesus speak up for himself when he was being falsely accused? Why didn't he, my brothers and sisters? Oh, he surely had a right to. No perfect man except for Jesus Christ has ever walked the face of this earth. Slandered, why didn't he speak? Why did he remain silent? I'll tell you why: because he was bearing your sins and your sins and my sins are worthy of being condemned.

So he opened not his mouth. "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." Now that's a contrast, isn't it? We just said at the beginning, "My heart is deceitful above all and desperately wicked, who can even know the depths of it?" But here was a lamb of God who was without deceit, without any guile whatsoever, yet he was crucified on the most heinous form, in the most grievous form of condemnation for the most heinous crimes to be committed, and he did not speak up for himself even though he was oppressed unjustly, according to his own righteousness, but justly as he was the bearer of the sins of his people.

Now here's a statement that absolutely is astounding, "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." This is why it pleased the Lord to bruise his Son Jesus Christ because his Son Jesus Christ was bearing my iniquities on that cross, and it please the Lord according to his justice and his holiness to judge my iniquities.

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Do you understand that your hope of eternal life is that Jesus Christ bore your sins on the cross before God? That's your only hope. If he did not bear your sins on the cross and endure the bruising of God for those sins, you have no hope of victory over the curse of sin which is death, eternal death. And what is sin? What is death? Death is separation. And so why does death come from sin? Because it is a grievance against God and when you grieve God, when you violate God's righteousness, what did Adam and Eve experience? Separation. What do you experience as a consequence of your sin? Separation from God. What is the consequence of sin against an eternal God? Eternal separation which is eternal torment.

Brother Andrew, what in the world does all this have to do with battling sin today? My friends, it has everything to do with battling sin because this right here was the great battle against your sin. Jesus Christ went to the battlefield, he went to the war zone, the cross on Calvary, and he battled against sin and what did it look like happened? It looked

like death, the death of sin defeated Jesus Christ. That's sure what his persecutors thought. That's sure what all those, even his loved ones, thought at the time when they saw him breathing his last, dying on the cross. They thought defeat. Oh, but it was victory. It was victory and so this has everything to do with your ability to fight sin today. It must be in the power of Jesus Christ, otherwise it is in vain.

So, first, this passage shows us what our response, what our thought should be toward my sin. What should my thought be toward my sin? This is the first step in battling sin to the glory of Jesus Christ. The first step is that I would see my sin as sinful and as heinous as God sees it, and how do we know how much God hates sin? Because when that sin was laid on his Son Jesus Christ, he still judged it. That's how much he hates it. Do I hate my sin that much? Do you hate your sin against God that much? Is it that heinous to you?

Paul said in Romans 7, he had an experience of learning to hate sin, in Romans 7:11-13 he says, "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful." He said the law came, it was revealed to Paul, and what his experience was when he saw the law through the Spirit of God, which was not the case before he was regenerated. Oh, he knew all about the law, he was a perfect law-keeper, right? More righteous than anybody around him, but not really, and when the Spirit of God came and he saw the law through the eyes of the Spirit, then he saw what a great sinner he really was. Sin became exceeding sinful. My friends, that is what we need and that is what going to the cross of Jesus Christ and seeing how God handled my sin on Jesus Christ will do, it will help me see my sin as exceeding sinful if I love Jesus Christ. If I don't love or care about Jesus Christ, it don't matter anyway but that is not who we profess to be.

Hating sin as much as God hates it, that's why the cross is crucial. That's why the gospel is at the center of battling sin, otherwise it's a manipulation. Otherwise, we can always compare to somebody else, right? "Well, my sin ain't as bad as this guy over here. You outta see him. I'm doing pretty good." But that's not what we're comparing to, my friends, we're comparing to the righteousness of God and the righteousness of God says that sin is worthy of death, and we see that when we see Jesus Christ on the cross. Now that's humbling, isn't it?

