**THE MORTIFICATION OF SIN**

**Fall, 2022**

**Class 10 – Chapter 14**

REVIEW (Chapter 13): Preparatory Directive #9: Wait for the Verdict of God

**Chapter 14: Two Directions for the Mortification of Sin:**

1. **Direction #1**: **Set your faith upon Jesus Christ for the killing of your sin.** 
   1. By faith, be assured that Christ will give power for mortification of sin (Acts 5:31; Phil. 4:13).
   2. By faith, expect that Christ will help you to succeed (Hab. 2:2-4). Why?
      1. Mortification is through Christ, or not at all (John 15:5; Col. 1:19; Jn. 1:16). He is our only means.
      2. Christ’s mercy, tenderness, and kindness as our Great High Priest (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16)
      3. Christ’s faithfulness to His promises. (Jer. 31:35-37; Heb. 13:5-6)
      4. Two special advantages of expecting Christ to help us in mortifying sin:
         1. He is pleased with such faith in His people and will quickly assist.
         2. The expectation engages our hearts to seek Him diligently by the means of grace.
   3. Set your faith upon the death, blood, and cross of Christ, His being crucified and slain for YOU. Why?
      1. He died to deliver us from the condemnation and power of sin (Rom. 8:1-2; 6:14; 2 Pet.1:9).
      2. His death destroyed the works of Satan and brought us the Spirit. He is committed to keeping sin and death from having dominion over us (Rom. 6:14; 8:9-10).
   4. As you set your faith on the Christ’s death, expect spiritual power from Him, and strive to be conformed to Him in His death and resurrection (Phil. 3:10; Col. 3:3)
2. **Direction #2: Consider the vital role that the Holy Spirit plays in mortification.**

The Holy Spirit gives us inner power to accomplish the work of mortification and persevere in faith (Eph. 3:14-16). Owen’s six reminders of the work of the Spirit in sin-killing: the Spirit --

* 1. Convinces the heart of the evil, guilt, and danger of the sin to be mortified (John 16:8)
  2. Reveals to us the fulness of Christ for our relief (1 Cor. 2:8-10)
  3. Establishes and presses forward the expectation of relief from Christ (2 Cor. 1:21)
  4. Brings the cross of Christ into our hearts so that we are “baptized into His death” as to indwelling sin (Rom. 6:1-4)
  5. Is the author, perfecter, and finisher of our sanctification, giving grace for holiness (Eph. 3:16-19)
  6. Supports and empowers our appeals to the Lord (Rom. 8:26).

**Discussion Questions: Chapter 14**

1. Owen’s First Direction for mortifying sin is to set our “faith upon Christ for the killing of our sin. His blood is the great sovereign remedy for sin-sick souls. Live in the light of Christ’s great work, and you will die a conqueror.”
2. Suppose you are struggling with the sins of bitterness, rage and anger (Eph. 4:31). Practically, how do you set your faith on Christ for the killing of these sins?
3. Why is it important to “raise up in your heart in faith with an expectation of relief from Christ”? What may happen if we fail to do this?
4. Why are the teachings of Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16 practical and helpful in keeping an “expectation of relief” from Jesus?
5. Owen writes that one particular way in which we set our faith upon Christ for killing sin is to place it “peculiarly upon the death, blood and cross of Christ: that is, on Christ as crucified and slain.”
6. Why is this meditation especially helpful in the work of sin-killing?
7. Why should we look particularly to our baptism in meditating upon the death of Christ for us?
8. In Owen’s Second Direction, he writes “this whole work which I have described as our duty, is affected, carried on and accomplished by the power of the Spirit, in all parts and degrees of it.” He then closes by giving us six brief reminders of the Spirit’s work (mentioned in your outline above).
9. Read **Rom. 8:9-10**. Why is the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit important in the mortification of indwelling sin?
10. Which of Owen’s six reminders of the Spirit’s work are most helpful to you in your own work of mortifying sin?