

“TRAIN YOURSELF FOR GODLINESS” PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Session Three – Putting Sin to Death

Introductory Comments –

1. Sin, Confession and Forgiveness

2. Sin and Mortification

*“Resolved, never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however **unsuccessful** I may be.”* Jonathan Edwards, Resolution #56

a. Starving Sin Out

“Resolved, whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then, both carefully endeavor to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the original of it.” Jonathan Edwards, Resolution #24

“Some look upon it as an easy task, but is it for nothing that the Holy Spirit expresses it by mortification, or killing? Certainly this intimates a violent contest. Everything will do its utmost to preserve its life. Let no man think to kill sin with a few gentle strokes. He who has once smitten the serpent, if he follow not his blow ’til it be slain, may repent that ever he began the quarrel. And so will he who undertakes to deal with sin if he pursue it not constantly to death; sin will revive and the man must die.” John Owen (from his work on the Holy Spirit)

b. Crowding Sin Out

Concluding Comments – The Role of the Spirit and the Absolute Necessity of Humility in the Mortification of Sin: A Brief Exposition from Romans 6 and 8