Psalm 119. Oh, this is beautiful and I hope you get ahold of this one. Psalm 119:104, "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." Every way that is not in accordance with the way of Jesus Christ. Every way that is in disobedience to his commands. Every way that offends the Spirit of Christ which is within me.

"Through thy precepts." What is that, my friends? This is the word of God. Through the word of God, as you are in the word of God, as you ingest and read daily the word of God and it saturates your soul, what will the result be? Unsurprisingly, you will begin to hate every false way. Now that's a beautiful gift. That's a beautiful gift.

The cross, the cross is central to battling sin. Now the cross also provides what we need to do with the sin that we do commit. I hate to admit it but I have committed sin today already. I've committed some sins in my mind. I've committed sins of a sinful attitude. What am I to do with that? Knowing that Jesus Christ has paid on his own back, he has paid for my sins, what am I to do with it? Well, the gospel has very good news. The gospel has very good news. There is a path to peace. Sin does not bring peace, does it? It brings turmoil. I mean, you know this, whether it's in your relationships, whether it's within personally, sin brings the opposite of peace, it brings darkness, it brings turmoil, it turns the world upside down in the wrong way, to say the least.

So what does Isaiah 53 tell us here? What is our next instruction? Verse 5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him." The Lord Jesus Christ has purchased your peace with God. Well, sin prevents peace with God but Jesus Christ has purchased your peace with God, and so what do you do with the sin, what do I do with the sin that I commit today that prevents peace with God in my fellowship with him? He has provided a way, my friends. You take that sin and you take it to God on Jesus Christ and you say, "God, forgive me for this sin because you have paid for it on Jesus Christ."

What is this called? This is called confession and forsaking. Confession. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." There's a great promise here, my fellow laborers. When I confess, when I speak the same thing about my sin as God says about it, which is that it's heinous, when I confess my sin and I turn from it, he has promised that I will experience the peace of forgiveness that he has provided through Jesus Christ. Do you see why the cross is essential? Because this world is full of sin, full of people who are sinning, and full of people who are trying to manufacture peace for themselves to get away from the problems of their sin. I'm full of sin but I'm going to chase peace by giving a lot of money to the poor to salve my conscience. I'll have peace there even though I'm not actually resolving the sin problem. I will pursue peace by putting out a good image and that way I'll know that people think well of me even though I still have this sin problem. I'll pursue peace by numbing my mind and my body with abusing the substances of this world, that will bring peace even though I'm not really resolving the sin before God. All of these ways of pursuing peace are all fool's gold. They do not bring peace. Where is peace from sin, peace from the death of sin, where is it? Only one place, my friends. Only one place: Jesus Christ on the cross paid, he was chastised for your peace. That is good news, isn't it? That is good news and so I take my sin that I have committed against God and I beseech God to forgive me for that sin on behalf of Jesus Christ. The chastisement of my peace. Claim that peace, my friends. Claim it. Confess the sin before God, forsake it, and he's promised that he will give peace. He has promised that he will give peace.

Now it's a combination response that Proverbs says, "whoso confesseth and forsaketh" a sin. It must be confessed. I must confess it to God. I also must then forsake it, right? I must forsake it and those "shall have mercy." They'll experience the mercy of God through Jesus Christ. And so what does this forsaking look like? Well, the New Testament is replete with this terminology of fleeing sin. It ain't just walking away from

it, it's running away from it. But it's better than just running away from sin, it's better than running away from sin because if we're just running away from sin with no direction of where we're going, we're just trying to get away from it, we're just gonna keep bumping into it here, and bumping into it there because it's all around. The temptations are all around. I'm full of a deceived heart. I'll always just keep bumping into that sin problem.

So it's more than just fleeing from the sin. The gospel tells us that we are to be positively pursuing Jesus Christ, and when you're pursuing Jesus Christ, guess what you're doing without even thinking about it? When you're pursuing Jesus Christ, when you're running after him, and when you are seeking close fellowship with him through his word, through prayer, through the meditations of your heart, when you are seeking him, guess what you're doing? You're going in the opposite direction of sin. That's how you flee sin and that's why the Spirit of God is essential in battling sin. It's not just running around, we'll just go in circles, right? When we're pursuing Christ, though, we're going in a definite direction and we know for sure that we're running the opposite direction of that sin in which can so easily beset us.

