

August 15, 2021
Jesus Did It All - Hebrews 10:1-22
JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our Second Service. On Sunday mornings we have two services, the first of which is our Bible Prophecy Up

date that we do weekly, and then Second Service is our verse-by-verse study through the Word of God, and we're currently going through the Book of Hebrews. And we finished off in Chapter 9 last week. We're going to pick it up in Chapter 10 and Lord willing, we'll make it through to verse 22. So I'll ask those of you that are here to stand if you're able. If not, where you're seated is fine and you can follow along as I read.

Beginning in verse 1 the writer of Hebrews by the Holy Spirit writes, "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, [verse 2] would they not have stopped being offered?"

For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible [verse 4] for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, [verse 7] 'Here I am-it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will, my God.'"

First he said, [verse 8] "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them," though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day [verse 11] every priest stands" That's because there's no place to sit – we'll talk about that, just hang on. None of the furnishings in the Tabernacle and subsequently the Temple had any place to sit because the work was never finished. The sacrifices had to be continual, and that is what he's saying here.

"But when the priest had offered for all time, [we're at verse 12 right now] for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down [speaking of Jesus] at the right hand of God and since that time, he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool [can't wait].

For by one sacrifice [verse 14] he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." [That's a quote from Jeremiah]

Then he adds [verse 17]: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Wow! All right let's pray, if you would please join with me.

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Lord, this is just wow! Lord, this passage, this text that we have before us today is here in our Bibles for a reason. And Lord, we're here today because we want to know what that reason is. And so Lord, will You speak to us and show to us how this applies to us today in our Christian lives? Lord, this would have been just unbelievable for them then as Hebrew Christians, but for us now almost 2000 years later, how much more?

So Lord, we want to hear You speak into our lives in and through Your Word. Lord, I want to pray this now, and that's that today in our time together in Your Word, You would change hearts and minds that whatever anyone brought with them to this Your church that it would be left here because of what You did once and for all.

How can we ever thank You enough, Jesus? Thank You, Jesus, in Jesus' name we pray, amen and amen.

You can be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today, and this is not hyperbole. I want to talk to you today about a life-changing truth concerning Jesus taking all of our guilt and all of our shame away once and for all so we don't have to be any longer crushed under the weight of the Devil's condemnation because of what Jesus did.

Jesus did it all once and for all. So it's like this: The new covenant, under Christ, under grace, in Christ is not do, do, do. It is done, done, done. That's why He - okay, we might as well get this out of the way - that's why He's seated at the right hand of the Father. When do you sit down? When the work is finished.

Ever had an employer say to you, What are you doing sitting down? We got work to do! Oh, sorry. Okay, I'm just talking about myself. I had an employer say that to me.

There was no place in the Tabernacle and subsequently in the Temple where that priest could ever sit down. The lampstand had to be continually lit. The table of showbread had to be continually furnished with bread, fresh bread every day. There was no time that any of the sacrifices, any of the priestly services performed in that Tabernacle were ever finished. They were continual, and then Christ comes.

And this is what the writer of Hebrews is saying. No need anymore. It's done, it's finished, He did it! You don't have to do it anymore. He did it! It's done, it's finished. And that's why He's seated.

Now, we have a problem and we need to resolve this problem. Here's the problem.

Today's teaching is one that the enemy does not want you to hear and he will do something, he will put something in your mind, some distraction, something will come to your mind during today's teaching, and it's like oh, yeah, I've got to do that today. And then he's got you and you're going to miss it.

And so I'm going to just ask you to allow the Holy Spirit to have your undivided attention and don't allow the enemy to distract you so you miss what the Lord has for you today because I promise you on the authority of God's Word and in my own relationship with the Lord that this will change your Christian life.

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What we have here before us today will change your Christian life. You know I always know that I made a really good decision when my only regret is that I didn't make it sooner. You know how that is? Oh, I wish I would have done this sooner.

