

**THE MORTIFICATION OF SIN**  
**Class 1 – Preface, Chapters 1 and 2**

**PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR**

- A. About the author.
- B. Why is John Owen writing this book?
- C. Book objectives.
- D. Class Overview (Refer to Syllabus)

**I. CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION (The Foundation)**

- A. The Foundation: Romans 8:13
- B. Interpretation: cause and effect, or means and ends?
- C. Two foundational principles.
- D. Romans 8:13 implies that we must mortify “the flesh.”
  - 1. What is the flesh?
  - 2. What does it mean “to mortify” the flesh?
  - 3. To be “crucified with Christ” is the beginning of the work of “mortification of sin.”
- E. If we mortify the flesh, we will live. Two implications of this statement.

**II. CHAPTER 2: WHY THE FLESH MUST BE MORTIFIED**

- A. Comparison of justification by faith and mortification of sin.

1. Rom. 3:21-25. The indicative of justification by faith
2. Col. 3:5. The imperative of mortification of sin: sin has been mortified and must be mortified.
3. John 15: 1-7. The Lord's metaphor of "planting and pruning" illustrates the process.

**B. Six reasons why we must be about the work of mortification daily.**

1. Indwelling sin always abides in us while we are in the world; therefore we must always be about the work of mortifying it. Phil. 3:12; Gal. 6:6-8
2. Indwelling sin is still always acting and laboring to bring forth the deeds of the flesh. James 1:14
3. Sin, if not continually mortified, will bring forth greater and more powerful sins. Gal. 5:19-20; Hebrews 3:13
4. The Holy Spirit and our new nature in Christ are given to us to oppose sin and lust. Gal. 5:17; 2 Pet.1:4.
5. Neglect of personal mortification of sin makes the new person in Christ weak and ultimately perishing. 2 Cor. 4:6; Psalm 31:10, 38:3
6. Spiritual growth through sanctification is our daily duty. 2 Cor. 4:16, 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:2

**C. Summary:**

- a. The reality of indwelling sin in the present life and our continuing duty to mortify it.
- b. Two evils resulting from a professing Christian who fails in the duty of mortifying sin:
  - i. Within the person
  - ii. Within others

## Discussion Questions – Preface and Chapters 1 and 2

1. What does John Owen mean when he tells us to “mortify sin”? What are the two foundational principles undergirding the mortification of indwelling sin in believers?
2. What is the relationship between mortifying sin and the salvation that is in Christ Jesus? Do we mortify indwelling sin because we are saved, or are we saved because we mortify sin?
3. Who is the primary member of the Godhead who is acting for us/with us in our battle against sin? Why is this important? How is the work of mortifying sin the work of the triune God?
4. “Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? You must always be at it while you live; do not take a day off from this work; always be killing sin or it will be killing you.” (MOS, pg.5). **What does Owen mean by this? Do you?**