

Hacking AGAG To Pieces

1 Samuel 15

The Only Way

To Deal With Sin

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- Saul is chosen & anointed to be king over Israel — 1 Sam. 9; cf. 8:3-21
- Two chapters in First Samuel stand out as turning points in the life of king Saul. 13 & 15

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- Amalekites had previously attacked Israel in the wilderness - (Ex. 17:8-14)
- God promised to destroy the Amalekites when Israel had rest in Canaan – (Dt. 25:17-19)
- Saul was to carry out God's vengeance against them – (1 Sam 15:1-3).

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1 Samuel 15

- Saul defeats Amelek — (1 Sam. 15:4-7)
- Saul proved disobedient - (1 Sam. 15:8-9).
- Saul deposed by God — (1 Sam. 15:10,11,23)
- Samuel confronts Saul for his rebellion against God - (1 Sam. 15:12-31).
- Samuel kills Agag by hacking him to pieces - (1 Sam. 15:32-33).

1 Samuel 15

- Because of Saul's rebellion, the Amalekites continued to be a thorn in Israel's side —
- Killed Saul — (2 Sam. 1:13)
- Raided Ziklag, burned it with fire and took captive the wives & children of David & his men — (1 Sam. 30:1-19)

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin



- **DENIAL** - *Saul acted as if he had not sinned:*
 - *“Blessed are you of the Lord” - {15:13}*
 - *“I have performed the commandment of the Lord” - {15:13}*
 - *“I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, ... I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. {15:20}*

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- **DENIAL** - *Saul acted as if he had not sinned:*

Prov 28:13 ¹³ “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.” —

1 John 1:8–10 ⁸ “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” —



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■ EXCUSES - *Saul tried to shift blame:*

- *“They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen,” — [15:15]*
- *“But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed” - [15:21]*
- *“I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice” — [15:24]*

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■ **EXCUSES** - *Saul tried to shift blame:*

I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY OWN ACTIONS - (cf Gen 3:12,13)

Eze 18:20 ²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. ... The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Rom 2:6–11 ⁶ who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: ... ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

Gal 6:7 ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.



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- **PRAGMATISM** - *Saul claimed his purposes were good:*
 - *“and brought back Agag king of Amalek;” [15:20]*
 - *“in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” - [Sam 15:21]*
- The end does **NOT** justify the means - (cf Rom 3:8; 1 Sam 15:21-23)

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I Samuel 15:22–23 (NKJV)

²² So Samuel said: “Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from *being* king.”