Early on in my Christian life I lived under this do, do, do and I was crushed under the weight of it. I lived with guilt and condemnation, and I just gave the enemy an open check to write in the amount, and I just signed and said here you go. And he crushed me under the weight of that guilt and condemnation.

And I needed the much-needed reminder that's here in Hebrews, throughout the book really. Really it's replete throughout Scripture, but really pronounced here in Hebrews. I need that reminder that the sin has been taken away. He paid for it. There's no more payments to be made. I'm free and clear! I have a free and clear title.

Nevermind; that's a different analogy for different time, but He paid the debt. There is nothing outstanding. He paid in full and it's finished. There is nothing more that I can do. No more sacrifices need to be made. And certainly, the guilt, which we're going to talk about, that's taken away too, completely taken away.

This life-changing truth - let me just say it like this - will set you free from the Devil's domination vis-à-vis guilt and condemnation. That's what the writer of Hebrews is talking about today. And I want to share with you three absolute truths from our text that when applied will crush the enemy instead of being crushed by the enemy. Don't let him get away with that anymore.

Here's the first one and it's a biggie. They're all biggies, but it is in verses 1-7. Satan reminds, but Jesus forgets. The writer of Hebrews continues to draw upon the prophetic fulfillment of the finished work of Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for all our sins and the reminder of the guilt of all of our sins.

Isn't it true that Satan's right there always reminding you? Oh, we just got done reading what the priest - the annual reminder of sins. Annual? How about hourly? The enemy's right there reminding me of my sin. Why? Because he wants me to live under condemnation and guilt.

And what happens when that happens? Isn't it true that we find that oh, man, I need to do something about that? He just reminded me of that. And so all of a sudden now, I leave the arena of done, done, done, and I am back into the arena of do, do, do.

There's no longer this annual reminder on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, that one day of the year when they were reminded of the guilt of sin which necessitated the high priest continually offering sacrifices for sin.

See, prior to Jesus being sacrificed once and for all, sins were never taken away permanently. They were only covered temporarily, kaphar in the Hebrew. They weren't cleansed, they weren't removed, they were just covered temporarily.

In other words, we'll get back to you on this one.

When?

Well, once a year on Yom Kippur.

Really?

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Yeah.

I don't want to be reminded of that.

And Satan's right there to remind me of that. And then Jesus comes and says no more reminders. I don't remember that. I remember your sins no more. So instead of remembering your sin, remember the Son.

Every time we partake together of the Lord's Table, in Luke's Gospel Chapter 22, the account we affectionately refer to as the Last Supper. You know what the keyword in this is? It's the word "remember."

What am I to remember?

Oh, don't remember your sin.

Remember Jesus who paid for the sin. That's what you're to remember. His body broken for you. His blood shed for you, as often as you do this, do this in remembrance of Me. So here's what that looks like.

The enemy's right there, puts that thought, reminds you of that sin and you're just mortified. And here's Jesus going, forget about it. Not like that, but you get the point, right?

And when we pray oh, Lord, I am so sorry.

What are you sorry for?

Well, remember when?

Oh, I forgot all about that; you just reminded Me.

He remembers them no more. He removes our sin, removes, not covers, removes our sin as far as the East is from the West because there's power in the blood. That blood of the Lamb that was poured out for you and me is so powerful that it can take away the sins of all mankind and remember them no more. That's power! That's power!

[Applause]

And Satan doesn't want you to know that. Because he knows that if you know that, it's game-over for him. He no longer can condemn you and accuse you because that's his sole purpose. I'm getting ahead of myself so let's move on to number 2.

It is in verses 12 through 18. Satan accuses - Jesus forgives. Here the writer reiterates everything he's explained commencing in Chapter 7, actually from Chapter 7-10:18, he's been explaining all of this in detail concerning our superior High Priest, Jesus. In other words, when Jesus offered Himself for all time, one sacrifice for all sins, He sat down at the right hand of God because it was finished. What's finished?

The work.

What work?

Oh, we've got sins to pay for.

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I paid for them. They're forgiven. Oh, come on not so fast. Too good to be true. Well, God is too good and God is true.

