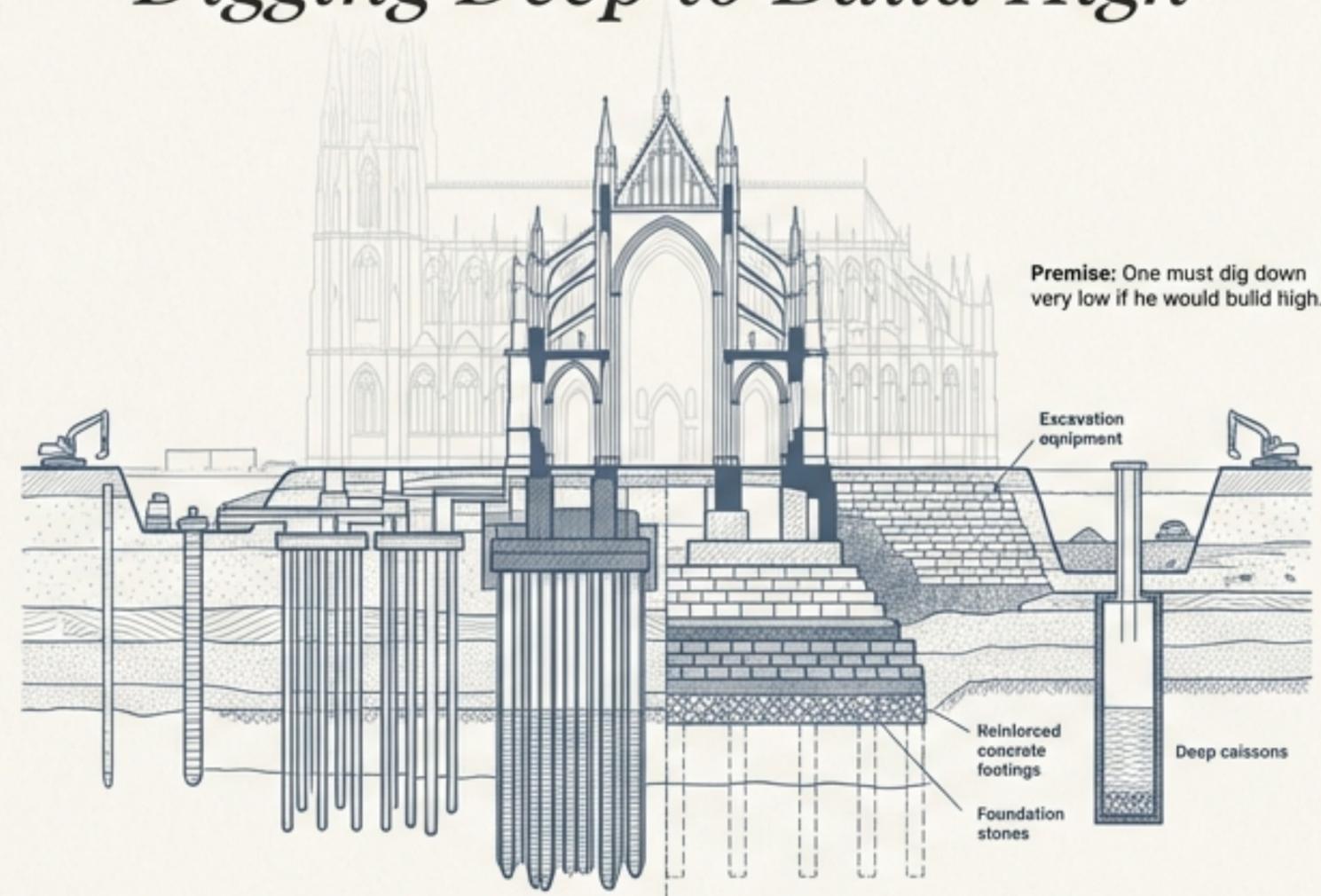


The Sinfulness of Sin

Digging Deep to Build High

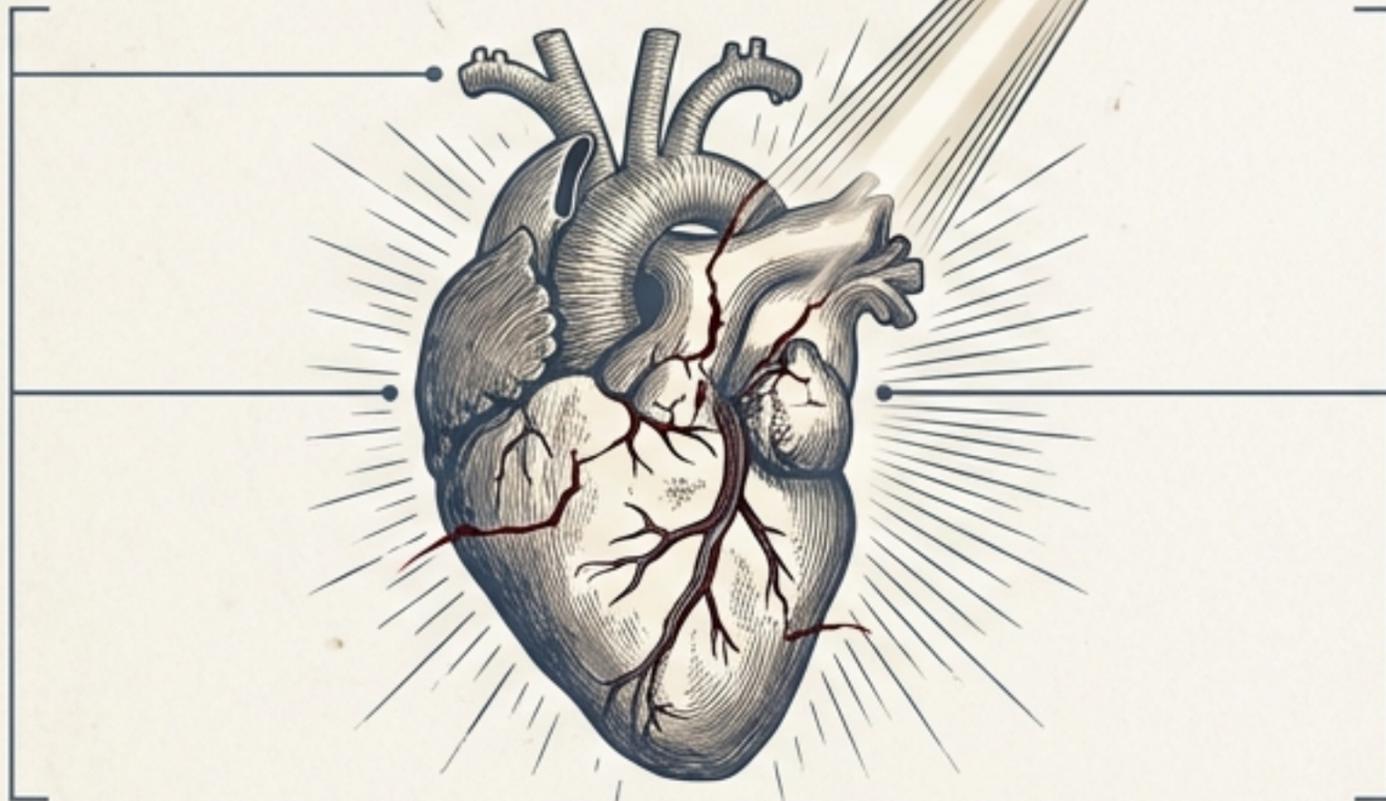


A foundational analysis of human nature, corruption,
and the path to true holiness.

To Build High, We Must Dig Low

“He that wishes to attain right views about Christian holiness must begin by examining the vast and solemn subject of sin.”

The Spiritual Creation



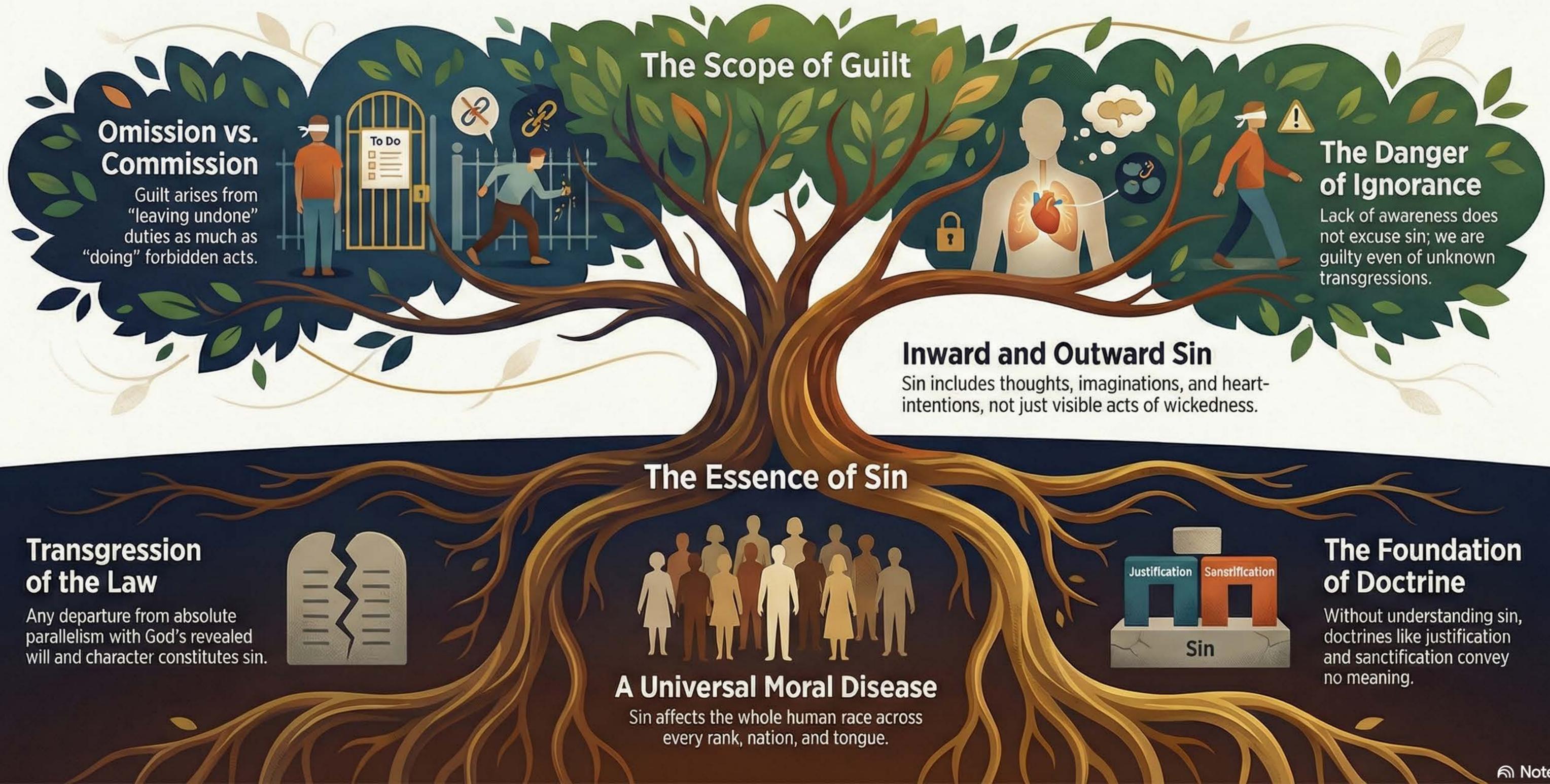
Just as Genesis began with light, spiritual life begins when God shines light into the heart to reveal guilt (2 Cor 4:6).

The Necessity of Diagnosis

- 1. The Danger:** Dim views of sin are the origin of most modern heresies.
- 2. The Principle:** If a man does not realize the dangerous nature of his **soul's disease**, he will be content with **false remedies**.
- 3. The Result:** Wrong views about holiness are generally traceable to wrong views about human corruption.

Understanding Sin: The Root of Christian Holiness

A right knowledge of sin is the essential starting point for spiritual life and the doctrine of holiness.



