

“Putting Sin to Death”

Part 1
Colossians 3:5–11

Brad Klassen



THE NATURE OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

Progressive Sanctification

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graph TD; A[Progressive Sanctification] --> B[Separation from sin]; A --> C[Consecration to God]; B --> D["Mortification  
(\"Put off\")  
Colossians 3:5-11"]; C --> E["Vivification  
(\"Put on\")  
Colossians 3:12-17"];
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Separation from sin

Mortification
("Put off")

Colossians 3:5-11

Consecration to God

Vivification
("Put on")

Colossians 3:12-17

COLOSSIANS 3:5–11

“Therefore **consider** the members of your earthly body **as dead** to I
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to
idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come
upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when
you were living in them. But now you also, **put** them all **aside**; II
anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. **Do not lie** to one III
another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, and have put
on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the
image of the One who created him — *a renewal* in which there is no
distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS 3:5–11

- I. Mortify Your Immoral Habits (vv. 5–7)
- II. Discard Your Hateful Expressions (v. 8)
- III. Forsake Your Deceitful Speech (vv. 9–11)

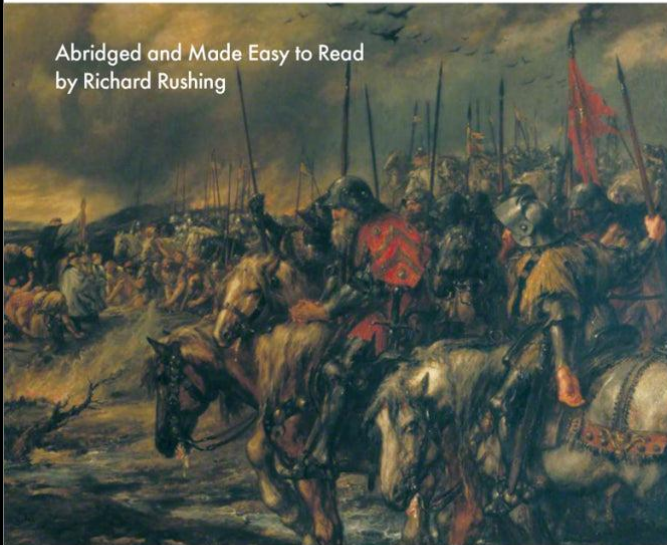
PUTTING SIN
TO DEATH

- Paul's list of sins to *mortify* or to *put off* is not exhaustive but paradigmatic.
- Yet, these three categories of sin do tend to be the most characteristic of fallen humanity—and the most destructive.

The Mortification of Sin

John Owen

Abridged and Made Easy to Read
by Richard Rushing



PURITAN  PAPERBACKS

“Every unmortified sin will certainly do two things; first, it will weaken the soul, and deprive it of its vigor; secondly, it will darken the soul, and deprive it of its comfort and peace.”

—John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, 48–49

I. Mortify Your Immoral Habits (3:5–7)

“**Therefore** consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”

A. The Basis of the Command (v. 5a)

- “**Therefore**” – this next paragraph (vv. 5–11) with its three imperatives is the logical *outcome* of the previous section (vv. 1–4).
- Theology is always practical, but the indicative → imperative sequence is crucial to understand.

“Therefore **consider **the members of your earthly body** **as dead** to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”**

B. The Substance of the Command (v. 5a)

- **“Consider as dead”** – literally, “put to death” (ESV); “to deaden or cause to cease completely”; the word from which we get *necrosis*.
 - The term indicates the ruthlessness with which we are to act.
- **“the members of your earthly body”** – not in the literal sense (which leads to asceticism—see 2:20–23), but in the *figurative* sense—put to death *the corrupted elements of the sinful flesh that yearn for sin*.

“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to **immorality impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”**

C. The Focus of the Command (v. 5b)

- Paul lists five *sexual sins*, beginning with the most overt and ending with the most secret; acted upon or imagined, they are sinful.
- 1) “Immorality”** – a broad term covering a wide spectrum of overt forms of sexual sin; all activity outside of heterosexual, monogamous marriage—fornication, adultery, homosexuality, etc. (see 1 Cor 6:18; 1 Thess 4:3).

