- **What, if anything, troubled you about what you studied this week?**

I know Oswalt is correct, but it is troubling to read his strong words about sin in his commentary on Isaiah 63. He states on page 661, "Until sin and those who propagate it are defeated, there is no genuine salvation available. The idea that redemption and continued sin can coexist is not biblical; it is certainly not Isaianic." I realize sin is God's enemy and that Christ died for our sin. Oswalt says, "the thought that we can have forgiveness of sin by the blood of Jesus while continuing to practice that which killed him is ludicrous." (Oswalt, p. 661) I agree. But can we live in this sinful world and not be touched by the ravages of sin? Is it possible for a Christian to live without sinning? What about our sinful human nature? I know Christ the Warrior (Isaiah 63) came to destroy sin, but how can we be free of all of sin's temptations and consequences until heaven? Are we free from sin the minute we surrender our lives to Jesus? Or is this a growth process where we are liberated from the law of sin as we mature in Christ? Do we live in a fallen world and remain fleshly creatures who will sin? Is Oswalt only talking about making sin a lifestyle choice? Oswalt's words and these questions have caused me to ask what steps can I take to be free from sin so as **not** to practice that which killed the Lord Jesus? (Oswalt, p. 661).

Oswalt gives one convicting task for us (p. 662) —to ask the Lord to give us a thoroughgoing hatred of sin in all its forms. In the words of Harry Emerson Fosdick, "Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore." (Oswalt, p. 662) Secondly, I must ask the Holy Spirit to give me power to deny myself and flee any sin in my life. "*Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature*." (Galatians 5:16) Lastly, when I do sin, I must practice confession as in the Lord's Prayer, "*Forgive us our sins…and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*." (Matthew 6:13) "*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*." (1John 1:8-9)

"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." (1 John 5:18)

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased to sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God." (1 Peter 4:1-2)