A Vast Moral Disease

Defining the condition beyond the symptoms.

Universal: Affects every rank, class, name, nation, and tongue.

The Official Definition (Article 9)

Sin is the fault and corruption of the nature of every man.

Quam longissime

[Very far gone from original righteousness]

Inherent: A nature inclined to evil; the flesh lusts against the spirit.

Critical: It deserves God's wrath and damnation.

Observation: There was only ever one born of woman free from this disease: Christ Jesus.

The Mathematics of Guilt

Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).

The Inward Departure



The slightest departure from "absolute mathematical parallelism" with God's will.

As the poet says, "A man may smile and smile, and be a villain."

The Omission

- Righteous Duty
- Righteous Duty
- Righteous Duty
- Righteous Duty
- Law losed Duty

We sin by leaving undone what we ought to do (Matt 25:41-42).

Archbishop Usher's dying prayer: "Lord, forgive me... specially my sins of omission."

The Ignorance



Ignorance is no excuse. Leviticus 4 & 5 require atonement for unknown sins.

A servant who does not know his master's will is still beaten (Luke 12:48).

The Internal Root: Understanding the Origin of Sin

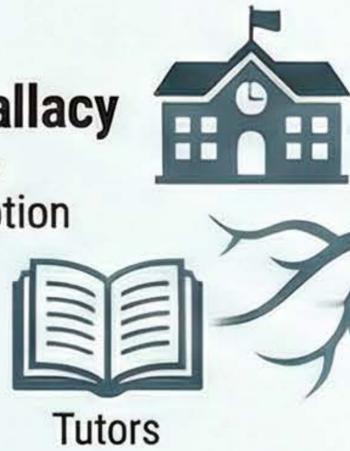
Not a Result of Environment

Sin is not picked up from bad companions or poor early training.



The "Good Heart" Fallacy

Blaming schools or tutors ignores the natural corruption within the child's heart.



"Not from Without, but from Within"

Moral disease begins internally, not as a byproduct of social examples.

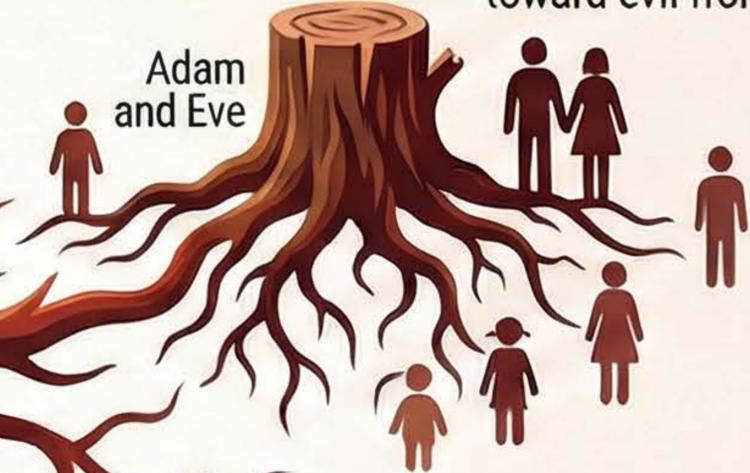


Misconception: The External Influence

Biblical Reality: Inherited Corruption

A Universal "Family Disease"

All humans inherit a nature inclined toward evil from Adam and Eve.



Seeds of Wickedness at Birth

Even infants carry the "germs" of deceit, selfishness, and self-will.



The Heart as the Fountain

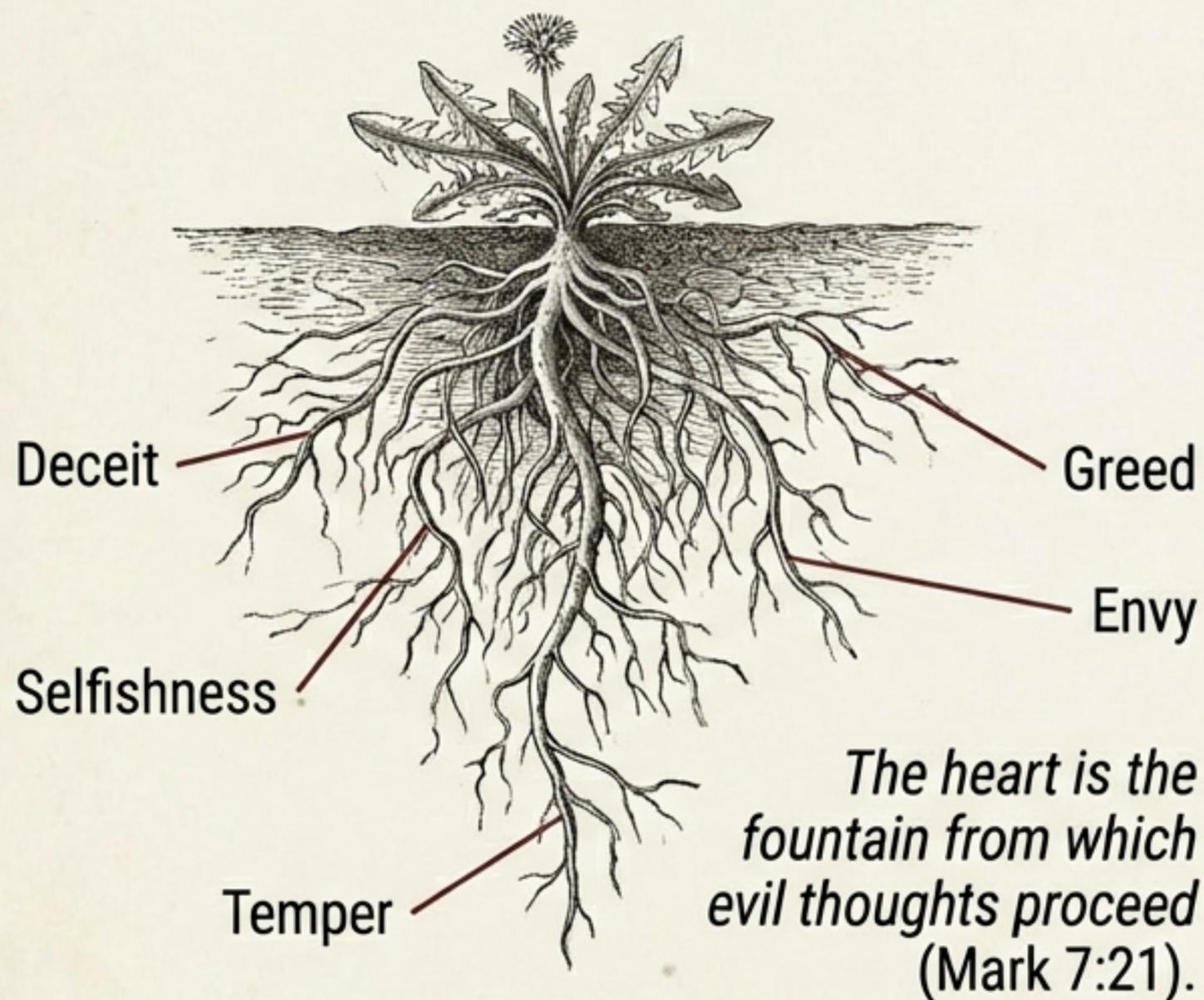
Evil thoughts and actions flow naturally out of the internal carnal mind.

