

#30

# KILLER SINS

Victory over  
"I crave" (pt. 1)  
What God does.

LOOKING BACK      WHAT'S NEXT?

**THE GENERAL ISSUE**

- Dealing with sin in our lives.
- Genuine freedom in Christ.

**THE SPECIFIC ISSUE**

- Dealing with the killer sin "I crave."

↓

**KILLER SINS** MAY SEEM TO ATTACK IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY

**KILLER SIN**  
(at the controls)

**YOU**  
(overpowered)

★ BUT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO OVERCOME THEM! ★

# HOW

can we have victory over killer sins?

**IN THE LIVES OF GOD'S PEOPLE:**

Two forces are at work **TOGETHER**,  
and **TOGETHER** they guarantee ultimate victory.

THESE FORCES ARE...

→ **FORCE #1**

**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**

- ✓ What God is doing in our lives.

**FOCUSES ON...**

- ✓ Our "Position" in Christ; the changes that God has made in our nature.

→ **FORCE #2**

**HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY**

- ✓ What we are doing in our lives.

**FOCUSES ON...**

- ✓ Our "Practice" in life; the changes that we are making in our conduct.

**IF GOD** has made changes in our nature,  
**THEN WE** have an obligation to make choices that align our actions with our new nature.

**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**

- ✓ What God is doing in our lives.

**HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY**

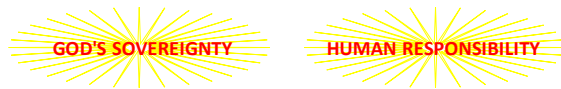
- ✓ What we are doing in our lives.

**ABOUT THESE FOCUSES:**

BOTH are found in Scripture; both are true.  
BOTH need equally emphasized, if we want to avoid error.

"I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."  
Hebrews 10:16b (NIV)

... the obedience that comes from faith.  
Romans 1:5b (NIV)



### WHO WILL YOU BELIEVE?

- ✓ **The WORLD** treats these two concepts as incompatible opposites.
- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** tells us that they work together.

### WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT "HOW" THEY WORK TOGETHER.

- ✓ God will take care of his part... and will give us the ability to do our part.
- ✓ We are responsible for doing our part... and admitting that God made it possible.

### TODAY: WE ARE LOOKING AT THE "SOVEREIGNTY" PART.



**BE AWARE:** This focus on God's sovereignty does NOT negate the truthfulness of our responsibility. Both are equally true.

Even when sovereignty and responsibility are found in the SAME passage, Scripture always tells us that we are responsible for OUR choices. So choose wisely!

**WARNING #1:** When God works in a person's life, he works in ALL of it, not just in select areas.

- ✓ These passages mention the killer sin "I crave": It may be translated as crave, desire, lust, passion, etc.
- ✓ These passages also include a wide variety of other sins: Life is not divided into separate compartments.

**WARNING #2:** These verses are for those who have become followers of Jesus.

- ✓ **FOR EVERYONE ELSE:** You first need to accept what Scripture says about you, repent of your sin, and trust God for salvation and for the power to obey him.

### EPHESIANS 2:1-10 – GOD'S WORK IN OUR SALVATION

#### 1. WE WERE DEAD. (v. 1-3)

- A reminder of our "before Christ" days.
- We were just like everyone else (including religious people).

And you were dead in your trespasses and your sins in which you once walked, according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authorities of the air, of the spirit of him who is working in the sons of disobedience.

We all were once among these unbelievers and acted according to the evil desires of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the mind, and we were by nature children of wrath like the others.

#### 2. GOD GAVE US LIFE (v. 4-6)

- GOD changed us, while we were still dead. WE didn't contribute to the life-giving act!
- God now sees us as being "with Christ" – sharing his life, his righteousness, etc.
- Key word: GRACE (undeserved kindness).

But since God is rich in mercy because of his great love with which he loved us, while we were dead in trespasses, he brought us to new life together with Christ

—by grace you have been saved—

and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus.

#### 3. HE DID IT FOR A PURPOSE (v. 7 – see also v. 10)

- This verse shows God's future focus. (Verse 10 shows his now focus.)
- Forever, we will be able to marvel in the wonders of his kindness toward us – kindness for people who never deserved it.