“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, **impurity, **passion**, **evil desire**, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”**

- 2) “Impurity”** – another broad term like the first but emphasizing the *vile nature* of this sin more than its particular expression (see Rom 1:24).
- 3) “Passion”** – a less overt term; the internal drive that leads to the external activity (see Rom 1:26).
- 4) “Evil desire”** – a term like the previous, but perhaps even more internal and invisible; “lust” —the desire for the forbidden (see Matt 5:28).

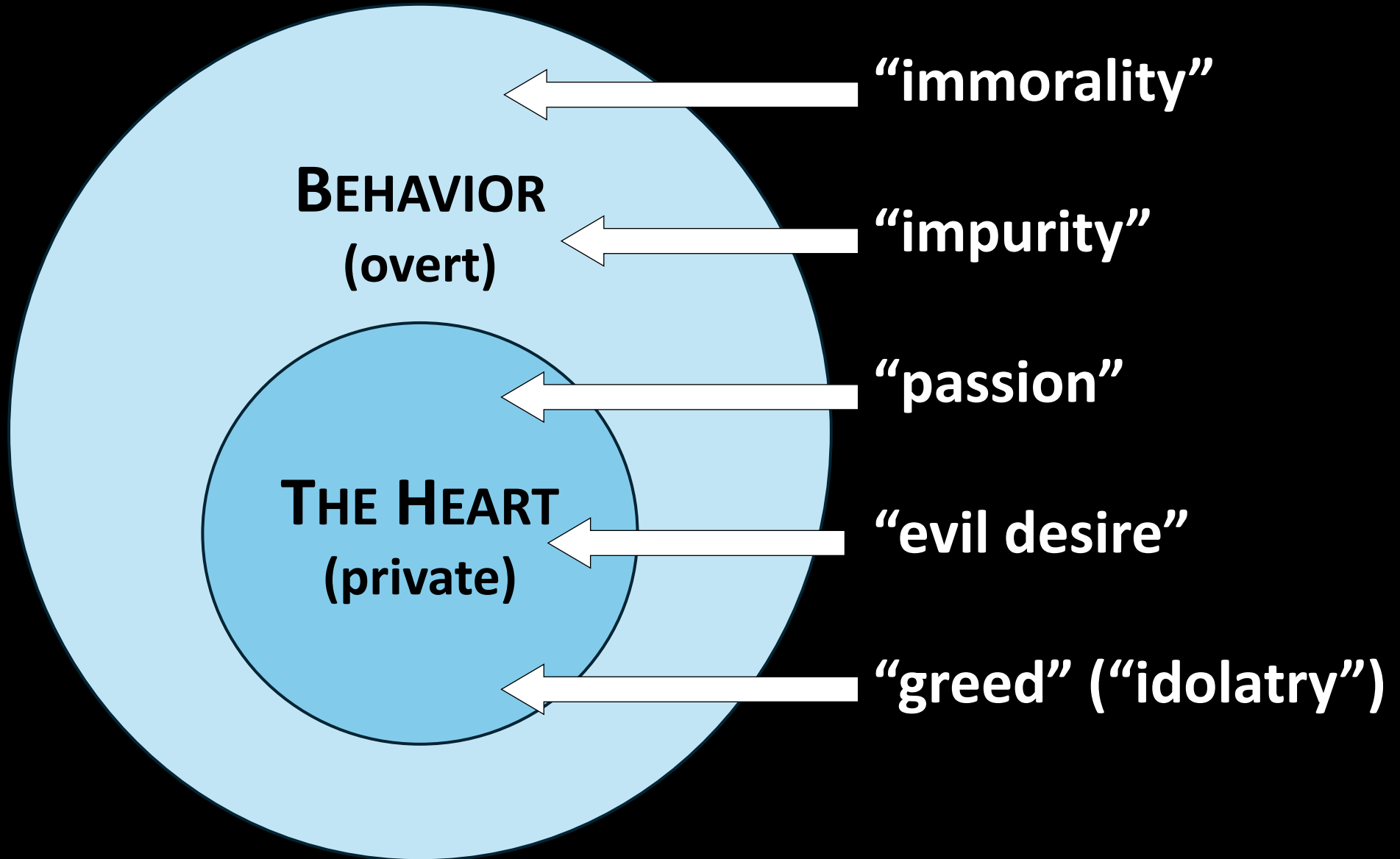
“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **greed**, which amounts to **idolatry**. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”

5) “**Greed**” – literally, “to have more”; the state of never being satisfied, of always yearning for more; evident esp. in sexual sin (see Eph 4:19; 5:3).