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MORE

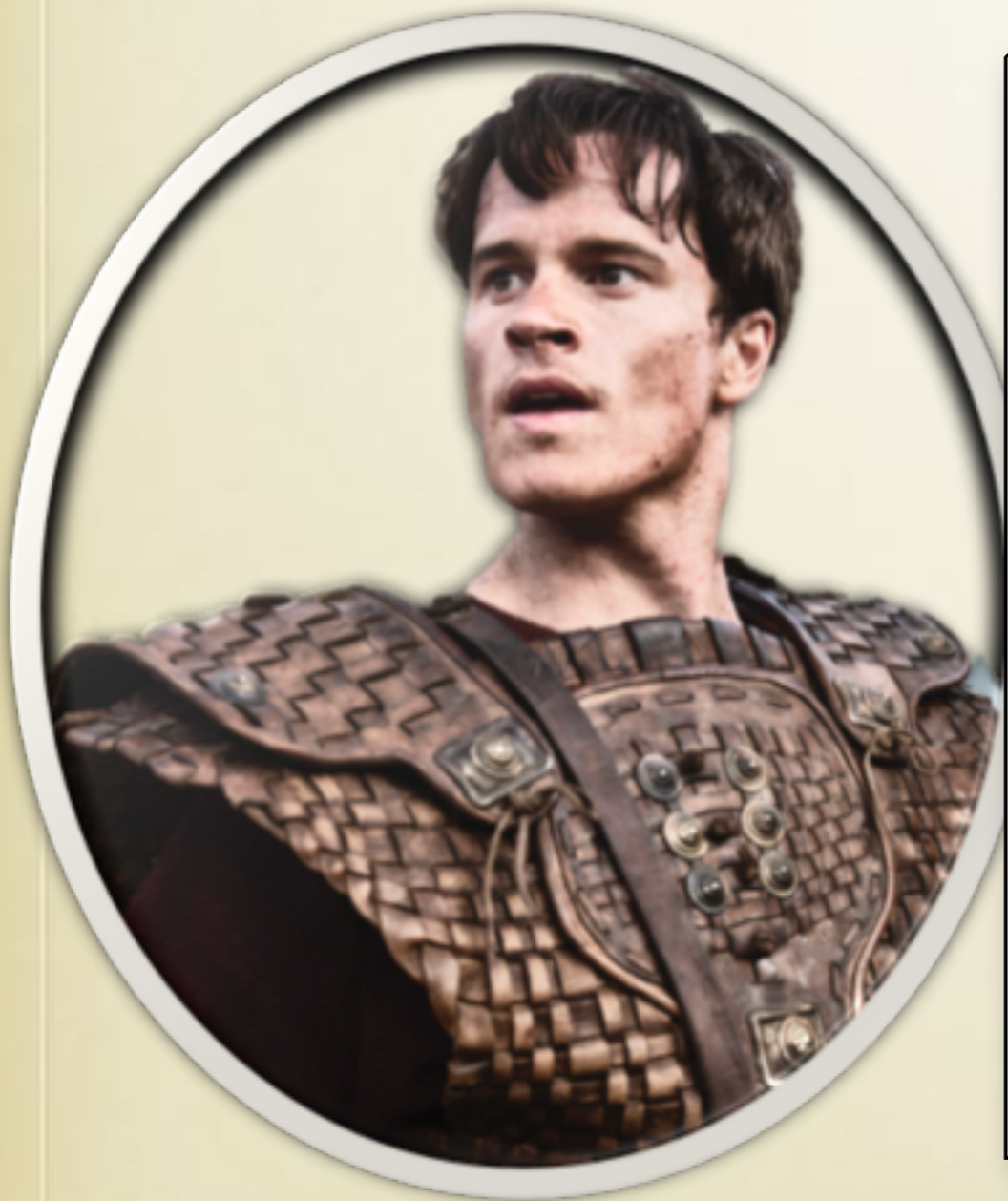
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- **Selective Comparisons** -
2 Cor 10:12
- **Claim ignorance** - Acts
17:11; 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:30
- **Claim moderation** - Eph
5:3-7; 1 Thes 5:22; Heb 2:1-3
- **I'm the victim** - 1 Pet 2:18-23
- **Procrastination** - Acts
24:25; Rom 2:4

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Psalm 38:3-5 (NKJV)

*3 There is no soundness in my flesh
Because of Your anger, Nor any
health in my bones Because of my
sin. 4 For my iniquities have gone
over my head; Like a heavy burden
they are too heavy for me. 5 My
wounds are foul and festering
Because of my foolishness.*

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Psalm 51:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.

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- Our conversion is really an execution- (Rom. 6:3-6).
- Baptism does not end our conflict with sin - (Acts 2:38-42; Rom. 6:3-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-21).
- God commands us to **CONTINUE** to put sin to death - (Mat. 5:29,30; Rom. 6; 8:12,13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5-8).

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Romans 6:1–23 (NKJV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

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Romans 6:1–23 (NKJV)

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Romans 6:1–23 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

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Colossians 3:5–9 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

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- Sin **MUST** be dealt with
 - *By the Spirit (through the gospel) — Romans 8:13; cf. Rom 7:5-8:12*
 - *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ — Rom. 13:14*
 - *Stop lusting - 1 Pet. 2:11; Gal. 5:16; Rom 13:14*

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Romans 13:11-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

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■ Sin MUST be dealt with

- With God's help & provisions — *[Eph. 6:10-18; Jam 4:6-10; 2 Pet. 1:5-10]*
- Ruthlessly — *[Mat. 5:29,30; 18:8,9; Rom 13:13,14]*
- Completely / fully — *[2 Cor. 10:5; Eph. 6:16; Heb 12:1]*
- Quickly — *[1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thes. 5:22; 2 Cor. 6:2; Rom. 13:11,12]*

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- Recognize how horrible sin is to a "holy, holy, holy" God. - (Hab. 1:13; 1 Pet. 1:15,16)
- Be led by the Spirit - (Rom. 8:12-14; [vss. 1-8]; Gal 5:16).
- Draw closer to the Lord - (Rom 13:14; Col. 3:10-12; Tit. 2:14; 3:14).
- Do whatever it takes to avoid sin - (Rom. 13:14; Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Pet. 2:11; 1 Cor. 10:13)