All my sins are forgiven?

Yeah.

So I don't need to do anything anymore?

No, it's already been done. It's already finished.

You mean, so I really messed up this last week.

I didn't mess up this last week. Actually, I had a pretty good week by the way. But maybe somebody here, you know who you are.

[Laughter]

I'm sorry; I got to be careful when I do that because if I look at one area in particular somebody is going oh, he knows!

[Laughter]

I'm talking generically, broadly. Let's just say for purposes of discussion, theoretically.

Man, I blew it again. Man, I can't keep going back and asking God to forgive me again. I mean, I even made a vow to God. I even promised Him, God, I'll never do that again.

By the way, whenever you do that, I'm sorry for pointing - I'll do this. Whenever anyone does that, how's that?

I picture the Lord in Heaven going, don't do that. Because you are. You're going to do it again. But I got it. I paid for it.

Wait? You mean if I sin again it's already paid for and I'm already forgiven?

Yes!

Can you imagine; you sin again.

No, not again.

Yes, again.

And you go to God and you ask for forgiveness, and then God's response was something like, you did that again? How many times have I told you? I've had it up to here with you.

No! God's not surprised.

Yeah, but I can't believe I did that again.

Oh, I didn't know that you were trying to achieve sinless perfection this side of glory. Oh, let me see if I got this straight. Maybe you're one that wants to get to that place where you can say oh, I have no sin. I have arrived.

[Laughter]

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John said if anyone says that, they're a liar and the love of God is not in them.

I think we do err greatly, and I know what you're thinking - because I can read minds, I'm getting something over here on this side. No, I'm kidding, I can't read your minds. I know what you're thinking though.

Pastor, with all due respect if you tell people that all of their sins are forgiven, they're just going to sin with impunity. It doesn't work like that.

Here's how it works.

You sin, and then God in His grace, in His mercy, in His love forgives you of that sin. That does something to you.

Lord, I'm forgiven?

Yeah.

Yeah, but that was really bad.

I know. But I forgave you. I paid for that. Do you want to see the invoice? It says paid in full. It's stamped with My blood. I paid for it.

Wow! You must really love me.

You think?

Romans 2:4 says it's the kindness of God that leads a man to repentance. When you've tasted of that cup and you've been on the receiving end of God's forgiveness and His grace and His mercy, who wants to sin against that?

Oh, I don't want to do anything that would grieve the heart of God. It has the opposite effect. When you've been forgiven of sin, you will never want to sin against love. Love covers a multitude of sins. Okay, are we okay so far?

So now what do I do when I sin? You said it's done, so there's nothing to do.

1 John 1:9; it's been referred to as the Christian bar of soap. I love this verse. I own this verse and so do you too, so don't look at me all spiritual.

The Apostle John says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Now stay with me on this. That's a pretty good deal because if I'm reading this right, all I have to do is confess and He'll forgive and cleanse. Where do I sign?

See the forgiveness is instant (clapping) - oh sorry - so you can't ever sleep and take a nap here. You can after. And by the way, if you do nod off, don't worry about it. That's not a problem. The problem would be if I nodded off during my own sermon. That would be a problem, but I digress.

The forgiveness is instant. But the enemy is right there going, I don't know; this might take a couple of days. You might want to lay low. That was really bad. You know what? I would keep my distance right now. I would just kind of lay low. You know what? I wouldn't pray right now. Just wait. And I sure wouldn't go to church. Oh, my goodness if the person sitting next to you knew?

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Don't look at the person sitting next to you.

He got you.

See we only need to be in that state for as long as it takes to get to the cross where that sin was paid for in full. Forgiveness awaits instantly.

Can you imagine; what's God going to say?

Lord, forgive me.

No!

What? No?

You're forgiven.

Confess the sin, and by the way, confessing your sins carries with it the idea of confessing that what you did is sin. Does that make sense?

See because we don't call it sin anymore. You know, I have some issues in my life. Issues? Oh, if we confess our issues. Doesn't that sound so amicable? Oh, he just has some issues.