Evil Thoughts



The Family Disease

Corruption does not begin from without; it begins from within.



Myth vs. Reality

Myth: Corruption is the result of bad training, schools, or companions.

Reality: It is an **inherited condition** from Adam. We are "by nature children of wrath."

The Nursery Analysis

The "**innocent babe**" fallacy: A smiling infant is not a little angel, but a little sinner. You do not

to teach them deceit or temper. These are seeds lying dormant in the heart, waiting to sprout.

The Ruined Temple

High Capability

Capable of erecting the Parthenon, writing the tragedies of Sophocles, and executing material wonders. A creature noble and grand.



Low Depravity

Capable of **worshiping creeping things, slavery to abominable vices, and base affections.** A creature **groveling and mean.**

Only the doctrine of **the Fall** explains how a creature can be so noble and yet so mean.
Man is a majestic temple in utter decay.

A Universal Infection

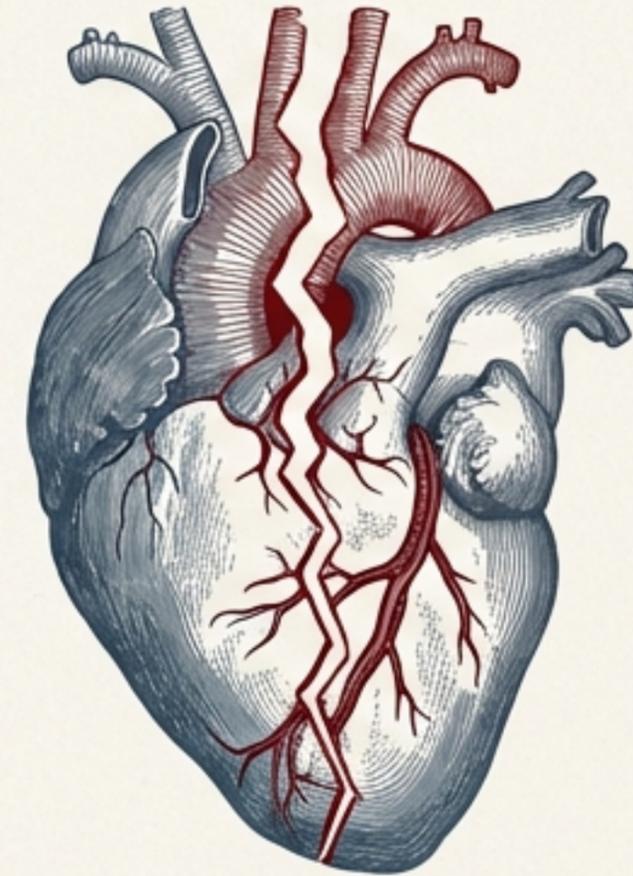
External Evidence vs. Internal Evidence

Evidence A: The Globe



Search from the poles to the equator. Even remote Pacific islands, isolated from Western vice, were found to be abodes of **vilest lust, cruelty, and deceit**. If men know nothing else, they know how to sin.

Evidence B: The Believer

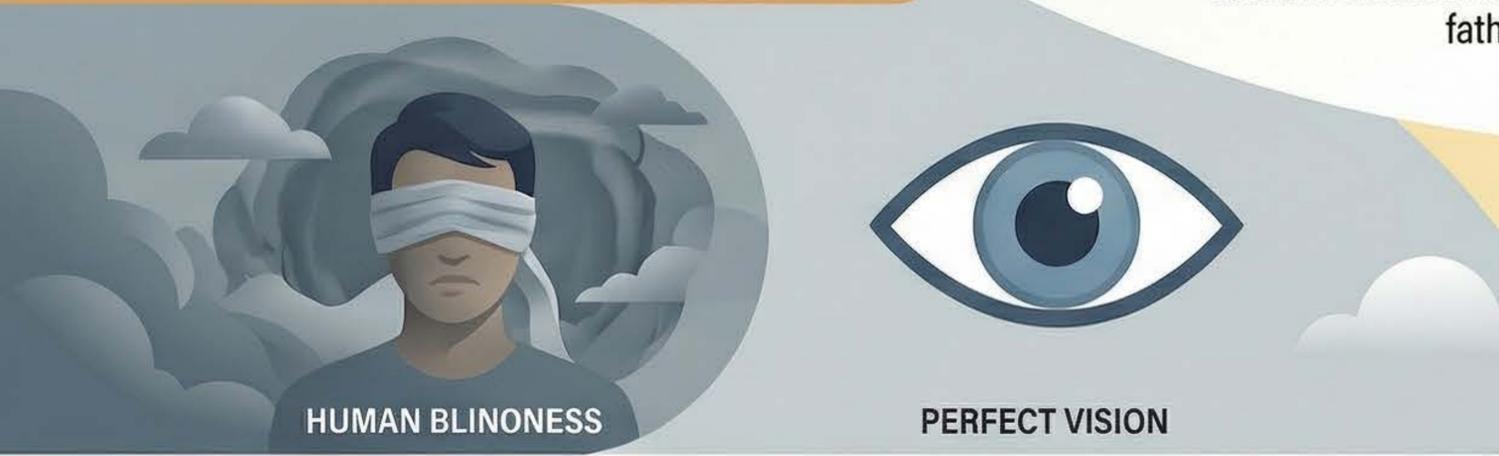


The "**infection of nature doth remain**" even in the regenerate. The internal civil war between flesh and spirit (Galatians/Romans) proves the vitality of the enemy. Mighty is the foe that remains alive even when **crucified**.