- “**Idolatry**” – the worship of false gods; the definition of “greed.”
- “Covetousness is idolatry because it involves the setting of one’s affections on earthly things and not on things above, and therefore the putting of some other object of desire in the place which God should occupy in his people’s hearts” (F. F. Bruce).



THE NATURE OF SEXUAL SIN



“No sin that a person commits has more built-in pitfalls, problems and destructiveness than sexual sin. It has broken more marriages, shattered more homes, caused more heartache and disease, and destroyed more lives than alcohol and drugs combined. It causes lying, stealing, cheating and killing, as well as bitterness, hatred, slander, gossip and unforgiveness.”

—John MacArthur, *First Corinthians*, 147



“For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”

D. The Reasons for the Command (vv. 6–7)

- **“The wrath of God”** – REASON #1: God’s righteous response to evil.
 - “The wrath of God is no vindictive passion, and it does not imply lack of control, as human wrath does. But whenever we apply any term to God, even love, we must make the mental reservation: without the imperfections that characterize the human” (Leon Morris).
- **“Will come upon the sons of disobedience”** – a guarantee; God will pour wrath upon unbelievers in the Day of the Lord, for sins like these.

“For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and **in them you also once walked**, when you were living in them.”

ONCE

- “You also once walked” – REASON #2: the Colossians were once “sons of disobedience,” who participated in these sinful impulses and actions, and who fully deserved divine wrath.
- “In them” – in the sphere of these kinds of sexual sin.
- **Colossians 1:13–14** – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
- **1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Titus 3:3–5**

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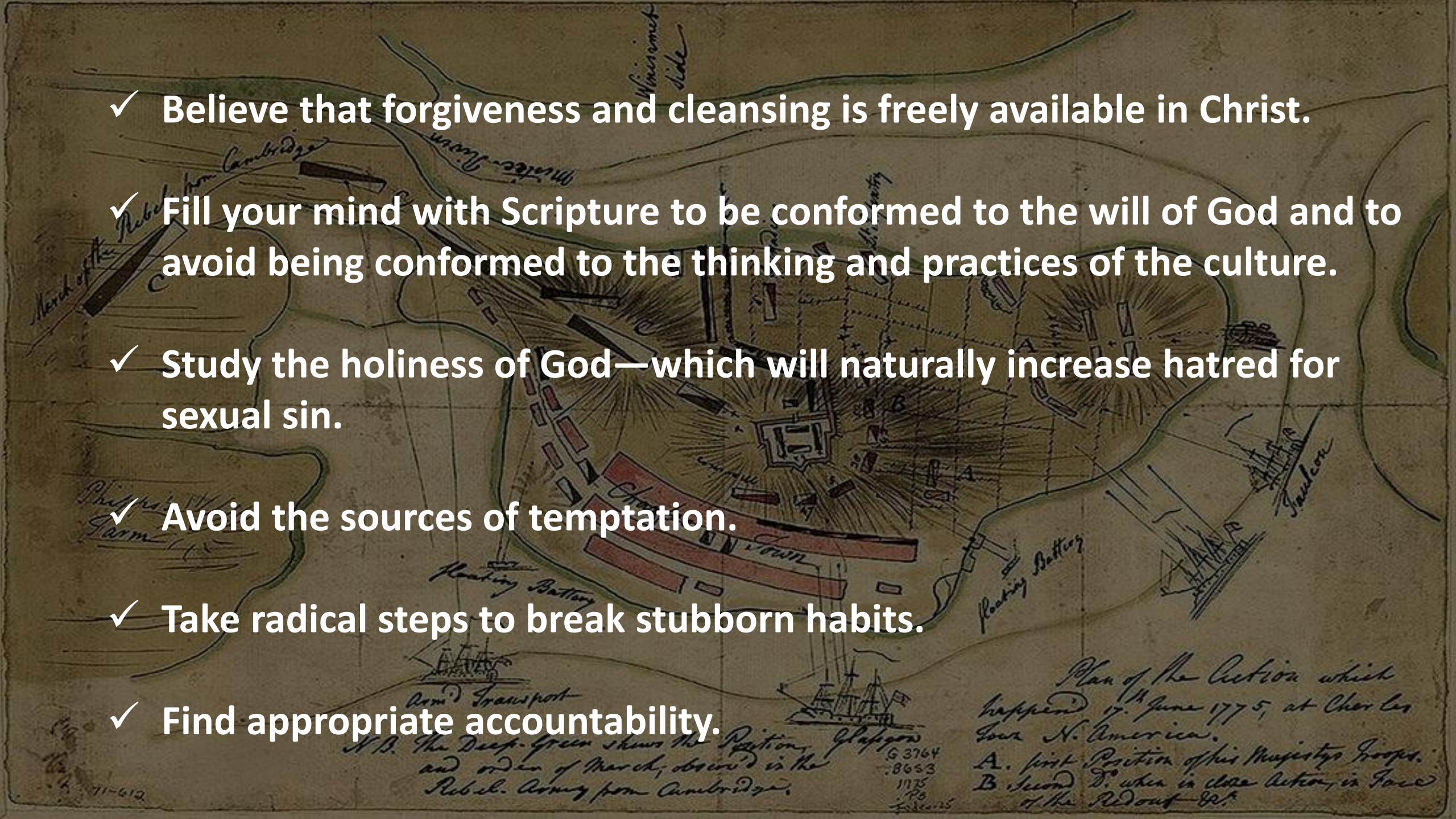
PURITAN  PAPERBACKS

“Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work. Be killing sin, or it will be killing you.”

“Let not that man think he makes any progress in holiness, who walks not over the neck of his lusts.”

—John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, 29, 34

- ✓ Believe that forgiveness and cleansing is freely available in Christ.
- ✓ Fill your mind with Scripture to be conformed to the will of God and to avoid being conformed to the thinking and practices of the culture.
- ✓ Study the holiness of God—which will naturally increase hatred for sexual sin.
- ✓ Avoid the sources of temptation.
- ✓ Take radical steps to break stubborn habits.
- ✓ Find appropriate accountability.

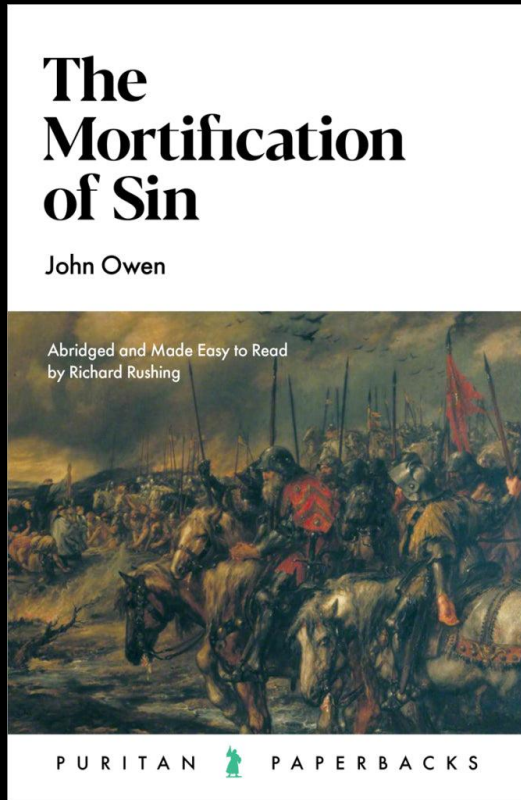


N.B. The Deep-green shows the Position, Glasgow
and order of March; observed in the
Rebel Army from Cambridge.

G 3764
8653
1175
76
1775

Plan of the Action which
happened 17th June 1775, at Charles
Town N. America.
A. first Position of his Majesty's Troops.
B. second do. when in close Action, in Face
of the Redoubt &c.

Recommended Resources



John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*
(Puritan Paperback).

John Street, *Passions of the Heart:
Biblical Counsel for Stubborn Sexual Sins.*

