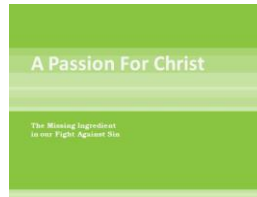


## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin



A lesson taught by Brad Bigney at the 2008 BCTC, used with permission.

### Prayer

### Opening

Have you ever wondered why some “friend” of yours has so much head knowledge about God, His ways and His Word, yet they continue to wallow in some deficient form of practical Christianity? Constantly, returning to our deficient ways, like a fool returning to his folly.

I know that I have and it is not only my friends I have wondered about, it is as true for me as for anyone I know.

I have been there a thousand times, “God I’ll never do it again, give me another chance, Demonstrate your unfailing love and have mercy on me, blot out the stain of my sins wash me clean from my guilt.

Purify me from my sin. FORGIVE me – for the thousandth time!!!

We plead with God, crying out “what am I doing wrong? What am I missing? Help me Lord! Save me according to your love!”

Where do point our students when they find themselves in a similar situation? Is there hope that we have to offer or do we simply approach the Bible with a ‘where can I find a verse on \_\_\_\_\_’ mentality. We forget that the only hope the principles offer rests on the Person, Jesus Christ... We cannot treat the Bible as a collection of therapeutic insights. To do so distorts its message and will not lead to lasting change. If a system could give us what we need, Jesus would never have come... He is the only answer, so we must never offer a message that is less than the good news. We don't offer people a system; we point them to a Redeemer.” (Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, Paul David Tripp, P. 8 & 9)

## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin

I. The **FOCUS** of Your battle against sin has to be a Deeper Relationship with Christ ~ not just Dispensing Biblical **PRINCIPLES**

### I. The **FOCUS** of Your battle against sin has to be a Deeper Relationship with Christ ~ not just Dispensing Biblical **PRINCIPLES**

When principles or steps wander from Christ himself, they become self-serving guidelines. They make our marriages, families, friendships, and work go better, but the goal is our own betterment more than the glory of God... 'Be good' and 'Do right' are fine messages, but when they stand alone they have more in common with the Boy Scouts' Handbook than Scripture. Remember that in the Bible, 'This is who God is and what He has done' always precedes 'This is what you must do.' Action follows our knowledge of God and trust in Him. It is as if God has said to us, 'Now that you have seen who I am, you will want to love Me in return...'” **Addictions: a Banquet in the Grave**, Edward T. Welch, P. 155

Titus 2:11-14 changes everything.

**Titus 2:11-14**  
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

**Titus 2:11-14** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

**Titus 2:11-14**  
takes a simple **COMMAND** to say 'No' - and surrounds it with **JESUS CHRIST**.

➤ Titus 2:11-14 takes a simple **COMMAND** to say 'No' - and surrounds it with **JESUS CHRIST**.

Remember - sin is what we do when we're not **SATISFIED** in God.  
So we don't just need **ACCOUNTABILITY** and help in fighting their sin...  
We also need to be led into a vital... satisfying **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ.

**Remember - sin is what we do when we're not **SATISFIED** in God (John Piper)**

... so we don't just need **ACCOUNTABILITY** and help in fighting their sin...

we also need to be led into a vital... satisfying **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ.

## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin

II. You Need to Help Others **TASTE** the Goodness of God in Christ so that They're **RUINED** for Anything Else



### II. You Need to Help Others **TASTE** the Goodness of God in Christ so that They're **RUINED** for Anything Else

Have you ever seen something that is so wonderful, so excellent that everything else in the same category is absolutely a distant second place. For example Brad Bigney describes a beach he went to in Florida. Everything about this beach was stunning! The sand was white as snow, the water the deep blue, and warm as bath. Every time Brad went another beach he was terribly disappointed because the standard he had come to expect was so high. He was ruined for any other beach.

"It is a dreary holiness indeed that is merely resisting sin. The joy of holiness is found in having heard a sweeter song... This is the true meaning of grace. Grace does not demonize our desires nor destroy them nor lead us to deny them. Grace is the work of the Holy Spirit in transforming our desires so that knowing Jesus becomes sweeter than illicit sex, sweeter than money and what it can buy, sweeter than every fruitless joy. Grace is God satisfying our souls with his Son so that we're ruined for anything else!" *One Thing* (Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God), Sam Storms, pg. 123 & 140

Psalms 34:8

"Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him."