No, you have sin!

Example: Adultery, right?

No, we don't call it that anymore. We call it an affair.

Oh, it's just an affair. No! It's sin! It's adultery! You've sinned.

See, as long as we don't acknowledge and confess the sin as sin, it's hands off. How's that working out for you?

See unless and until - it's kind of like on the other side of it, we change the label so we have something we want and we take a 'need' label off of something and replace the 'want' label, and now it's a need because if it's a need, God will provide whatever I need.

No, I saw you switch the labels on that.

Well, it works both ways, right? See, unless and until we confess it as sin, God I sinned; that was sin. I confess it as sin.

Okay. God's faithful and God's just. And He'll forgive you instantly and then He'll also at no extra charge cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

It's the cleansing, purifying work of the Holy Spirit who indwells us and empowers us to live a holy life, a pure and holy life.

Well, it's this last one that I want us to spend the remainder of our time on together, and it's in verses 19-22. Satan condemns - Jesus cleanses.

If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the hardest truths for Christians to grasp, what the writer of Hebrews says here would have to be it. I know in my own life, as I've shared, I so wish I would have understood this early on in my Christian life, specifically verse 22 concerning drawing near to God with full assurance. It is 4:16 Hebrews.

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We can approach His throne of grace boldly, not arrogantly, boldly with confidence. Why do we have such confidence? Because He did it for me instead of me, and now that veil has been torn, I have unfettered access to Him, I don't have to wait until Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, one day a year.

I can get in to the throne of grace, and by the way, it's a throne of grace not judgment. And what do I find at the throne of grace? I find mercy. I'll take that too. And help in my time of need. And I can go anytime I want because of Christ. I no longer need to carry around the guilt of my sin.

If I'm carrying around a guilty conscience, boy that will eat your lunch by the way. I don't want to get in to the details of this, but a lot of problems emotionally are due to carrying guilt. It just destroys you. This is the way God made us.

It affects every part of your body, your digestive system, your cardiovascular system, your nervous system, everything. It will eat your lunch.

By the way, bitterness; we're going to talk about that in Hebrews as well. Don't let bitterness take root and germinate and sprout. It will defile you; it will destroy you. And never imagine that God is saying don't do that because I'm God and I said so, no.

It's God saying don't do that because I love you so much and I can't stand to see you needlessly and unnecessarily suffer or be crushed under the weight of guilt when I've already paid for it. And this need not be.

It's been said, well said, aptly said that sin is not bad because it's forbidden. Sin is forbidden because it's bad. God wants good for us. He doesn't want us to suffer unnecessarily.

By the way, The Ten Commandments; one has affectionately referred to them as the tender commandments.

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me because I'm God and those are no gods at all; they'll never be there for you.

Thou shalt not commit adultery because it will destroy your relationship and it will never be the same for the rest of your life.

Thou shalt not commit murder. Why? Because you will be haunted and hunted for the rest of your life.

Thou shall not covet. Why? Because again, it will eat you from the inside out. Covetousness is insidious.

Every single one of the commandments; it's a loving Heavenly Father saying don't do that because it's bad for you. And Father knows best. And I love you and I want what's best for you, and I'm trying to protect you and direct you and even redirect you away from something that could be harmful to you and hurt you because if you hurt, I hurt.

You know how it is for parents and grandparents, right? I mean it's been said - this is really interesting - a parent is never happier than their saddest child. Think about that. Man, if my son or my daughter is struggling or hurting, oh, you are killing me. It kills me. I can't stand it.

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When our children were infants, they would cry a lot at night. I still don't think we've slept. It's been 23 years now. And this is back when there was this teaching going around, let them cry it out.

I'm like whoa, let them cry it out? What if something's wrong? They're crying for a reason.

No, let them cry it out. And don't bring them into the bed with you. Let them stay in the crib, shut the door, turn off the baby monitor.

Well, my wife and I decided you know what? We need to get some sleep so let's try it. You know how long I lasted? We're talking about me now. Maybe two minutes; it might have been more like a minute-and-a-half. My son is wailing in there. I am like what is wrong, everything okay? Come on, it's okay, it's okay. Here honey, nurse him.