He did this so that in the ages to come he might show to us the great riches of his grace by his kindness in Christ Jesus.

[Verse 10 shows us that it is a conduct-changing kindness.]

#### 4. THERE IS NOTHING IN US TO BOAST ABOUT – NOT EVEN OUR FAITH (v. 8-9)

- Yes, we did choose to believe (as many other Scripture passages remind us); but we give God credit for what we did.
- Remember... dead people don't have expressions of faith!

For by grace have you been saved through faith.  
And this did not come from us; it is instead a gift from God, not from works, so that no one may boast.

#### 5. GOD DID THE WORK, NOT US! (v. 10)

- God provided the new life; he also provided the new way to live!
- His work creates in us a desire to do the opposite of the dead ways we used to live in (v. 1-3)!
- The end result is our willingness to do the good works he created us for.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God planned long ago, for us to walk in.

Complete Scripture passage: Ephes. 2:1-10 (ULB)

#### TITUS 2:11-14 & TITUS 3:3-8 – GOD'S WORK IN OUR SANCTIFICATION

- This refers to our spiritual growth – learning to live a saved life.

#### 1. THE GRACE THAT SAVES US ALSO TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE. (2:11-12)

- A reminder that salvation is offered to all, though only the saved become willing to learn.
- A reminder that grace affects us now, not just in eternity.

You see, the grace of God that is able to bring salvation to everyone has appeared and trains us to deny ungodliness and worldly passions and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly way in this age ...

#### 2. GOD GIVES US A FUTURE FOCUS THAT HAS A NOW IMPACT (2:13-14)

- The consequence of being freed from sin is to be freed to doing what is good!
- As before, the key word in all this is: GRACE (undeserved kindness).

... while we look forward to receiving that which we are gladly anticipating, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave himself for us in order to pay the price to set us free from lawlessness and to make pure, for himself, a treasured people who are eager to do what is good.

#### 3. A REMINDER OF OUR "BEFORE CHRIST" DAYS. (3:3)

- This is the way of life that GRACE taught us to abandon.

For once we ourselves were thoughtless and disobedient.

We were led astray and enslaved by various passions and pleasures.

We lived in evil and envy.

We were detestable and hated one another.

#### 4. A REMINDER: IT WAS BY GOD'S GRACE, NOT OUR WORKS, THAT WE WERE SAVED. (3:4-7)

- The effect of this GRACE in our lives now (described in 2:11-14) is the basis of our confident hope for eternity.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, he saved us through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, not because of works which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy.

God richly poured the Holy Spirit on us through our Savior Jesus Christ so that, having been justified by his grace, we became heirs of the confidence of eternal life.

### 5. IF THESE TRUTHS HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR **MINDS**, THEY WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR **ACTIONS**. (3:8)

- An awareness of God's work in our lives will affect the choices we make in our lives!

These words are trustworthy.

I want you to speak confidently about these things, so that those who trust God may set their minds on the good works that he put before them.

These things are good and profitable for all people.

Complete Scripture passage: Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-8 (ULB)

### 1 PETER 4:1-4 – THE WORLD'S OPPOSITION TO OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

- The world opposed Jesus... it will oppose us.

### 1. LIVING FOR JESUS WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES IN OUR LIVES. (v. 1-2)

- Our association with Christ will affect both our turning from sin, as well as the world's turning from us.

Therefore, because Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same intention.

Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. This person no longer lives for human **desires**, but for the will of God—for the remainder of his human life. ----->

### 2. WHEN WE SAY "I'VE HAD ENOUGH" WITH SIN, THE WORLD WILL NOT LIKE IT (v. 3-4)

- Since we now oppose the ways of the world, the world will now oppose us (the same way it opposed Jesus).

For enough time has passed to do what the Gentiles want to do—sensuality, **passion**, drunkenness, carousings, wild parties, and in abominable idolatries.

They think it is strange that you do not do these things with them, so they speak evil about you.

Complete Scripture passage: 1 Peter 4:1-4 (ULB)

## THIS WEEK:

For those who have received this GRACE:

⇒ **REJOICE**

in what GOD has done in you!

For those who haven't:

⇒ **TURN TO JESUS**

so that these things will be true of you!

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