

# Message Notes

"Pleasures of sin vs. real life, vigor, & comfort"

**Introduction - "Peace in our time! . . . oops!"**

*Why should we bother with all this work about killing sin?*

3 reasons:

1. Because we MUST!
2. Because we CAN!
3. Because we GET TO!

**Doctrine - If you are a follower of Christ, sin is not your source of joy, lasting pleasure or peace.**

1. "The life, vigor, and comfort of our spiritual life depend much on our mortification of sin."
2. However, it is not necessarily true that God "owes" you life, vigor and comfort. (Psalm 88)

(Job 1, 2)

(2 Timothy 3:12)

3. What we really, really want!

4. The choice we must make (Jeremiah 2:12-23)
5. An example of mortifying sin in the face of extreme pleasure (Hebrews 11:24-26)
6. Where life, vigor and peace come from (Isaiah 57:14-21)

**Application - "No Jesus, no peace.  
Know Jesus, Know Peace!"**

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

## Psalm 88:1-18

(use a pre Bible for this passage, please)

## Job 1:6-12

"One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it." <sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." <sup>9</sup>"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup>"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup>But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." <sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

## Job 2:1-6

"On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it." <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." <sup>4</sup>"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. <sup>5</sup>But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

## 2 Timothy 3:12

<sup>12</sup>In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

## Jeremiah 2:12, 13

<sup>12</sup>Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. <sup>13</sup>"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

## Hebrews 11:24-26

<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

## Isaiah 57:14-21

<sup>14</sup>And it will be said: "Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people." <sup>15</sup>For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives for ever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. <sup>16</sup>I will not accuse for ever, nor will I always be angry, for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me—the breath of man that I have created. <sup>17</sup>I was enraged by his sinful greed; I punished him, and hid my face in anger, yet he kept on in his willful ways. <sup>18</sup>I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him,<sup>19</sup>creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them." <sup>20</sup>But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. <sup>21</sup>"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Munich  
Conference,  
September  
1938

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's meeting with Chancellor Adolph Hitler termed the Munich Conference in 1938 in which Prime Minister Chamberlain declared, "Peace in our time".

# “Peace in our time!”

# “Oopsie”

Hitler's Invasion of Poland,  
September 1st, 1939



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

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



# Foundation for Mortification

Romans 8:13

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



# Why do we Kill Sin?

Two weeks ago (Part 1 of 3 on why...):

1. Because we MUST.



# Why do we Kill Sin?

Last week (Part 2 of 3 on why...):

2. Because we CAN!



# Power vs Authority:

“If a rhinoceros were to enter this restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here. But I would be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever.”

~ G. K. Chesterton, describing the difference between power and authority

# Power vs Authority:



# You MUST fight!

“But if you don’t find yourself dodging the rhino’s horn day and night in a struggle against sin, it may be that you’ve made peace with the rhino. You are willingly, happily under its power and rule....

I appeal to you, for the sake of your soul; Run to Christ! Only he can slay the rhino in your heart.”

~Kris Lundaard, *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin*, p. 34.

# Why do we Kill Sin?

This week (Part 3 of 3 on why...):



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

# Why do we Kill Sin?

This week (Part 3 of 3 on why...):

## 3. Because we get to!



# **Doctrine:**

If you are a Christ follower, sin  
is not your source of joy, lasting  
pleasure or peace!

*1. Your sense of joy and happiness and strength in life is greatly affected by your desire to worship God and kill sin.*

# Seeking Happiness in Life

“The life, vigor, and comfort of our spiritual life depend much on our mortification of sin.”

~ John Owen - The Mortification of Sin quoted from  
*Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, page 63

**2. However, it is not necessarily true that God  
“owes” you life, vigor and comfort.**

# God doesn't "owe" you peace

"A man may be carried on in a constant course of mortification all his days, and yet perhaps never enjoy a good day of peace and consolation"

~ John Owen - The Mortification of Sin quoted from *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, page 63

# God doesn't "owe" you peace

"Great!"

- Roger Messner  
in response to John Owen

# God doesn't owe you life, vigor and comfort

## Psalm 88:1-18

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you. <sup>2</sup>May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. <sup>3</sup>For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. <sup>4</sup>I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength. <sup>5</sup>I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. <sup>6</sup>You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. <sup>7</sup>Your wrath lies heavily upon me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. <sup>8</sup>You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; <sup>9</sup>my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you.

# God doesn't owe you life, vigor and comfort

## Psalm 88:1-18

<sup>10</sup>Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you? <sup>11</sup>Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? <sup>12</sup>Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? <sup>13</sup>But I cry to you for help, O LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. <sup>14</sup>Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me? <sup>15</sup>From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered your terrors and am in despair. <sup>16</sup>Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. <sup>17</sup>All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. <sup>18</sup>You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

# God doesn't owe you life, vigor and comfort

## Job 1:6-12

<sup>6</sup>One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it.” <sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” <sup>9</sup>“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. <sup>10</sup>“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup>But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” <sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

# God doesn't owe you life, vigor and comfort

## Job 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup>On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it.” <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.” <sup>4</sup>“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. <sup>5</sup>But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.” <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

# God doesn't owe you life, vigor and comfort

## 2 Timothy 3:12

<sup>12</sup>In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

### **3. What we really, really, really want.**

# What we want!

“Strength and comfort, and power and peace, in our walking with God, are the things of our desires. Were any of us asked seriously what it is that troubles us, we must refer it to one of these heads [headings] – either we want strength or power, vigor and life, in our obedience, in our walking with God; or we want peace, comfort, and consolation therein. Whatever it is that may befall a believer that does not belong to one of these two heads does not deserve to be mentioned in the days of our complaints.”

~ John Owen – The Mortification of Sin quoted from  
*Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, page 63

## **4. The choice we must make.**

# The choice we must make

**Jeremiah 2:12, 13**

<sup>12</sup>Be appalled at this, O heavens,  
and shudder with great horror,”  
declares the LORD.

<sup>13</sup>“My people have committed two sins:  
They have forsaken me, the spring of living water,  
and have dug their own cisterns,  
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

## **5. An example of mortifying sin in the face of extreme pleasure.**

# Mortifying sin in the face of big-time pleasure

## Hebrews 11:24-26

<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

## 6. Where life, vigor and peace come from.

# Sin saps us...

“This alone keeps sin from depriving us of the one and the other. Every unmortified sin will certainly do two things: It will weaken the soul and deprive it of its vigor. It will darken the soul and deprive it of its comfort and peace.”

~ John Owen - The Mortification of Sin quoted from  
*Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, page 64

# Where life, vigor and comfort come from

**Isaiah 57:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>And it will be said:

“Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

<sup>15</sup>For this is what the high and lofty One says—

he who lives for ever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,

but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

<sup>16</sup>I will not accuse for ever,

nor will I always be angry,

for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me—

the breath of man that I have created.

# Where life, vigor and comfort come from

## Isaiah 57:14-21

<sup>17</sup>I was enraged by his sinful greed;  
I punished him, and hid my face in anger,  
yet he kept on in his willful ways.

<sup>18</sup>I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;  
I will guide him and restore comfort to him,  
<sup>19</sup>creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel.

“Peace, peace, to those far and near,”  
says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”

<sup>20</sup>But the wicked are like the tossing sea,  
which cannot rest,

whose waves cast up mire and mud.

<sup>21</sup>“There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