Listen to this, 1 Timothy 6:11. He just gives a list of sins that he's warning against and then he says, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." Do you see? But what if it was always just flee? You see, we need more direction than that. We're not wise enough on our own to know what the right direction is, so he says you go after Jesus Christ and you will be fleeing.

"Flee," 2 Timothy 2:22 says, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." So when we are consciously, actively by spiritual discipline putting on the fruits of the Spirit, trying to grow in those fruits of the Spirit, what are we gonna be doing? We by the very act of putting on the fruits of the Spirit, we are putting off the works of the flesh. It's like two sides of the same coin and this is why the gospel must be at the center, the center of your battle against sin, because it's not gonna work. I've tried it, I know. Maybe you do too. It's not gonna work just to try to get away from sin, you've got to be pursuing your Savior Jesus Christ. Then you will have success and you will do that when Isaiah 53 becomes real to you, when he becomes precious to you because of what he has done on your behalf, praise God.

Now sometimes sin has gotten a real hold on me. Sometimes it's dug in real deep and it is truly a besetting sin, and it is practically appears to be dominating me even though I know, according to the gospel of Jesus Christ, that through Jesus Christ what he has accomplished on my behalf on the cross and through giving me the Spirit of God, regenerating me unto spiritual life, that according to Romans 6, sin does not have dominion over me actually because the Spirit is dwelling in me. But what does he say? He says sin does not have, Paul says there in Romans 6 sin does not have dominion over you, now don't let it have dominion over you.

But what do we do? Sometimes that sin is besetting, sometimes it seems to have control over me. The Lord Jesus Christ provides the same solution, the same solution to flee those sins that have even an usually tight grasp, grip on me. So when it's a drastic sin situation and I'm under its control seemingly, I'm letting it be controlling of me, it doesn't necessarily have to have control of me, what does it call for? Drastic times, what? Drastic times call for drastic measures and so we read this in, first, Mark 8, because this is the gospel, this is the power to fight that sin that seems to have, it does have a grip on you, it seems to have a stranglehold on you. The gospel says, my friends, Mark 8:34, what is your response to Jesus Christ on the cross? What is your response to that gospel message? "And when he had called the people," this is Mark 8:34, "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." What did Jesus describe here of the disciples? "Whosoever will come after me," there's the forward motion, the spiritual forward walking. Remember, we're fleeing sin and we're following righteousness. Well, Jesus Christ says the epitome of the proper response to the gospel message is, "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me."

And so the gospel is, again, at the center of this, and if this is the truth, if this is what the, if this is the length that I ought to go to follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ because of what he has done on my behalf on the cross, if this is true, then when sin has a stranglehold on me, when it's got a stranglehold on my arm and it is, we're using, what is the... I can't think of the term where you make something be like human when it's not. But we're taking this arm and we're saying it is, sin has a stranglehold on it and it's causing this arm to do all manner of sin and I can't seem to shake it off, I can't seem to get away from it. Jesus says, "You're following after me. You deny yourself because, guess what? If you're professing that I am your salvation, what does that mean? You have nothing. You are nothing. You have no inherent value. I am your all. And if that's your profession, then you ought to be willing to deny your arm, to deny yourself of the convenient use of your arm so that you can follow me as you ought." That's what he says in Matthew 5. You're familiar with it. "If your right eye offend thee, pluck it out. If your right arm offend thee, cut it off for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish and not that the whole body should be cast into hell."