The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin: A Divine Perspective

Mortal man cannot fully realize the hideousness of evil because we live in a constant atmosphere of imperfection. Only by looking at God's absolute holiness and the sacrifice of Christ can we begin to fathom the true weight of sin.

THE PERCEPTION GAP: MAN VS. GOD



Perfect Vision vs. Human Blindness

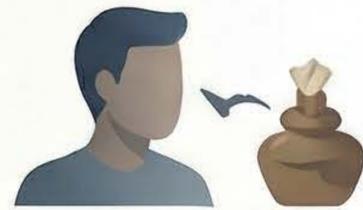
God reads thoughts and motives, while fallen man lacks the measure to gauge evil.

The Sensory Analogy of Sin

Like the deaf cannot distinguish music, man cannot realize sin's vileness without divine aid.



Deaf to Music



Cannot Realize Sin's Vileness

A Handiwork of Perfection

God's standard is seen in the perfect formation of planets and microscopic insects.



THE WEIGHT AND EVIDENCE OF GUILT



The wages of sin is death
| Romans 8:23



God shall judge the secrets of man
| Romans 2:16



Nothing that defiles shall eater heaven
| Revelation 21:27



The Divine Verdict on Iniquity

Scripture establishes the finality of divine judgment and eternal separation from God.

The Ultimate Proof: The Cross

Only the blood of the Sun of God could satisfy such terribly black guilt.

"What Hath God Wrought!"

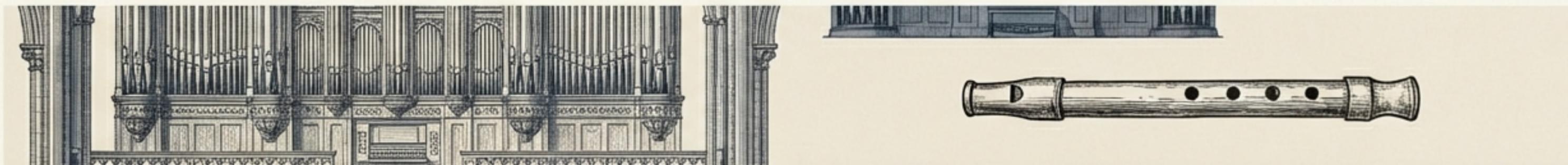
Total realization of sin's depth only occurs when Christ returns.

The Blindness of the Patient

We are poor judges of our condition because we are born in the atmosphere of the disease.



A blind man cannot distinguish a Raphael masterpiece from a signboard.



A deaf man cannot judge a cathedral organ against a penny whistle.



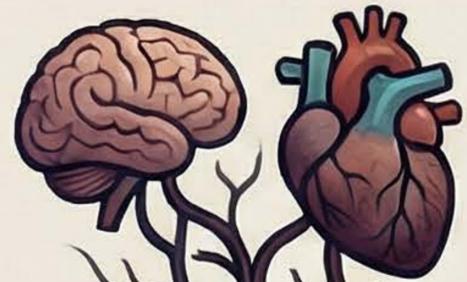
A fallen man cannot judge sin. God looks through the microscope at the smallest insect with the same demand for perfection as He looks at the planets.

God charges angels with **folly**. He **reads thoughts**. We are **nose-blind** to our own **corruption**.

The Vast Moral Disease: Understanding the Extent of Sin

Sin is not a superficial flaw, but a vast moral disease pervading the entire human constitution, existing across cultures, and persisting even in the life of a believer.

THE PERVASIVE & UNIVERSAL SCOPE



TOTAL CONSTITUTIONAL INFECTION

Sin pervades every faculty, including the understanding, affections, reasoning powers, and even the conscience.

UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC PRESENCE

From remote islands to modern cities, sin is found in every nation and rank.



THE TEMPLE IN RUINS

Humans resemble a shattered temple where ruins still hint at a magnificent original design.

THE PARADOX & PERSISTENCE OF SIN

THE GREAT HUMAN PARADOX

Man produces grand architecture and literature while remaining enslaved to debased moral vices.

INFECTION IN THE REGENERATE

Deep-seated corruption remains in the heart even after a person is spiritually renewed.

THE DAILY SPIRITUAL CONTEST

Grace checks and crucifies sin, yet the believer must maintain a daily watcriful fight.