[Laughter]

And interesting; he stopped crying. Hmm.

Can you imagine if God let us cry it out? Whoa, I'm going to end it right there and leave it right there. I think you got that one. He harkens unto the voice of our cry.

Now there is something here that I really need to point out and it's so crucial. It's not just that we have been forgiven of our sin and cleansed from unrighteousness, not only has Jesus cleansed us from all of our sin once and for all, so too has He cleansed us from the guilt of our sin once and for all. We need to delineate between sin and the guilt of sin.

Romans 8:1 says, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation, [no guilt] for those who are in Christ Jesus." In Romans 6:14, the Apostle Paul is writing, and this is one of those verses in the Bible that at first read you can read it and go oh, yeah, praise the Lord, I'm under grace, not the law. But notice what he says.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Now again, at first read it is like wait, wait, wait. Sin shall not master me or have dominion over me?

Wait, I still sin; is this saying I could be sinless?

No.

Okay if it's not that, then does it mean that the temptation to sin no longer has dominion over me? No because if that were the case then Jesus who was tempted in every way that we were and are, then He would have sinned, if it's a sin to be tempted. It is not a sin to be tempted.

James says that you sin when you're tempted and you give into the temptation, then you sin. Oh, my goodness if it were a sin to be tempted, [leaving stage] you're fired! I'm out of here man, tempted. And so are you too. You're sinning right now, so...

If the temptation to sin is a sin, what hope do I have?

No, it can't be that either.

Okay, then pray tell what is it?

It's not sin; otherwise, we would be sinless. It's not the temptation to sin; otherwise, Jesus would have sinned. It's the guilt of sin.

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So let's reread this now. For the guilt of sin, the condemnation from sin shall no longer dominate you, master you, have dominion over you. You need no longer allow the guilt and condemnation of sin to be over you because you're under grace. And that sin once and for all has been paid for.

Well, then okay why is it then that I struggle so much with the guilt of sin?

Paul is saying that the guilt and condemnation of my sins no longer have to rule my life. And the reason why you and I still struggle with guilt; guilt can be a good thing if that guilt drives me to the cross.

When guilt is not a good thing is when Satan builds this infrastructure of guilt and condemnation to keep you from Christ. That is his sole goal when you and I get saved.

See prior to getting saved, his soul goal is to keep you from getting saved.

And then you go and you get saved. He's like ah, we lost another one. Regroup, emergency meeting, JD got saved. What are we going to do? And here's all the demons of hell, well, he can't be unsaved so we were going to have to like, you know, change our strategy here.

He's come to Christ. Let's distance him from Christ. Let's create something, build something, do something to keep him from the One who forgives him and cleanses him.

And as long as we can keep him from the cross, we've got him because then he's living under that guilt, and that's where we want him to live. We don't want him to live under grace where he's forgiven and there's no more guilt because see, as long as we can get him living in guilt, oh, we can have a lot of fun with him, especially him because under guilt, oh, we can drive him to do all kinds of things because of guilt.

And we can certainly keep him away from the Lord because that's what he wants to accomplish in our lives. He wants to distance us from Jesus Christ. Because as long as he can keep up away from the Lord, there's no forgiveness. He keeps us from the cross, no forgiveness.

And this is exactly what Satan doesn't want me to know. And here's why? He wants me to think that I'll be controlled by the guilt of sin so I will fall into sin.

See, he wants me to keep sinning. And then he just keeps building upon the guilt, and then pretty soon you're just being crushed. He puts another brick, another layer on the wall of guilt in my life. Then when that happens, Satan is right there again to condemn me and deceive me and get me to hide my sin, cover it up.

And then when I cover up my sin, then that's when I keep my distance from the Lord because I'm in hiding. I'm in hiding now. Nobody can know. I've got to keep it a secret. I wouldn't tell anybody about that. I sure wouldn't confess that.