What is Jesus teaching here? He's saying, "Drastic times call for drastic measures. If your profession is genuine and you are going to come after me and deny yourself, there isn't nothing, there isn't anything you should not be willing to deny yourself in order to follow me." And so if there is participation in certain, well, this is low hanging fruit, right? We all know this. If there's participation in certain forms of entertainment in this world, let's go with that, or relationships with people out in the world, or my own daily habits that put me in a compromising position to not be able to fight sin as I ought to, whatever the

case, what does Jesus Christ say? It's worth it for you to go to an extreme measure to cut off that sin. "I'm worth it," Jesus says, and that's what we have to ask ourselves, "Is it worth it for me to give up this, or for me to cut off that, or to put this, to exercise self-discipline to an extreme level in this case, is Jesus Christ worth that?" Then it becomes very clear, doesn't it? Because I never want to say Jesus Christ is not worth giving up this or that so that I can avoid offending him by my sin.

That is what our profession states, our profession of Jesus Christ, and that is why, once again, the gospel, my friends, is at the center of battling sin because otherwise it's just not that big of a deal, it's not that big of a deal to go to that extreme. Everybody deals with it. It's everywhere. Why is it so important? Because Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from the power of that sin that apparently now does have power over me, and that is not honoring to the Lord.

Now I do have in addition to those hard but very important responses to the gospel being the center of our battle against sin, I do have a couple of more refreshing truths also centered around the gospel that I want to share with you briefly here. Battling sin, battling sin with the gospel of Jesus Christ being at the center. So I noted at the beginning how precious it is that we are, that Jesus Christ has ordained his church to gather together so that we're an army of believers, not just out on our own, and so this is an important element of battling sin and this is with the gospel being at the center. What has the work of Jesus Christ, in other words, provided for us? Hebrews 3 is a very good exhortation here. Hebrews 3:12, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Now we're believers here this morning but isn't it true that that is our basic battle, belief and unbelief? When I don't obey Jesus Christ, it's because I don't believe him. Even though I might not say that out loud, that's the bottom line. You do what you believe. You do what you want. If you believe Jesus Christ, you will obey him.

So that is faith, obedience, believing, and so that is the basic sin challenge for every one of us to practically every day walk believing Jesus Christ, and so how do we battle that? "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." The Lord has given each of us to each other to be that iron sharpening iron, to help each other not fall into a pattern of unbelief day to day. That's a glorious comfort and encouragement, a glorious tool that the Lord Jesus Christ has given us which is each other, and that is at the center of the gospel because we are mutual, we are joint partakers of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

And finally, my brethren, relatively but supremely, what will be the proper motivation to help you really battle that sin and cut out the places that need to be cut out, do that spiritual surgery that needs to be had in pursuit of Jesus Christ? What will actually be a sustaining and sufficient motive for us to battle sin as we ought? It must be the pursuit of Jesus Christ because I love him. There are many motives to battling sin. The easiest

motive to battling sin is because I don't like the consequences of sin. When I commit sins or I'm unkind to my wife, I don't like those consequences and that's a motive to not be unkind to my wife, but that's not the right motive. What's the right motive to be kind to my wife? Because I love her, and that will be a more sustaining motive.

Well, my friends, this is the case with Jesus Christ and when you read Isaiah 53 and it is that you understand it to be a description of your case, that Jesus Christ has done this for you, and your response by his grace is one of love for him, it is true that love is the greatest power. Love conquers all. There is truth to that statement, but my friends, love of Jesus Christ conquers your sin like no other motive. Be sure, be sure. And if you need, if you have struggled to be victorious over particular sins that maybe you're thinking about right now, I exhort you, my brother and sister, to go to the cross of Jesus Christ because 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, oh, this is so beautiful and I think you will relate as a lover of Jesus Christ, you will relate to this. Oh, this is so true. This is what we need. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves," but what does that get? Living unto myself always results in sin. That henceforth, "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Praise God. The love of Christ is what will constrain this mortal frame to mortify the sins of the flesh and to run after our dear Savior Jesus Christ.

So let us battle sin this week. You encourage me. I encourage you. Let us pray for each other that the Spirit of God will be strong within us, that we will eat up and saturate our minds and our souls with the word of God which will help us to hate sin and to love Jesus Christ as he has called us to. I love you very much and may God bless you with this message.