The Ultimate Proof of Guilt

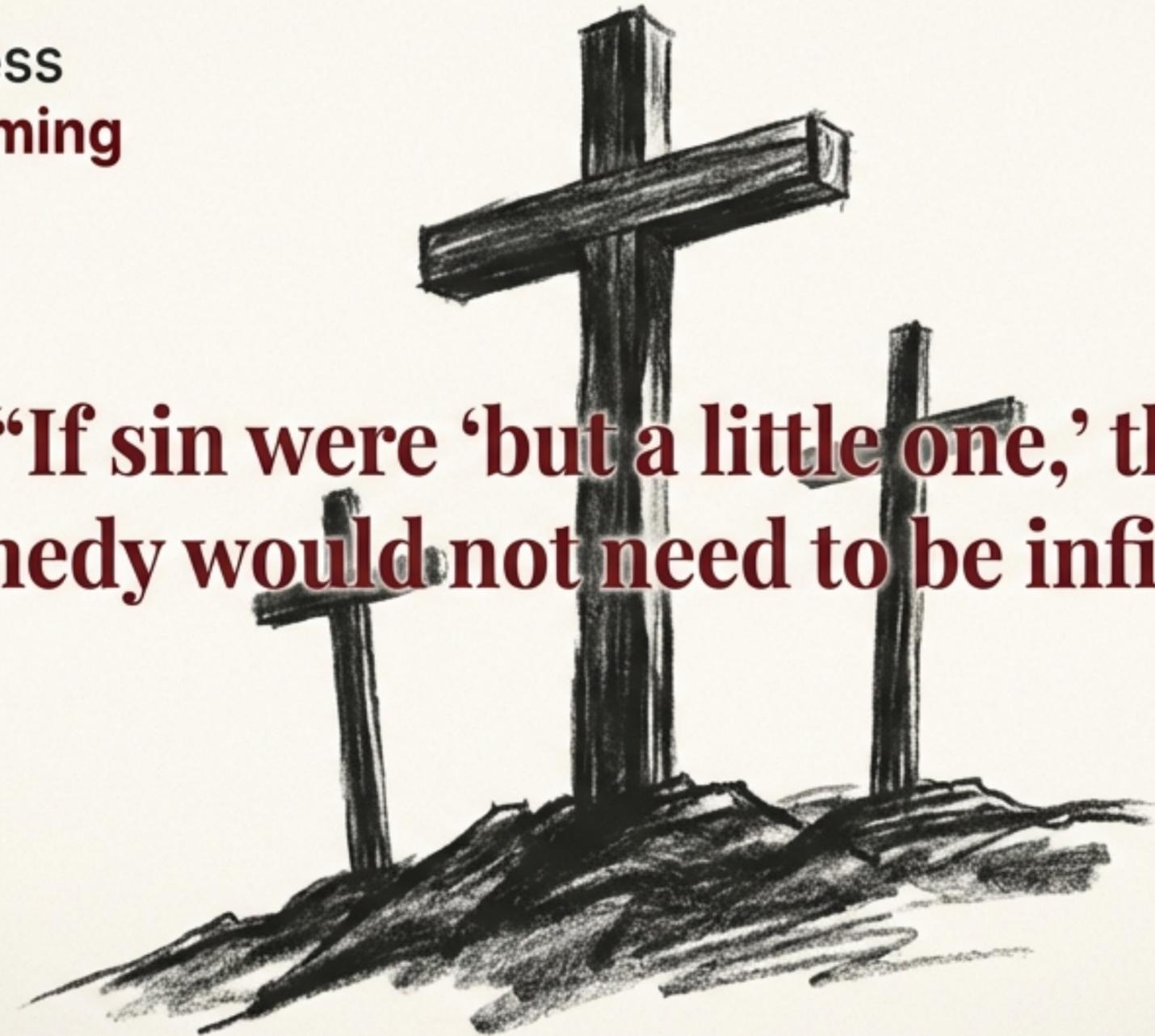
No proof of the fullness of sin is as **overwhelming** as **the Cross**.

The Logic:
The blackness the blood of the Son of God. It caused the **agon of Atonement**.

“If sin were ‘but a little one,’ the remedy would not need to be infinite.”

The Cost:
It required the blood of the Son of God. It caused the agony of Gethsemane. It forced the cry: **“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”**

The Logic:
The blackness of the guilt is measured by the **brightness of the required Atonement**.



The Deceitfulness of Sin & The Remedy of Grace

Sin is a subtle disease that masks its danger through "smooth words" and excuses, leading to a false sense of security. Recognizing this deceit is the first step toward the humility required to accept the "almighty medicine" found in the grace and work of Jesus Christ.

The Deceitfulness of Sin

Strategic Minimization

We often extenuate guilt by claiming "it is but a little one".

Linguistic Masking

Using "smooth words" like "thoughtless" or "fast" to rename what God calls wicked.

The "Judas" Effect

Temptation rarely looks like an enemy; it arrives with a kiss and flattering words.

The Disguise vs. The Reality

The Disguise (Man's Name)	The Reality (God's View)
"A little one"	Downright wicked
"Good and desirable"	A deadly enemy
"Smooth names"	Ruinous to the soul

The Gospel Remedy

The Almighty Medicine

Christ serves as the perfect Physician, Substitute, and Advocate for the soul.

Abounding Grace

Where sin abounds, the grace found in the Covenant of Redemption abounds more.

Clothed in Humility

Proximity to heaven is measured by an increase in self-abasement and thankfulness.

The Deceitfulness of the Disease



Sin rarely presents itself in true colors. It comes like Judas with a kiss, or Joab with a handshake.

The Vocabulary of Deceit

The Disguise

We use smooth names for ruinous things: "Fast", "Gay", "Wild", "Unsteady".

We minimize: "It is but a little one", "I meant well".

The History

Eve: The forbidden fruit seemed "good and desirable".

David: Walking idly on the roof seemed harmless.

Warning: We may give wickedness smooth names, but we cannot alter its nature in the sight of God.

The Sinfulness of Sin: A Scriptural Safeguard

A deep, scriptural understanding of sin acts as a vital protection against theological errors and is the essential foundation for true spiritual growth.

FIVE MODERN "MALADIES" AND THE SCRIPTURAL ANTIDOTE

Antidote to Vague and Liberal Theology

A clear view of sin exposes the danger of "hazy" religion and broad, creedless thinking.

Real Food vs. Gaudy Toys

Sensuous rituals cannot satisfy a conscience that has truly awakened to the depth of sin.



A Check on Perfectionism

Understanding sin's persistence guards against the unscriptural delusion of attaining total sinlessness in this life.



	VAGUE "MINGLE-MANGLE" VS.	SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY
Foundation	Feelings & Modern Science	The Law & Ten Commandments
View of Sin	Dim, misty, or ignored	Vile, powerful, and real
Result	No peace in death	Driven to rest in Christ

THE PATH TO TRUE PERSONAL HOLINESS

Conviction Precedes Conversion

Only those convinced of sin by the Spirit will stay and live for Jesus.



Low Standards Stem from Shallow Views

Declining personal holiness is the result of losing sight of sin's amazing sinfulness.