See, Satan knows that as soon as you bring it into the light, it's kind of like cockroaches, you know? One thing about when we moved here to Hawaii, we don't have cockroaches where I came from. I've learned a lot about cockroaches, more than I really would like to know about cockroaches. I sure hope there are no cockroaches in Heaven. That's all I can say.

But cockroaches are nocturnal, right? So they come out in darkness. So I wake up early on Sunday mornings right about 3:00, 3:30, sometimes 4:00. I go into the kitchen, and all of these cockroaches are like having a party.

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[Laughter]

No, I'm serious. You notice that? Not 2:00 in the afternoon, 4:00 a.m. in the morning they're having a party. It's kind of like oh, he is up, and they start running. I turn the light on and they start scattering. That's what happens with us.

Here's the darkness, and we're covered and hiding in the darkness and Jesus is like, man, turn on the lights, get rid of them buggers.

I'm sorry. By the way, buggers is not good. I'm sorry. In some parts of the world, that's a bad word. I'm so sorry. Here it's not, right? Tell me it's not. It's not, okay.

[Laughter]

I just sinned. Forgive me. I'm forgiven!

[Laughter]

[Applause]

Man, the last time I said that, I got e-mails from online members all over the world going, Pastor JD, that is a dirty word where we're from.

I am sorry; it reminds me - can I share this with you? Why not.

I was in Russia; this is back in the early 2000s and I had a translator. And I had to cut my messages in half because it took half the time for the translator, which that was a trial, but anyway... I shortened my message so I would say it in English and then the Russian translator would translate it in Russian.

Well, I'm sharing about how my children who were young at the time called me Baba, and I was trying to make this connection to our Heavenly Father who is Abba. Abba is in the Hebrew and the Aramaic, Baba, the Arabic, like Papa, Daddy.

I was trying to bring in this whole thing about hey, I can call him Daddy, Baba, Papa, my Father in Heaven. So as soon as I said Baba, they just started laughing almost uncontrollably. I'm looking at the translator and he is looking at me going (symbol for being quiet)

[Laughter]

Are you ready for this? I wish he would've told me before. Baba in Russia is a homeless woman on the streets. I'm like you can refer to our Heavenly Father as a homeless woman on the streets.

[Laughter]

That's my story and I'm sticking with it. Okay, let's come back to the sermon already in progress here. I'm sorry. Enough of my problems.

I want to close with a quote from Roy Hession. He's with the Lord now. This comes from his book 'Forgotten Factors' and this was many years ago. I want to say it was now about maybe 15, 20 years ago that I read this, and it just opened up Romans 6 to me in Hebrews concerning guilt, the domination of guilt in my life which just causes me to sin even more; I mean what's the point now? I've already blown it.

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And I tell you; this just changed everything. This was the Lord's way of getting to me and saying to me the guilt of sin no longer dominates you. He says, speaking of this just being crushed under guilt, he says "In that condition of despair, we have little motivation but to commit further sin."

By the way, that's exactly why Satan does that. Because it is like, well, you've already blown it, you might as well... He's right there to say you might as well, you've already blew it.

He says, "Our spiritual situation is so dead and unsatisfying that we feel a further act of sin is not going to make things much worse - so why not? The most we can hope for in this situation is to try to hide some of the more shameful sins.

But the longer we hide sin, the longer it goes on condemning us, and we get more and more under its dominion. Is it not obvious from all this that the real purpose of Satan in provoking us to commit sin is not merely that we might do something unethical, but that when we have done it, he might have the opportunity to accuse us?

He is called the accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12. And then in that condition, we are rendered powerless. The Christian who has committed an impure act feels himself the next day an utter dog; [do you have days like that?] he does not want to look God or his fellow-Christians in the eye; and as for undertaking some spiritual service, he would rather run away and hide. This is just the result the devil intended when he provoked that Christian to sin."

He got you. How many men - can I just speak to the men for a moment and we will bring it in for close?

This will be my final closing.