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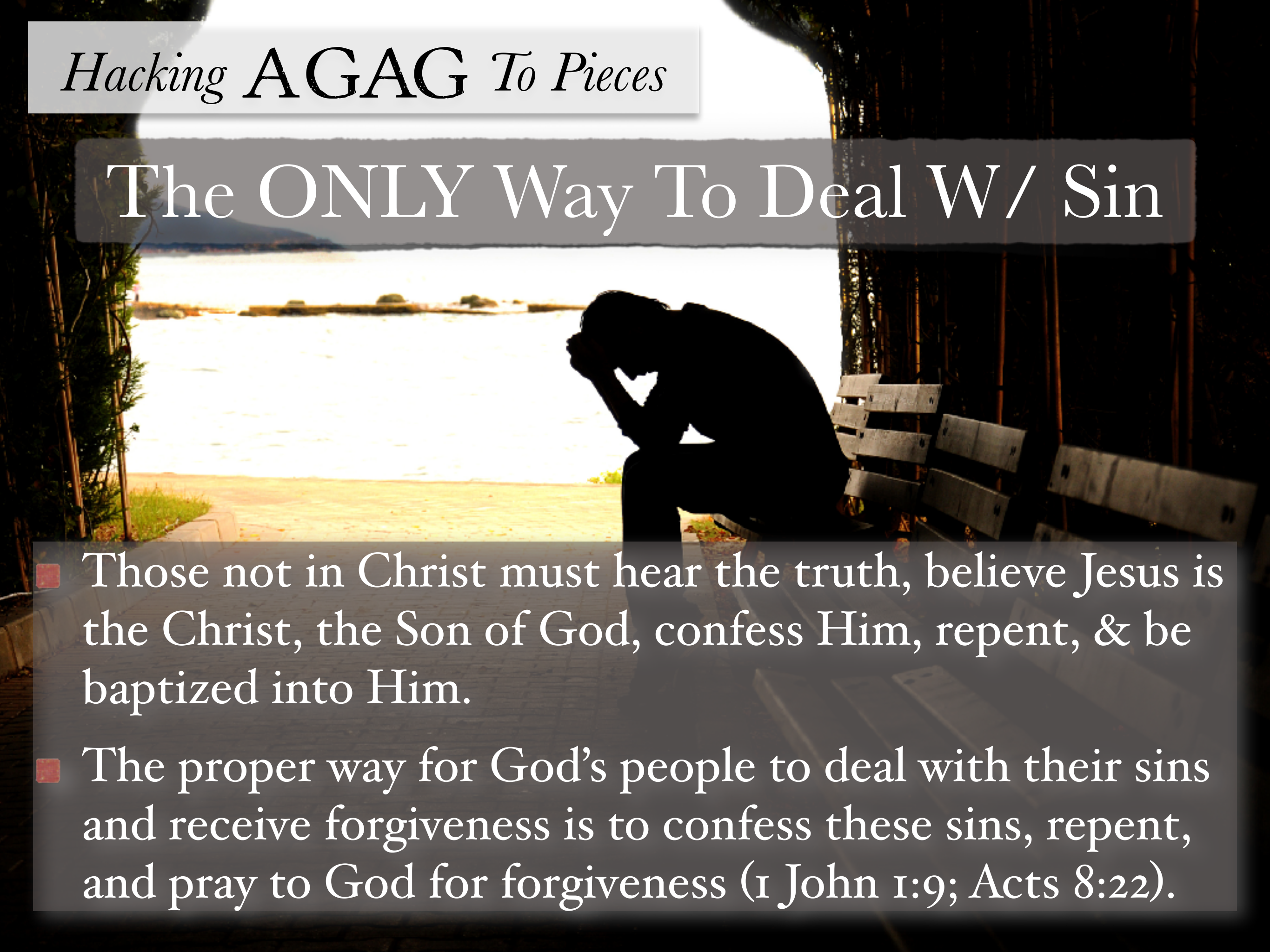
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- This battle between us and sin will never end, but the key is that we actively engage in combat, not denying our sins but confessing them (1 John 1:8-9).
- But if you do not commit yourself to merciless combat against sin, some day, like Saul, it will come back to haunt and destroy you.

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- 
- Those not in Christ must hear the truth, believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, confess Him, repent, & be baptized into Him.
 - The proper way for God's people to deal with their sins and receive forgiveness is to confess these sins, repent, and pray to God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).

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Charts by Don McClain / Preached June 18, 2017

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 /

501-568-1062 / Email – donmccclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote 2014 – More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/>

COLOSSIANS 3:1-9 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-9 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,