

Overcoming Sin?

by Wayne Goff

Quarter Three is a study of the subject of “Overcoming Sin” and we are using a workbook by Heath Rogers. It is a good study and deals with numerous problems in our lives — pride, anger, worry, covetousness, hypocrisy, gossip, fear, prejudice, unforgiving and indifference. The study will identify **lust and pride** as the motivating culprits, and then will discuss what the Bible says about overcoming these sins.

At the same time, I wonder how seriously some people will take this study. *Specifically, how badly do we want to overcome sin?* Unless we identify one or more of the “sins” as a problem, or at least a serious temptation, we may not see the importance of the study. It is my hope that everyone in the class will study with the question: **“Is it me?”** It will not be as beneficial if we simply identify *someone else* as having the problem!

So why would anyone want to hang on to their sin? The answer is simple: they enjoy the pleasure of that sin and they don’t really see the harm in it. But the very first lesson in the book discusses how **terrible sin** is by its very nature! So it is my hope that as we study these “attitudes” that we will see ourselves as guilty when we are, and that we will be patient and loving toward others who are guilty too.

BEWARE! Sin is deceitful! Whether it is the “*deceitfulness of riches*” (Matt. 13:22), or “*deceit*” of the heart (Mk. 7:22), or “*handling the word of God deceitfully*” (2 Cor. 4:2), or being deceived by “*deceitful workers*” (2 Cor. 11:13) in their “*deceitful plotting*” (Eph. 4:14), or our own self-deception (see 1 Pet. 3:10) — we must take sin seriously today!

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” — Hebrews 3:13.

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