

Hebrews

Hebrews 12:1-2 – Removing The Besetting Sin - Part 2

January 24, 2010

- I. The Necessity of Discipline for Living A Life of Faith
 - A. One again, **Hebrews 12-13** focuses on what **we need to do** to live a life of faith. An underlying, though significant theme in this focus is **discipline – self-discipline** and **God's discipline**.
 - B. **Hebrews 12:1-2 . . .** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - C. Prayer
- II. Let us also lay aside the sin which so easily entangles us
 - A. In relation to setting aside our besetting sin **we have talked about**
 - 1. How we can identifying our besetting sin, and why we would want to identify and remove our besetting sin.
 - 2. Today I want us to look at the sin Christ talks about in the Sermon on the Mount, the scripture's list of sins, the early churches list of sins, and few that don't make any of these lists – to help us consider what besetting sin we need to lay aside in order to run the marathon of godly living – and win.
 - B. Sermon on the Mount List of Sins – **Matthew 5:3-7:27**
 - 1. Teaching that even one of God's commandments can be ignored
 - a. **Matthew 5:19 . . .**"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
 - 2. Abandoning (personal) relationships out of anger, contempt, and arrogance
 - a. **Matthew 5:21-22 . . .**"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' [22] "But I say to you that

everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

3. Unresolved conflict
 - a. **Matthew 5:23-26** . . . "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. [25] "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. [26] "Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.
4. Committing adultery in your heart [mind, desires, imagination]
 - a. **Matthew 5:28** . . . but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
5. Divorce
 - a. **Matthew 5:32** . . . "but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
6. Breaking your word / promises
 - a. **Matthew 5:37** . . . "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.
7. Returning evil for evil
 - a. **Matthew 5:38-42** . . . "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' [39] "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. [40] "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. [41] "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. [42] "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.
8. Hating your enemies
 - a. **Matthew 5:43-45** . . . "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] "But I say

to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

9. Doing what is right or religious for the praise of men
 - a. **Matthew 6:1-6** . . ."Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. [2] "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. [3] "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. [5] "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. [6] "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.
10. Unforgiveness
 - a. **Matthew 6:15** . . .But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
11. Storing up treasure on earth instead of in heaven
 - a. **Matthew 6:19-21** . . ."Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; [21] for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
12. Anxiety, worry (a form of unbelief)
 - a. **Matthew 6:25-33** . . . "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [26] "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? [27] "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

[28] "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, [29] yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. [30] "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! [31] "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' [32] "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. [33] "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

13. Judging others but not yourself, or judging others more harshly than yourself

- a. **Matthew 7:1-5** . . . "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. [2] "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. [3] "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [4] "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? [5] "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

14. Failure to treat others as you want to be treated

- a. **Matthew 7:12** . . . "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

C. The Scripture's Lists of Sins:

1. **Mark 7:20-22** . . . And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. [21] "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, [22] deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness."
2. **Romans 1:28-32** . . . And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, [29] being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to

parents, [31] without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; [32] and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

3. **I Corinthians 5:11** . . . But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one.
4. **I Corinthians 6:9-10** . . . Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (looking, acting, dressing like a woman), nor homosexuals, [10] nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.
5. **Galatians 5:19-21** . . . Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, [21] envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
6. **Colossians 3:5-10** . . . Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. [6] For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, [7] and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. [8] But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. [9] Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, [10] 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—

Scripture List of Sins

fornication	* hating God
immorality, impurity, sensuality	* idolatry
adultery	* sorcery
evil thoughts	* inventing evil
	* foolishness
effeminate (a male who looks, acts, dresses like a woman)	theft, swindle
homosexual	deceit, lying
murder	unloving (selfish)
volatile anger, anger, wrath (rage)	untrustworthy
revile = abusive speech	unmerciful
malice (ill will, delighting in hurting or injuring another, getting even)	disobedient to parents
strife, enmity (hostility)	insolent (rude, disrespectful)
disputes, dissensions, factions	
	gossip
deeds of coveting and wickedness	slander
greed, covetous	
envy	pride, boastful, arrogant
jealousy	
drunkard, drunkenness, carousing	

D. The Early Church's List of Sins – The Eight Vices

1. **Gluttony** – a lack of discipline in a common area that wars against the general use of self-discipline, endurance, and moderation; it models the lack of discipline as acceptable Christians behavior.
2. **Fornication** – (1) between a male and female, (2) personally and privately, (3) in the mind and desires, (4) any form of homosexuality.
3. **Greed or Covetousness** – (1) an unwillingness to give up earthly treasures and possessions for the sake of living for God and serving Christ, (2) regretting what you have given up so as to accumulate once again, (3) longing for what others have which you do not yet possess.

4. **Anger** – (1) intense feelings of anger – though hidden, (2) inner agitation or feelings of frustration – kept hidden, (3) outward bursts of temper in word and/or deed, (4) ongoing anger, which includes an unwillingness to forgive or let go of a wrong done.
5. **Self-pity** – concern with and unhappiness over your own troubles, or over being hurt, or wronged – leading to resentment, bitterness, slander, even malice.
6. **Acedia** – apathy, indifference, or laziness in regard to the pursuit of godliness due to discouragement, despair or even depression.
7. **Vainglory** – vanity and boastfulness over some personal performance, accomplishment, natural talent, learned skill, earned position, possession, or clothing. **Philippians 2:3 . . .** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit (*vainglory*), but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.
8. **Pride** – (1) Earthly pride or feeling superior in relation to gender, ethnicity, social status, rank, position, education, acquired skills, natural talents, possessions, fame, etc. (2) Spiritual pride or feeling superior in relation to your religious affiliation (Protestant, Catholic, Baptist, Redford Church, etc.), Scripture knowledge, comparative righteousness, position in the church, length of time in being a Christian, praise of others, etc.

E. Additional List of Sins

1. **Unbelief** – distrust of God in some area or way that turns you against Him and His will so as to do your own will or protect your own interests or provide your own security.
2. **Racism** – a form of pride – holding a derogatory view of, unfair treatment of, speaking unkind or unwholesome things about an ethnic group or gender other than your own.
3. **Hoarding** – be it money, property or possessions
4. **Laziness** – so as not to fulfill your duties as a child, student, spouse, worker, citizen, or church member; lacking in helpfulness when help should be offered and/or given
5. **Immodesty in dress and behavior** – be it men or women, young or old
6. **Resentment, bitterness** – The state of holding strong displeasure, anger, or hostility – provoked by a wrong or injury experienced – in the mind as a subject of contemplation

III. Conclusion

- A. A besetting sin is often related to a habit or addiction or something we value (treasure), or something we do without stopping to consider/think about the effect on God, the effect on our relationship with God, and the effect on others.
- B. The first step in overcoming this any besetting sin is the want to – the desire to live a perfect and holy life before God.