



## The Invisible Threat – (Sat.) April 4, 2020

*The Enemy Within (Sin)* [#2 - The Long Arm of the Law]

Heb. 11:24–26; 12:1-4

### Sin is Like a Rhino

“If a rhinoceros were to enter this restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here.

But I should be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever.”

— G. K. Chesterton <sup>1</sup>

### Believing God & His Promises

Notes:

#### Hebrews 11:1-4a, 35, 39-40

*Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>**By faith** we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>4</sup>**By faith** Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. ...

#### [Hebrews 11:24–26]

<sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ...

<sup>39</sup>And all these, though commended **through their faith**, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>**since** God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

#### Hebrews 12:1-4

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>**looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.



**11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...

## God is Training Us to Let Go of this Life & Trust Him

### Hebrews 12:5–11

<sup>10</sup> For [our fathers] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but [God] disciplines us for our good...

#### **Author's Main Point:**

The fight to cling to the gospel promises is long, hard, possible & worth it.

### (2) The Long Arm of the Law

#### I. **The Flesh Is a Rhino** (e.g. Hebrews 11:24–26)

A. The Rewards of Sin

B. The Punishments of Sin

"The contest was between the law of sin and the law of grace. The rewards offered to Moses by sin must have been great: honor with the Egyptians, wealth beyond anything he could see among the people of Israel, the intellectual delights of debating with the top minds of Egypt, the sensual pleasures of fine food, women, and entertainment."<sup>i</sup> (Underline mine)

#### Hebrews 11:24–26

<sup>24</sup> **By faith** Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be *mistreated* with the people of God than to enjoy *the fleeting pleasures of sin*. <sup>26</sup> He considered *the reproach of Christ* greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.



#### II. **(Review) An Inside Job** "our Judas"<sup>i</sup> (Rom. 7:17-18, 21, 23)

"This is why God promises to circumcise his people's hearts in the old covenant (Deuteronomy 30:6), and to write his law on their hearts in the new (Jeremiah 31:31–33). No mere written law can muster a threat against the law of sin working from the inside."<sup>i</sup>

#### III. **Sin Gets Under Our Skin**

1. Indwelling sin wears out its welcome. (Long)
2. Indwelling sin doesn't observe a sabbath. (At our best)
3. Sin does its dirty work with the greatest of ease.

#### Hebrews 12:1-2

...let us also lay aside *every weight, and sin which clings so closely*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

## IV. Are You Wrestling the Rhino?

A. Yes...

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### **(Hard for a Reason) Our Battle with Sin is for Discipline**

#### **Hebrews 12:10–11**

<sup>10</sup> ...but he [God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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“The more you discover the power of indwelling sin, the less you will suffer its effects. Because the better you know this rhino, the more you will hate it; and to the length that you abhor it—and no farther—you will grasp for grace against it.”<sup>i</sup>

B. No...

#### **1 John 3:8–10**

<sup>8</sup> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.* <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Our battle against sin is long, hard & worth it, and it is used by God to train us to lean on Jesus.

**[TURN OF RECORDING]**

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion <sup>i</sup>

1. What obligations are believers under to know the power of indwelling sin? How can knowing the power of the flesh help us?
2. What danger might there be for us if we ignore indwelling sin? How is it possible to ignore this rhino?
3. What weapons do you think you need in order to combat this enemy within you? How can you bring them to bear against indwelling sin?
4. Make a list of the rewards offered by the law of sin for adultery, vengeance, gossip, and spiritual laziness. Which rewards do you find most enticing?
5. Make a list of some of the burdens and crosses demanded by Christ's call to follow him at work or school, in marriage or ministry. Which burdens do you least want to carry? Which crosses are you most reluctant to shoulder?

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<sup>i</sup> **Lundgaard, Kris.** The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin. P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.