

“Mortification Of The Flesh”
Romans 8:13

Introduction:

1. Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Get Back To Our Series:
 - On Experiencing:
 - More Progress Of Victory:
 - In Our Lives As Christians:
 - Over The Spiritual Enemies We Face Every Day!
 - And - Those Spiritual Enemies:
 - Include & Involve:
 - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
2. In Our Current Series:
 - Our Focus Is On:
 - The Enemy Of:
 - Our Own Fallen Flesh!
 - Which - In Many Ways:
 - Is The Most Dangerous Enemy:
 - We Face!
3. But - To Overcome:
 - The Flesh:
 - We Must Continually Use:
 - The Weapons:
 - Given To Us:
 - By & Through The Lord!
 - Of Course - Our Greatest Weapon:
 - Is The Lord Himself!
 - And That Is Why We Must Always:
 - Depend On Him - And:
 - Dwell With His Spirit:
 - No Matter What Other Means Or Weapons We Use:
 - In Our Warfare!
4. But Then - As:
 - We Depend On & Dwell With Him:
 - On A Day-By-Day Basis:
 - We Can Use The Other Weapons:
 - That We Have Looked At:
 - From Various Passages In The Bible!
5. So - To Review:
 - To Fight Against Our Flesh:
 - We Need To Learn To:
 - Deny Our Flesh:
 - More And More!
 - Which Is What We Found In:
 - Romans 13:14 - “Make Not Provision For The Flesh, To Fulfill The Lusts Thereof!”
 - Then - We Also Need To Learn To:
 - Detest Our Flesh:
 - With A Holy Hate!
 - And - Not Just Your Flesh - But:
 - “Hating Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!” (Jude 23)
 - Which Includes Anything That:
 - Covers Up Or Brings Comfort To Or Even Contributes To:
 - The Lusts Of Our Flesh!
 - Then - We Also Need To Learn To:
 - Discard Our Flesh!
 - Which Involves:
 - Putting Off:
 - The Old Man! And:

- Putting On:
 - The New Man!
- Which Is What We Find:
 - In Ephesians 4!
- And Then - We Also Need To Learn To:
 - Decontaminate Our Flesh:
 - As We Found Last Time:
 - In 2 Corinthians 7:1!
 - Which Tells Us:
 - “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God!”
 - And - The Process:
 - Of Decontamination Involves:
 - Confession:
 - Of Our Filthiness!
 - Contemplation:
 - Of His Word!
 - Communion:
 - With The Lord!
 - And Commitment:
 - To The Lord!
 - All - On A Daily Basis:
 - If We Really Desire:
 - Progress In Victory:
 - Over Our Flesh!
- 6. Well - Tonight:
 - We Will Find Another Way:
 - To Fight Our Flesh:
 - From The Book Of Romans!
 - So - Let’s Turn To Romans 8:13:
 - Where We Are Told:
 - “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live!”
 - So - The Next Weapon We Have:
 - To Wage War Against Our Flesh:
 - Is Mortification - Or:
 - The Destruction:
 - Of Our Old, Fallen Flesh!
- 7. To “Mortify” Something:
 - Means - To Put It To Death!
 - To Do Whatever It Takes:
 - To Eliminate:
 - Whatever Threatens You:
 - And Your Own Existence!
 - And So - To “Mortify” The:
 - “Deeds / Practices Of The Body” Means:
 - That - As A Christian:
 - Under The Power & Direction Of The Holy Spirit:
 - You Will Do Whatever It Takes:
 - To Kill Off The Sinful Desires & Deeds:
 - Of Your Flesh!
 - Whether That Means:
 - You Suppress Them - Or:
 - You Starve Them - Or:
 - You Strangle Them!
 - Your Goal Is To Put Your Old Fallen Flesh:
 - More & More To Death!
- 8. And - In This Verse:
 - We Find A Couple Of Reasons:

- Why We Should Do This!

* First - Because:

1. Left To The Flesh:

- You Will Die Anyways!
 - Because - Being Left To The Flesh:
 - Means Death!
 - Part Of Paul's Argument In This Chapter:
 - Is That Unbelievers:
 - *Are* Left To The Flesh!
 - And - Because Of This:
 - The End Of Their Lives Will Result In Death!
 - 8:13a - "For If Ye Live After The Flesh, Ye Shall Die!"
 - And - This Death Is Not Just:
 - A Physical Death!
 - It Is A Spiritual Death:
 - That Turns Into An Eternal Death!
- In Other Words:
 - Living Is Actually Dying:
 - If You Are Living:
 - According To The Desires Of:
 - Your Fallen Human Nature!
 - **IE:** How Many People Do We See This Happening To In This World? For Them - Their Living Is Dying! The Death That Is In Them Already Will Surely Catch Up To Them!
 - But - The Death That They Experience:
 - Is Not An Escape! It Is:
 - An Entrance Into The Judgment Hall Of God!
- And So - If You Are:
 - Left To Your Flesh:
 - Your "Living" Is Indeed Dying!
 - And That Is Why:
 - You Need To "Mortify" The Deeds Of Your Body!
 - Because If You Do Not Kill Them, They Will Kill You!
 - Isn't This What James Tells Us As Well:
 - In James 1:14-15?
 - "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
/ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished,
bringeth forth death!"
 - When The Lusts Of Our Flesh:
 - Are Finished With Us:
 - It Always Ends Up The Same!
 - With Death!
- So - The First Reason:
 - You Need To Mortify & Do What Ever It Takes:
 - To Destroy The Flesh:
 - Is Because - When You Are Left To The Flesh:
 - You Will Die Anways!
 - But - The Second Reason:
 - You Need To Mortify Your Flesh:
 - Is Because:

2. Living In The Spirit:

- You Now Can!
 - Because - Living In The Spirit:
 - Means Life!
 - And When - As A Believer In Christ:
 - You:
 - Depend On The Lord - And:
 - Dwell With The Spirit:

- His Activity Will Be Seen In Your Life!
- Which Is Why Paul Adds:
 - In 8:13b - “But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live!”
- This Means That:
 - When You Become A Christian:
 - You Have A New Agent:
 - In Your Life!
 - And That Agent Is:
 - The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - What An Encouragement This Is:
 - In The Fight With Our Flesh!
 - God Does Not Leave You Alone!
 - God Does Not Leave You To Yourself!
 - Instead - He Gave You The Holy Spirit:
 - To Be The Active Agent In The Entire Process:
 - Of Mortifying & Destroying Your Flesh!
 - And What This Means For Believers:
 - Is That Dying:
 - To Your Sin & Self:
 - Is Actually Living!
 - If You Are Mortifying:
 - Through The Power Of The Holy Spirit:
 - The Fallen Desires And The Deeds Of Your Body!
 - Your “Dying” Is Indeed Living!
 - “Ye Shall Live” - Paul Writes!
 - But - At The Same Time:
 - When You Have:
 - The Agent In Your Life:
 - Through Him:
 - You Also Now Have:
- A New Assignment For Your Life!
 - And That Is To:
 - “Mortify The Deeds Of The Body!”
 - The “Deeds Of The Body” Refer To:
 - The Practices That Flow Out Of:
 - The Body - Which In Many Ways:
 - Is The “Organ” Of Our Lusts & Sin!
 - Just Think Of How Many Sins:
 - We Use Our Body:
 - To Commit!
 - The Same Body:
 - That God Created:
 - For His Glory:
 - In The Beginning!
 - And - The Same Body:
 - That Jesus Redeemed:
 - Through His Blood:
 - On The Cross!
 - Though All Sins Begin In The Heart:
 - As Jesus Taught Us:
 - In The Gospels (Mark 7:20-23)
 - Still - So Many Of These Sins Flow Out Of The Heart - And Reach:
 - The Members Of Our Bodies!
 - Our Eyes!
 - Our Ears!
 - Our Mouths!
 - Our Hands!
 - Our Feet!
- And - This Is Why:

- As You Depend On The Lord & Dwell With The Spirit - You Need To:
 - Deal With Both The Desires & The Deeds Of The Body!
 - Both What Is Hidden & What Is Visible!
- In Colossians 3:5-7:
 - The Apostle Paul Also Uses The Expression:
 - To “Mortify” & To Destroy:
 - The Flesh!
 - “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: / For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: / In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them!”
- Here - Paul Gives Us A Brief List Of:
 - Our “Members Which Are Upon The Earth” That:
 - Also Make Up:
 - The “Deeds Of The Body!” (Romans 8)
- And So - Our Assignment:
 - As Christians Is To:
 - Mortify & Destroy:
- Our Sinful Deeds:
 - With The Word “Fornication!”
 - This Word Describes All Forms Of Sexual Sin - That Is Outside Of & Apart From God’s Original Design For A Sexual Relationship!
 - One Man & One Woman In Marriage For Life!
 - Genesis 2:24 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”
 - Anything Outside God’s Design:
 - Is Sin! And We Have No Right To Re-Define:
 - God’s Own Definition Of Sin!
 - Adultery Is Still Sin!
 - Homosexuality Is Still Sin!
 - Pornography Is Still Sin!
 - But - Sexual Sin - “Fornication” - Is Such A:
 - Strong Temptation - That Paul Uses It:
 - As A Primary Illustration Of Our Need:
 - To Keep Mortifying & Killing It Off!
 - Paul Also Talks About:
- Our Sinful Deliberations:
 - With The Word “Uncleanness!”
 - A More General Word For Other Kinds & Forms Of Sin! Sins That Aren’t Just Committed With The Body – But Sins That Are Committed In The Heart!
 - Jesus Addressed Our Uncleanness In Matthew 5:27-28 - “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: / But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart!”
 - All Kinds Of “Uncleanness” In Our Hearts & Lives:
 - Need To Be Mortified & Destroyed!
 - Paul Then Talks About:
- Our Sinful Drives:
 - With The Word Translated - “Inordinate Affection!”
 - This Describes The Feeling & Seemingly Irresistible Urge You Have To Indulge In Sin!
 - The Devil Often Uses This “Member” To Make You Feel Helpless & Hopeless When You Are Tempted!
 - And You Feel Like There Is No Way Out Of Temptation BUT To Give In & To Sin!
 - We Must Not Forget That - According To 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it!”
 - And So - God Will Enable You To Mortify & Destroy Even Your Passion & Drive To Sin!
 - Paul Further Talks About:

- Our Sinful Desires:
 - With The Phrase “Evil Concupiscence!”
 - Or - “Evil Desire” & Lust!
 - John Describes This In 1 John 2:16 - As “All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!”
 - You Lust For Things In An Evil Way:
 - When You Are Dissatisfied:
 - With God’s Way - Because You Have - Like Adam & Like Eve - Been Duped By The Devil’s Lies About The Forbidden Fruit!
 - These Sinful Desires:
 - Need To Be Mortified & Destroyed As Well!
 - But Then - Paul Also Talks About:
- Our Sinful Devotion:
 - With The Last Phrase Of 3:5 - “And Covetousness, Which Is Idolatry!”
 - Covetousness Is The Greedy Desire:
 - Not Just For More - But For More:
 - Than You Are Supposed To Have!
 - And This Kind Of Craving:
 - Is - At Its Center - Nothing Less:
 - Than Idolatry!
 - Because You Are Putting Yourself & Your Desires & Your Passions & Your Feelings In The Place Of God!
- All Of These Things:
 - Make Up “Your Members Which Are Upon The Earth!”
 - And - All Of These Members”
 - Are Involved In The “Deeds Of The Body!”
 - And - Our Assignment:
 - Is To Mortify & Destroy Them:
 - In Order To Experience:
 - Greater Victory Over Them!
- But - **How?** This Is Often The Question:
 - We Have As Christians!
 - We Know That These Things Are Wrong!
 - But - How Do We Go About Mortifying Them? Destroying Them? And - Killing Them Off?
 - Well - Since “Mortify” Is A Rather Morbid Word!
 - We Need To Think A Bit Morbidly About This!
 - To Actively Kill Something:
 - You Need To Deprive It Of Whatever Gives It Life!
- To Mortify & Destroy:
 - Your Sinful Deeds - Like Fornication:
 - You Need To Cut Off The Air Supply & The Atmosphere:
 - In Which It Survives & Thrives!
 - In Psalm 101:3 - David Once Wrote - “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes!”
 - Whatever Tempts You To Fall Away From:
 - God’s Way & God’s Plan For Your Sexual Nature:
 - You Need To Cut Off!
 - Things You Might See Or Hear Or Feel!
- To Mortify & Destroy:
 - Your Sinful Deliberations & Uncleaness:
 - You Need To Drown It Out:
 - With That Which Is Clean!
 - When Someone Drowns:
 - It Is Because Their Lungs:
 - That Should Be Full Of Air:
 - Are Full Of Water!
 - If You Struggle With Unclean Thoughts:
 - You Need To Drown Them Out & Replace Them:

- With Clean Thoughts!
- Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things!"
- To Mortify & Destroy:
 - Your Sinful Drives & Inordinate Affection:
 - You Need To Starve Them:
 - From The Fuel That Feeds It!
 - You May Feel Like You Can't Give Up:
 - Some Sin - And - In One Sense - That Is True!
 - You Can't - By Yourself! But You Can - Through Christ!
 - Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!"
 - You Just Need To Keep "Fill Up" With:
 - The Right Kind Of Fuel!
 - His Fuel! His Word!
- To Mortify & Destroy:
 - Your Sinful Desires & Evil Concupiscence:
 - You Need To Cut The Heart Out:
 - Of Those Old Desires Of The Flesh!
 - Remember That:
 - From Galatians 5:24:
 - "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts!"
 - So Now - You Can Strive To Say With David:
 - In Psalm 40:8 - "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart!"
- To Mortify & Destroy:
 - Your Sinful Devotion & Covetousness:
 - You Need To Cut Off & Give Up:
 - Whatever It Is That:
 - Is Keeping Jesus From Being The Head Of Your Heart & Life!

Conclusion:

1. What Are The "Deeds Of The Body" That:
 - You Need To Mortify & Destroy:
 - In Your Life?
2. This Is Your Daily Assignment:
 - As A Child Of God's!
 - But - Remember:
 - You Are Not Alone!
 - God Has Given You The Holy Spirit:
 - To Be The Active Agent:
 - Who Will Help You To Fight:
 - And Ultimately Overcome:
 - The Enemy Of Your Flesh!
3. Remember Romans 8:13:
 - "If Ye Through The Spirit Do Mortify The Deeds Of The Body, Ye Shall Live!"

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com