

Overcoming Sin

Introduction

1. It was a great day when Dr. Salk discovered his polio-preventing vaccine, resulting in the near complete annihilation of that dreaded disease.
2. But, what is even greater than this is to discover and apply the preventatives to sinning.
3. We need to understand that we are all sinners.
Romans 3:23
4. We also must have a **DESIRE** to conquer sin in our personal life.
 - A. All the helps in the world will be of no value to us if we do not have a strong desire to avoid sin!
 - B. We must get our "want to" in gear.
5. This is also very important – we **MUST** realize that God expects us to overcome sin.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

6. At the conclusion of our lesson this morning we should be able to answer the question **"How Can I Overcome Sin?"**

Using Our Bible

1. The proper use of our Bible will help us to overcome sin.

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

A. Why is it so important to place God's word in our heart?

- 1) We act in accordance with the precepts of our heart
- 2) We will act no better than our heart

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.....

2. The Bible truth atones for sin.

Proverbs 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

A. It is truth and that truth alone that is able to purge sin.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

3. God's law is what prevents one from backsliding.

Psalms 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.

- #### A. If you show me a backslider, then I will show you a man who no longer loves, reads, studies, believes, obeys, memorizes, or teaches the Bible.

4. John wrote his epistle to help prevent one from sinning.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Ezekiel 3:16-21

A. We must warn people with God's word.

B. It is a sin not to warn concerning sin.

5. Jesus successfully met temptation with the Word of God.**Matthew 4:1-11**

A. The same will work for us today.

B. If we are tempted to lie, remember Colossians 3:9.

C. If we are tempted to forsake the assembly, then remember Hebrews 10:25.

D. If we are tempted to commit an act of immorality, then remember 1 Corinthians 6:18.

E. If we are tempted to speak evil, then remember Ephesians 4:31.

F. If we are tempted to steal, then remember Ephesians 4:28.

6. Therefore each and everyone of us needs to resolve to:**A. Read our Bible.**

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

B. Study our Bible.

2 Timothy 2:15

C. Meditate on the Bible.

Psalms 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

D. Memorize Scripture.**E. Attend every Bible Class available to us.****Pray Often****1. Prayer will help us to overcome sin.**

- **Wendell Winkler once said:** "Prayer can stop sin, and nothing but sin can stop praying. You will never stumble while on your knees. As the prayer circle increases the circle of sin recedes. Thus, Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees."

2. It is through prayer that we petition "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13)

3. It is through prayer that we receive the strength to stand.

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, **and to stand before the Son of Man.**

A. We are told to put on the whole armor of God in prayer.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,** and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:18 **praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

4. Consider these series of questions:

- A. Did you know a man stealing and praying at the same time?**
- B. Did you know a man drinking and praying at the same time?**
- C. Did you know a man dancing and praying at the same time?**
- D. Did you know of one gossiping & praying at the same time?**

5. It should be easy to see why we should heed the admonitions of the Bible to pray regularly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray** and not lose heart.

Regular Self-Examination

1. **A constant self-examination will help us overcome sin.**
2. **We hear a lot about physical examinations, bank examinations, postal examinations; and these are important, but not near as important as a self-examination!**
3. **This is what Israel of long ago was told to do.**

Deuteronomy 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

4. **David practiced self-examination.**

Psalms 39:1 I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

5. **Paul exhorted us twice to do this:**

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

6. **We need to realize that God's word is the standard by which we are to examine ourselves.**

James 1:22-25

Reverent Fear of God

- 1. It is so very important that we possess a reverent fear of God so that we can overcome sin.**

Exodus 20:20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; **Fear the LORD and depart from evil.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments,** For this is man's all.

- 2. A contemplation of the goodness and severity of God will help us to have a reverential fear of God.**

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

God Always Sees Us

1. **Remembering that God always sees us will help us overcome sin.**
2. **We cannot escape the omnipresence, the all-seeing eye of God!**
Psalm 139:7-12

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

3. **Man sins when he loses sight of God's presence.**
 - A. **Before stealing some chickens, a daddy in front of him, behind him and to each side. Upon seeing this, his little boy said, "Daddy you forgot to look one direction – up!" The father had lost sense of the omnipresence of God.**

This May Be Our Last Day

1. **A sincere conviction and understanding that this may be the day we die and have our destiny sealed will help us overcome sin.**
2. **Life is uncertain, death could come at most any time.**
3. **Also, the Lord might return at most any time – as a thief!**
4. **Christians should truly live every day like this is the day that the Lord is coming!**

James 5:7-9 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand**. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

Conclusion

- 1. Remember, these helps will assist us only if we really want to overcome sin.**
- 2. Overcoming sin takes a genuine effort on our part.**
- 3. Sin must be overcome if we have a hope of being with our Lord in heaven for eternity!**