Build High by Beginning Low

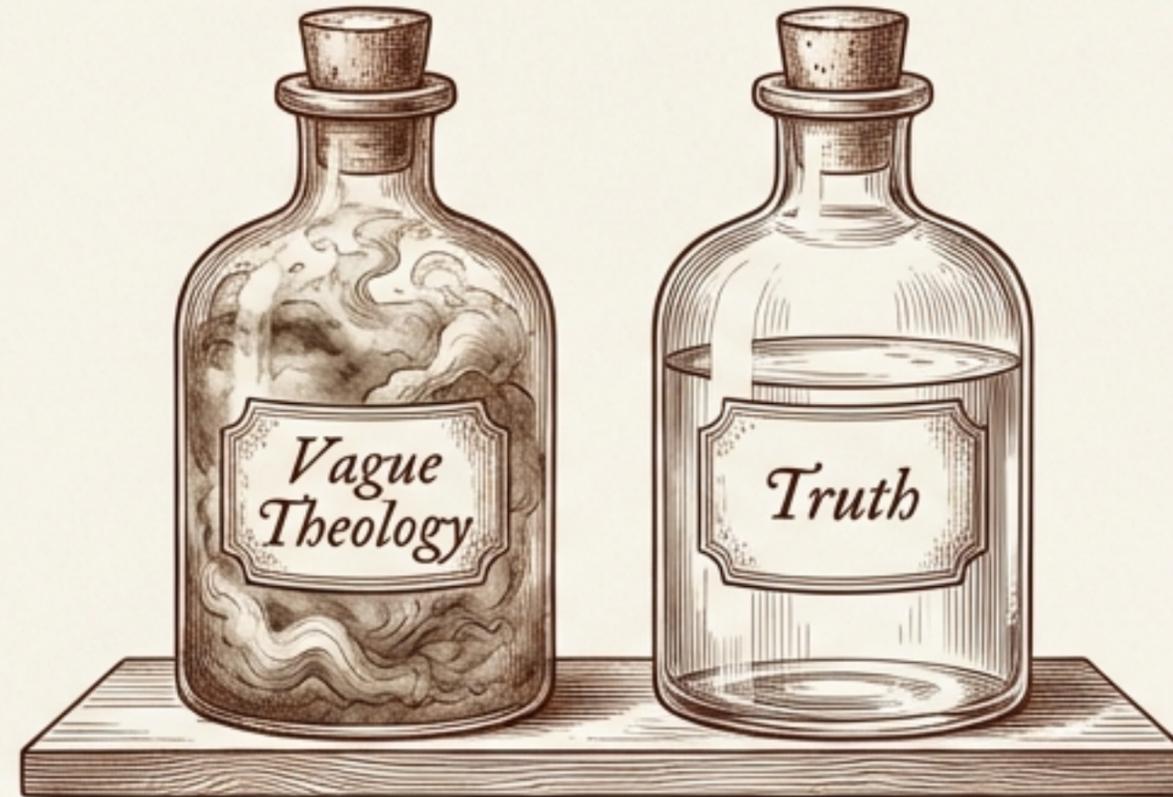
Realizing how much we are forgiven drives us to labor more for Christ's glory.



Antidote to Theological Quackery

A right view of sin cures vague and liberal theology.

Mingle-mangle medicine.
Something of Christ,
something of grace, but
no solid foundation.



People will **not** flee to
the Physician until they
fear the disease.

Broad/Liberal Theology

The Error: Modern thought tosses out the Atonement and Hell to lighten the ship for "science".

The Test: Do these views comfort at a deathbed?

The Reality: Philosophy cannot explain the "gnawing something" within. Only the doctrine of the Fall explains the human condition.

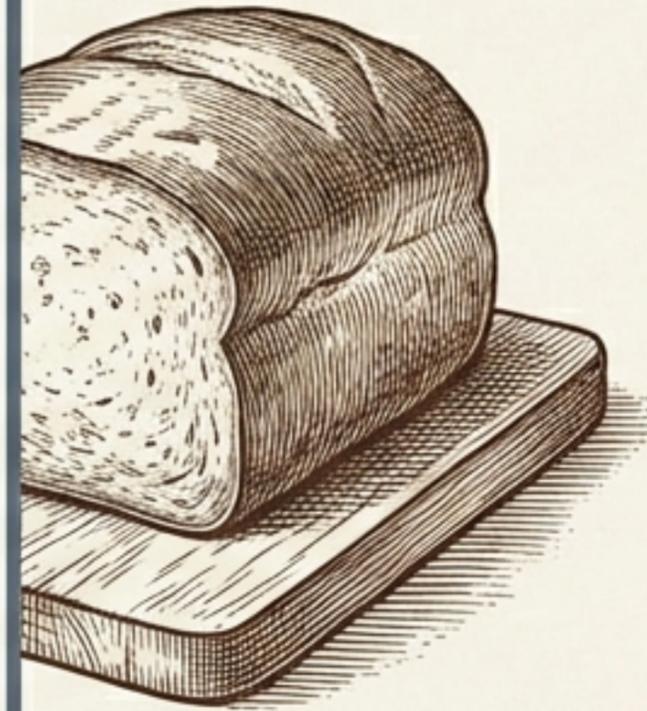
Warning: We may give wickedness smooth names, but we cannot alter its nature in the sight of God.

Antidote to Externalism

The Error

Sensuous, ceremonial Christianity (music, incense, vestments) satisfies only when the conscience is asleep.

A child is quieted by gaudy toys only when he is not hungry.



The Reality

Once the child is starving, he demands food, not a rattle.

When a soul awakes from the dead and feels the "deadly disease," it views ceremonies as solemn **triflings**. The awakened conscience **demand**s a **Savior**, not a service.