**Psalms 34:8** "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man who trusts in Him."

- You need to ask yourself something other than just  
"Are you ready to stop **SINNING**?"
- Ask, "Are you ready to be **RUINED**?" They need to come to the place where they're ruined for anything else other than sweet communion with their Savior Jesus Christ.
- In fact... **PRAY** it as a prayer... find out how serious they are.

"God, ruin me for anything else.

I want off this treadmill of sin.

Take my breath away with the glory and beauty of Your Son, Jesus Christ!

Fill my heart and life with the sweetness of Christ alone."

Get them to start praying:

"God, ruin me for anything else.

I want off this treadmill of sin.

## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin

Take my breath away with the glory and beauty of Your Son, Jesus Christ!

Fill my heart and life with the sweetness of Christ alone."

- This fight against sin is a fight to stay **SATISFIED** in the goodness and mercy of Christ... so don't just talk about **SIN**... talk about satisfaction in the Savior!
- Ask yourself **QUESTIONS** that will bring to the surface the level of true communion and fellowship they're experiencing with their Savior
- The **GOAL** is not just to help them quit sinning... it's to get to a place of being so satisfied in the Savior that they won't want to turn **BACK** to their sin again

### How will you do that?

- Look for ways to stir up worship
- Assign readings from the Gospels in His interactions with sinners
- Assign readings from the Psalms
- Assign readings from Isaiah (ch. 42, 43, 50, 53, 55, 61)
- Assign listening to worship CDs like from Sovereign Grace Ministries that focus on the cross... grace... redemption... and a Savior (Worship God Live, No Greater Love, King of Grace, Glory of the Ages, Everlasting, Songs for the Cross-Centered Life, Valley of Vision [Collection of Puritan Prayers set to music])
- You can order from their website [www.sovereigngraceministries.org/Resources/Music/Albums.aspx](http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/Resources/Music/Albums.aspx)

#### Sovereign Grace Ministries

7505 Muncaster Mill Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

#### Telephone:

800.736.2202

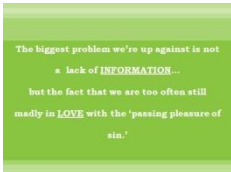
## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin

Only when you start to understand the difference between Psalm 16:11 and Hebrews 11:25 will really fight sin effectively.



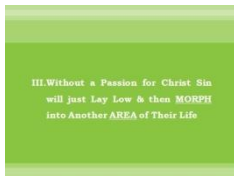
**Psalm 16:11** “... in Your presence is fullness of joy, in Your right hand are pleasures evermore.”

**Hebrews 11:25** “... the passing pleasures of sin”



- The biggest problem we're up against is not a lack of **INFORMATION**... but the fact that we are too often still madly in **LOVE** with the 'passing pleasure of sin.'

As C.S. Lewis described it... they're “making mud pies in the slum” because they can't imagine what it'd be like to have a holiday at the sea.



### III. Without a Passion for Christ Sin will just Lay Low & then **MORPH** into Another **AREA** of Their Life

For example: The person who needs a drink or two in order to have the required confidence needed to engage at a social gathering because of a “fear of man” sin problem might be challenged not to drink. Now the “fear of man” issue morphs into another area of life, like incessant talking to take the mind off of their fear.

**2 Corinthians 5:14** “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died.” ESV

“For the love of Christ compels us...” NKJV

“Holiness does not come merely by creating a list of moral taboos and then exerting our willpower to resist them. ‘Just Say No’ alone doesn't work. Of course, we must say ‘No.’ Please don't misunderstand me. But lasting, meaningful victory will come only if there is something more enticing to which we can say ‘Yes!’ ...We must fight sin with a massive promise of superior happiness. We must swallow up the flicker of sin's pleasure in the forest fire of holy satisfaction. The only thing that will ultimately break the power of sin is passion for Jesus. The only thing that will guard me from being entrapped by sin is being entranced by Jesus. In other words, the key to holiness is falling love!” *Pleasures Evermore*, Sam Storms, p. 31-32

## The Missing Ingredient in our Fight Against Sin

---

Conclusion

Next Week

IV. So HOW Do You Keep the Focus on Christ.