



Sermon Notes – October 7, 2018

[#52] **The Battle Against Every Evil Thing**

Deuteronomy 23:9 & 14

Children's Sermon: Truth Nine ⁱ

- #1 - God is the sovereign Creator of all things. (You belong to God.)
- #2 - God created people for His glory.
- #3 - God is holy and righteous.
- #4 - Man is sinful.
- #5 - God is just and is right to punish sin.
- #6 - God is merciful. He is kind to undeserving sinners. (Why)
- #7 - Jesus is God's holy and righteous Son. (**How** – Who did it)
- #8 - God put the punishment of sinners on Jesus. (**How** – What he did)
- #9 - God offers the free gift of salvation to those who **repent** and **believe** in Jesus. (**How** – How it is given to us)
- #10 - Those who trust in Jesus **will live to please Him** and will receive the promise of **eternal life—enjoying God forever** in heaven.

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the *path of life*; (What pleases God)
in your presence there is *fullness of joy*; (He is my delight)
at your right hand are *pleasures forevermore*. (...my eternal delight)

Explanation:

- The **Holy Spirit** teaches us to trust & follow Jesus
- The Holy Spirit teaches us the **joy of knowing the Trinity**
- Wouldn't it be cool to be a **magician**?
- The Holy Spirit teaches us to live for God's **eternal pleasures**

Illustration: What do you love? Life with Jesus is better...

Implication:

- If you are **trusting in Jesus** for your salvation, **you must follow Him**. But, trusting & following Jesus will give you **the forever joy** you were made for!
(close with a prayer of blessing)

Be Careful not to Displease Yahweh

Notes:

⁹ “*When you are encamped against your enemies*, then you shall keep yourself from **every evil thing**.

¹⁴ *Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.*

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Cleanse your camp from your unavoidable, ordinary defilements that would offend Yahweh your deliverer.



Battling Every Evil Thing

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Make use of the transforming grace found in Jesus to cleanse yourself from every evil thing.



Heath Lambert. *"Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace"*

"...no strategy to combat sin can bring profound and lasting change if it is disconnected from the power of Jesus. Strategies are important, but they must flow from the gospel. If you are trying to help a person who is struggling with pornography... practical strategies must flow out of principled commitment to the gospel." ⁱⁱ

Where does Every Evil Thing Come From?

Matthew 15:17–20a

¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For ***out of the heart*** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ ***These are what defile a person. ...***"

Sexual Purity (Pursue Pure Bodies)

Ephesians 5:3–4 (NIV84)

³ But among you ***there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity,*** or of **greed**, because these are improper for **God's holy people.** ⁴ Nor should there be **obscenity**, foolish talk or **coarse joking**, which are out of place, but rather **thanksgiving.**

"God does not forbid sexual immorality because he wants you to be miserable; God forbids it because sexual immorality leads to brokenness, sadness, emptiness, death, and hell. Righteousness, on the other hand, leads to fullness, joy, peace, and life. According to Jesus, sin is not complicated. There are two simple choices and two guaranteed consequences—the easy path of sexual immorality, which will kill you, and the hard path of radical warfare against it, which will lead you to the fullness of life." ⁱⁱⁱ

We have a Purity Problem

- The Narrow Road
(**Despair** and/or **Presumption**/Promises and Warnings)
- World Magazine Ad Stats
- “This is not my problem...”
 - Are you prepared to be an accountability partner for a brother or sister?
 - Purity is bigger than external sexual sins
- The Doughnut Vow & the Titanic

Applying Grace Wisely (Radical Grace Powered Change)

“You look at porn when you have the **desire** to see it, when you have the **time** to look at it, and when it is **available** to you. Nobody looks at pornography without all three of these elements coming together. In your fight to be free from pornography, you must learn to take radical steps to eliminate each one.” (emphasis the authors) ^{iv}

- Change in the **heart/mind**
 - Confess & repent immediately
 - Remember Scripture
 - Get help (same sex; mature; accessible)
- Change how you spend your **time**
- Change your **access** to temptation

The Defilement of Our Lustful Flesh (Pure Hearts)

- **Greed vs. Thanksgiving** (Eph. 5:3-4 above)
- Some Diagnostic Questions:
 - Does sin smell like death?
(**Philippians 3:6–8**) **σκύβαλον**, *dung, excrement*^v
 - Does purity smell like life?

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the *path of life*;
in your presence there is *fullness of joy*;
at your right hand are *pleasures forevermore*.

- Are you horrified that you might be grieving the Holy Spirit in you? (Ephesians 4:30)
- Are you pressing on toward the goal? (Phil. 3:13–14)
- What specific sins are you battling? Do you need help?
- The **Rhino** in the restaurant

Kris Lundgaard. *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin*. (John Owen)

“If you’ve read this chapter and seen a rough horn lowered at your soul, your own flesh snorting and pawing and ready to charge,

there's hope. 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.

But if you don't find yourself dodging the rhino's horn day and night in a struggle against sin, it may be that you've made peace with the rhino. You are willingly, happily under its power and rule. In that case, you should doubt that you are born of God. No one who is born of God can live at peace with sin (1 John 3:9). I appeal to you, for the sake of your soul: Run to Christ! Only he can slay the rhino in your heart.”^{vi}

ⁱ Helping Children to Understand the Gospel

ⁱⁱ Lambert, Heath. Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace (p. 16). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 62).

^{iv} Ibid. (pp. 62-63).

^v Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). [*A Greek-English lexicon*](#) (p. 1616). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

^{vi} Lundgaard, Kris. The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin (Kindle Locations 289-296). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.