How many men have been rendered impotent in their service to the Lord because of this? I'm a wretch. I better just - I'll just sit in the back. I might just stay in the foyer; If you're sitting in the foyer, we love you, it doesn't mean that. Or just watch online; that's even better.

Think about this. Does this make sense to you? Wouldn't it stand to reason that Satan knows that he can keep you from that as long as he's got you in this? And here you're going well, I could never serve the Lord or do this or do that, or even share the Lord with somebody because of what I did. And there is Satan going I wouldn't if I were you.

Wait a minute. I'm just one sinner telling another sinner about the Savior.

You know what's interesting about the Apostle Paul?

Okay, this will be the last, last thing right here. This might be for somebody here today. You know the Apostle Paul throughout the epistles, he starts off, you know, he's the Apostle, Paul the apostle by the Lord, and in the introduction of the letter, he will introduce himself and he'll say apostle, and as you get toward the end of his life, it's not the Apostle Paul.

He now refers to himself as - wait for it - chief of sinners.

Paul, you?

Yeah.

Oh, well, then what are you doing writing the epistles, chief of sinners?

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Ha! Oh, you haven't heard? I've been forgiven and cleansed.

And if there was ever a man that the enemy could - in fact, some believe this was the thorn in his flesh - it was the constant reminder from the enemy of all of those Christians that he had killed thinking he was doing God a favor. Can you imagine what he lived with for the rest of his life? Man, Satan could have taken him out in a heartbeat, but he didn't.

I mean this guy had Christians killed, man! They heard Paul, Saul of Tarsus, pardon me, was coming. Man they ran for...

I mean, even after he gets saved, here's Barnabas going hey, Saul of Tarsus got saved. It's a trap, it's a trick. He did not. Do not let him come into our Bible study and prayer meeting. It's a trap! Not him!

No, he did; he got saved. Welcome him; he's a brother in Christ now.

No! When you heard Saul of Tarsus was coming, you ran away because of what he would do.

Now can you imagine? It's just like the Lord, isn't it?

He saves a sinner like that, and by the way, where do we get off on thinking that we were such a great deal for the Lord? You know, we talked about I gave my life to the Lord. That's not the miracle; here's the miracle: He accepted it. I will let you think about that one.

No, I gave my life to the Lord.

Well, did he take it?

Yeah.

I wouldn't have.

Well, that's why you're not God.

I mean, what is it about us that we always shed ourselves in the most favorable of light, you know? Yeah, I came to the Lord. I never really did things like you did. You know people share their testimonies.

Man, I was a [growling]

Like, whoa, wow, God had to save you, dude.

And then here's another guy that comes up, yeah, I grew up in the church. I gave my life to Christ at age 13 and just I really never did any of those things.

Oh, we are not worthy, right?

Well, anyway, I told you that was the last thing. So that will be the last thing - why don't you stand and we will have the worship team come up?

I just want to say and pray - you're free, man. You're free; whom the Son sets free is free indeed, free, you're free!

[Applause]

Live like it! You been forgiven. Live like it!

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Next time Satan comes around and he brings the take out, you know? Pops the popcorn and, you know, gives you the remote. Hey, sit down; I want to show you the DVD of all of your sins. That is an epic series on mine.

Next time he tries to remind you of your sin, you just remind him of what's coming to him. Hah-hah - in the Book of Revelation, which is by the way, why Christians don't - this will be the last, last thing. You wouldn't want somebody reading a book that was about how it ended for you. That is why Christians, I believe, don't read the Book of Revelation.

Satan tries to keep them out of it because oh, oh, ha ha ha, you want to remind me of that?

You sit down. I'm going to tell you about what's coming for you! Oh, ha ha ha!

[Applause]

Okay, calm down. Let's pray.

Father, thank You so much. Thank You for sending Your only begotten Son because of Your love for us. You so loved us that You sent Jesus to die for us that whoever among us would but believe would be saved and not perish and have everlasting life.

Oh, Lord, thank You. Thank You for forgiving us of our sins and cleansing us from the nagging guilt of our sins in Jesus' name, amen.