



**BE KILLING SIN
OR IT WILL BE
KILLING YOU!**

A study of John Owen's "A Mortification of Sin"

1. Worship God



1. Worship God

2. Kill Sin



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2. Kill sin

3. Do as much damage to the kingdom of darkness



Outline of Sermon Series

What is Sin?

Why is the Mortification of Sin critical? (3 parts)

What is the Mortification of Sin?

The Mortification of Sin in Believers

Directions for the Mortification of Sin (5 parts)



What is sin?

Romans 1:18-25

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

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Mass 1.9891×10^{30} kg

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Volume $1.4122 \times 10^{27} \text{ m}^3$

Volume $1.4122 \times 10^{27} \text{ m}^3$ (1,300,000 Earths)

Temperature 5,778 K



Temperature 5,778 K (9941 °F)



Mean distance from Earth 1.496×10^{11} m (or 8.31 min at light speed)

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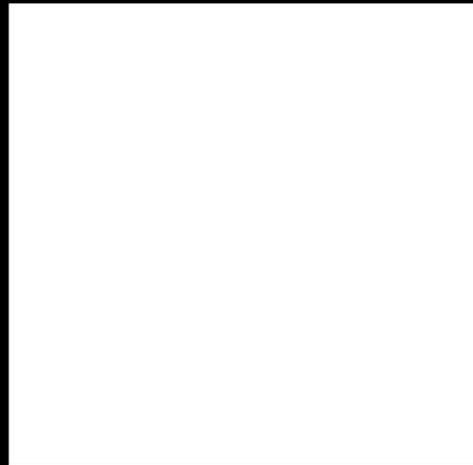
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“Seeing beauty in a flower could awaken humans, however briefly, to the beauty that is an essential part of their own innermost being, their true nature. The first recognition of beauty was one of the most significant events in the evolution of human consciousness. The feelings of joy and love are intrinsically connected to that recognition. Without our fully realizing it, flowers would become for us an expression in form of that which is most high, most sacred, and ultimately formless within ourselves. Flowers, more fleeting, more ethereal, and more delicate than the plants out of which they emerged, would become like messengers from another realm, like a bridge between the world of physical forms and the formless.”

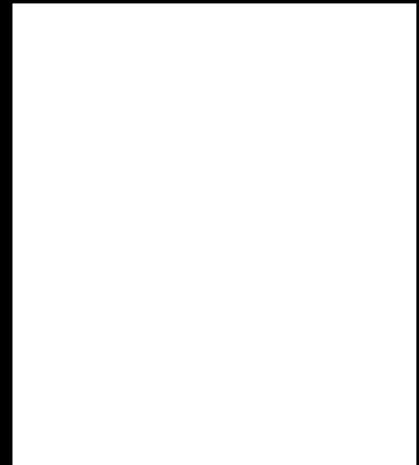
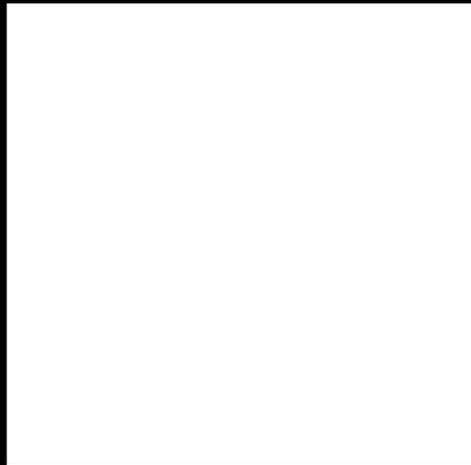
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6. Viewed as a fugitive pastor (1660-1683)

What is John Owen known for?

1. Worship God!

[More important than all is] a diligent endeavor to have the power of the truths professed and contended for abiding upon our hearts, that we may not contend for notions, but that we have practical acquaintance within our souls. When the heart is cast indeed in the mould of doctrine that the mind embraceth - when the evidence and necessity of truth abides in us - when not the sense of the words only is in our heads, but the sense of the thing abides in our hearts - when we have *communion with God* in the doctrine we contend for - then shall we be garrisoned by the grace of God against all the assaults of men.”

~John Owen



What is John Owen known for?

2. Kill sin!

I hope I may [acknowledge] in sincerity that my heart's desire unto God, and the chief design of my life in the station wherein the good providence of God has placed me, are that *mortification and universal holiness* may be promoted in my own and in the hearts and ways of others, to the glory of God; that so the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be adorned in all things.”

~John Owen



What prompted John Owen to pen the *Mortification of Sin*?

Visible Evidences of Sin

1. The inability of “professors” to deal with temptations.
2. The peace that “professors” have in the world.
3. The divisions that “professors” have among themselves.

What was his aim in the Mortification of Sin?

1. “Press more effectually on the consciences of men the work of considering their ways.”
2. “To give more clear direction for the [achieving] of the end proposed.”

Why is the Mortification of Sin critical? Part I



Chapter 1 - The Foundation of Mortification: Romans 8:13

“If you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body you shall live.”



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do mortify the deeds of the body you shall live.”



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“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” ~1 John 5:12



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“And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” ~Galatians 5:24-25



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“The pressing of this duty immediately on any other is a notable fruit of that superstition and self-righteousness that the world is full of - the great work and design of men ignorant of the gospel.” ~Owen



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“All other ways of mortification are vain, all helps leave us helpless; it must be done by the Spirit. Men, as the apostle intimates (Rom. 9:30-32), may attempt this work on other principles, by means and advantages administered on other accounts, as they always have done, and do; but, says he, “This is the work of the Spirit; by him alone is it to be wrought, and by no other power is it to be brought about.” Mortification from a self-strength, carried on by ways of self-invention, unto the end of a self-righteousness, is the soul and substance of all false religion in the world.” ~Owen



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“Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve no under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.” ~Romans 7:4-6



The Foundation of Mortification: Romans 8:13

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“So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.” ~Romans 8:12



The Foundation of Mortification: Romans 8:13

“If you through the Spirit

DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY

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“‘The body,’ then, here is taken for that corruption and depravity of our natures whereof the body, in a great part, is the seat and instrument, the very members of the body being made servants unto righteousness thereby (Rom. 6:19). It is indwelling sin, the corrupted flesh or lust, that is intended.”



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“To kill a man, or any other living thing, is to take away the principle of all his strength, vigor, and power, so that he cannot act or exert or put forth any proper actings of his own; so it is in this case. Indwelling sin is compared to a person, a living person, call ‘the old man,’ with his faculties and properties, his wisdom, craft, subtlety, strength; this, says the apostle, must be killed, put to death, mortified - that is to have it power, life, vigor, and strength to produce its effects taken away by the Spirit.” ~Owen



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“Now, perhaps [you shall live] may not only intend eternal life, but also the spiritual life in Christ, which here we have; not as to the essence and being of it, which is already enjoyed by believers, but as to the joy, comfort, and vigor of it....[In this] the vigor, and power, and comfort of our spiritual life depends on the mortification of the deeds of the flesh.”

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Why is the Mortification of Sin **CRITICAL**?

“There is a certain infallible (unfailing) connection and coherence (consistency) between true mortification and eternal life; if you use this mean, you shall obtain that end; if you do mortify, you shall live. And herein lies the motive unto and enforcement of the duty prescribed.”

~Owen



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Why is the Mortification of Sin **CRITICAL**?

“For **IF** you live according to the flesh you will die.”



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