Hacking Aging to Pieces John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Unlike the psalmist, Paul enjoyed a clear conscience. (Psalm 38:2, 2 Corinthians 1:12)

B. The conscience produces negative experiences when we violate the holy standard given to us by God.

C. There is sin within the believer even though we have been saved from its power and penalty.

D. To have a clear conscience, we must deal with remaining sin.

II. We cannot be merciful with the remaining sin in our lives otherwise it will become stronger and destroy us. We must kill our remaining sin. (1 Samuel 15)

III. Paul teaches that sin needs to be actively killed—one cannot possibly rely passively on some crisis point or a great moment of revival. (Colossians 3:5, Romans 8:12-13)

IV. Scripture offers practical means by which we can kill remaining sin. It is a spiritual thing. (Romans 8:13)

A. Abstain from fleshly lusts. (James 1:15, 1 Peter 2:11, James 4)

B. Stop lusting by refusing to accommodate lusts. Be careful where you go if you are tempted by certain things.

C. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We become like the object that we worship. (1 John 3:3, Psalm 135)

D. Meditate on God's Word. (Psalm 119:11, Joshua 1:8)

E. Pray. (Matthew 26:41, Luke 22:40, Psalm 19, Hebrews 4:16)

V. We practice the means for killing sin in order to exercise self-control through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 9:27, Luke 21:31, Philippians 2, Romans 8:13)

Application Questions:

1. What is the value of having a clear conscience?

2. Why is waiting for some major moment the wrong approach to change?

3. How can we change and how will you specifically implement this in your life?