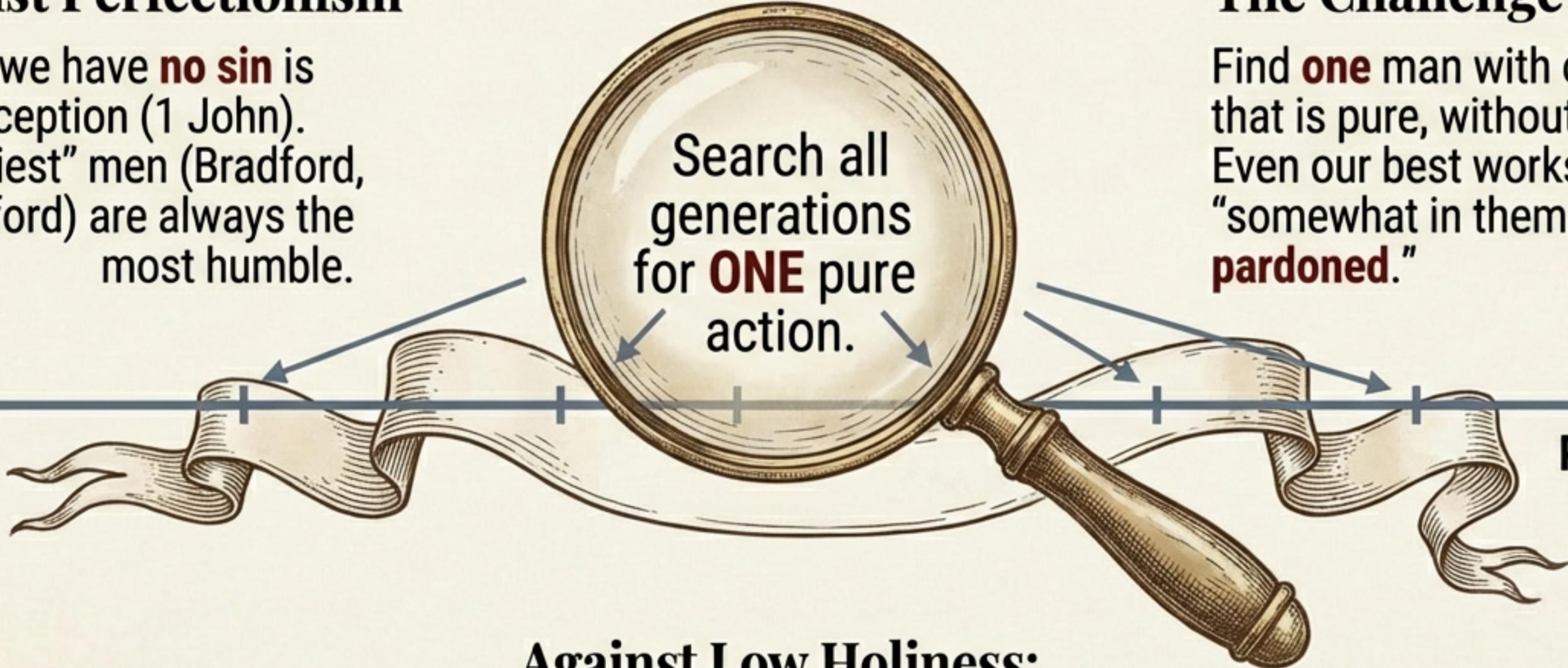
Antidote to Pride & Low Standards

A right view of sin cures self-deception and worldly practice.

Against Perfectionism

To say we have **no sin** is self-deception (1 John). The “holiest” men (Bradford, Rutherford) are always the most humble.

Hooker's Challenge



Search all generations for **ONE** pure action.

The Challenge

Find **one** man with one action that is pure, without stain. Even our best works have “somewhat in them to be **pardoned.**”

Against Low Holiness:

We must realize how “**terribly possible**” it is to be evangelical in name but worldly in practice.

Grace Abounding

Do not look at the disease without looking at the Remedy.

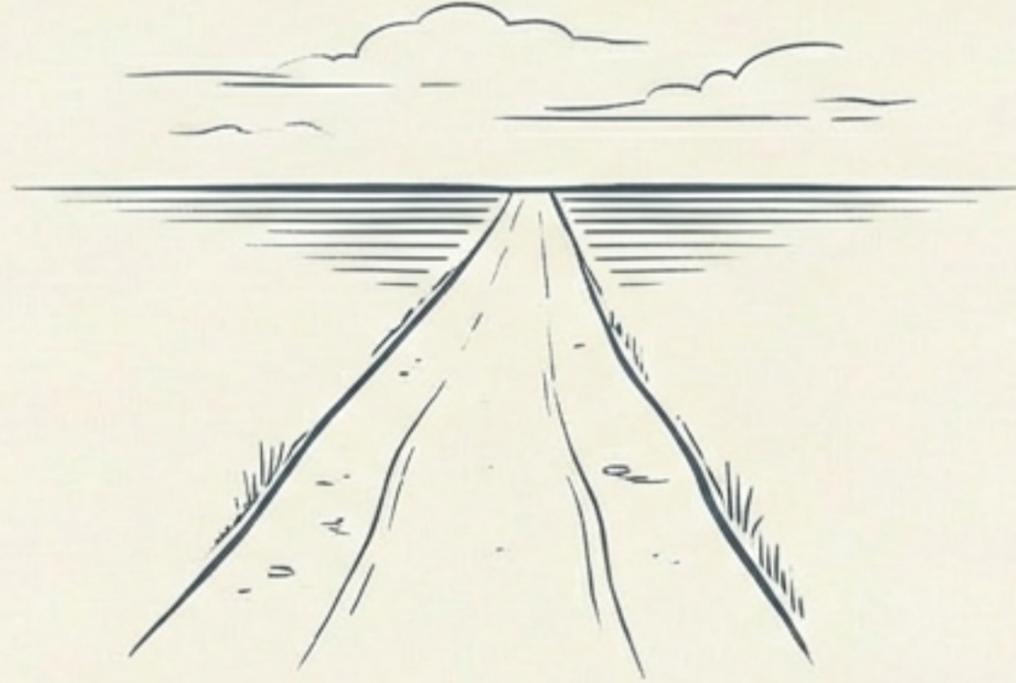


The Almighty Medicine

1. The Everlasting **Covenant of Redemption**.
2. The **Mediator**: Perfect God and Perfect Man.
3. The **Blood** that cleanses all sin.
4. The **Intercession** at God's right hand.

**Though sin has abounded, grace has much more abounded.
Christ is able to save to the uttermost.**

Conclusion: The Old Paths



We must not return to
monasticism or
semi-Romish practices.

We must simply
repent and do
our first works.

Sit down humbly.
Look the disease
in the face.

Realize: The height of
our holiness depends
on the depth of our
understanding of sin.

“Blessed be God for Jesus Christ.” — John Flavel