

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 13

TITLE: THE CONTRAST BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN

TEXT: I JOHN 3:4-10

INTRODUCTION: (1) WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY DEFINES THE WORD CONTRAST IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

\* TO COMPARE IN ORDER TO SHOW UNLIKENESS OR DIFFERENCES; TO NOTE THE OPPOSITE QUALITIES OF.

\*\* TO EXHIBIT UNLIKENESS ON COMPARISON WITH SOMETHING ELSE; TO FORM A CONTRAST.

\*\*\* TO DIFFER IN A WAY THAT CAN SERVE TO DISTINGUISH MEANINGS.

\*\*\*\* A STRIKING EXHIBITION OF UNLIKENESS.

(2) AND A PERSON OR THING THAT IS STRIKINGLY UNLIKE IN COMPARISON.

\* NOW I'VE TAKEN THE TIME TO GIVE YOU THOSE DEFINITIONS BECAUSE STARTING TODAY AND FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN OUR STUDY OF I JOHN, JOHN THE

BELOVED DISCIPLE WILL GIVE A SERIES OF CONTRASTS TO FURTHER SHARPEN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE BELIEVERS BY SHOWING HOW THEIR LIVES DIFFER.

\*\* I JOHN 3:4 THROUGH I JOHN 4:6 ADDRESSES THE THEMES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE, FAITH AND TRUTH, THEMES JOHN HAS ALREADY ADDRESSED.

\*\*\* BUT IN THIS SECTION JOHN SETS THESE THEMES BEFORE US IN TERMS OF CONTRASTS.

\*\*\*\* THE CONTRAST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN IN 3:4-10, THE CONTRAST OF LOVE AND HATE IN 3:11-18, A CONTRAST OF FAITH AND DOUBT IN 3:19-24, AND FINALLY A CONTRAST OF TRUTH AND ERROR IN 4:1-6.

(3) NOW JOHN'S GOAL IN DOING THIS IS TO HIGHLIGHT, TO EMPHASIZE, AND TO SHARPEN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE BELIEVERS, BETWEEN THE WHEAT AND TARES, AND BETWEEN FALSE TEACHERS AND TRUTH TEACHERS.

\* AND THESE CONTRASTS FULFILL JOHN'S AIM IN THIS EPISTLE TO SET FORTH TESTS BY WHICH A PERSON'S CLAIM TO SALVATION CAN BE VERIFIED, SUBSTANTIATED OR REJECTED.

\*\* IT IS TO SAY IT IS NOT WHAT A PERSON PROFESSES THAT GIVES EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE CHRISTIANS, BUT HOW THEY LIVE.

\*\*\* JOHN REPEATEDLY AND RELENTLESSLY REITERATES THE POINT THAT THOSE WHO TRULY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE ARE NOT VERIFIED SO MUCH BY WHAT THEY PROFESS OR CLAIM, BUT HOW THEY LIVE.

\*\*\*\* AND THIS REPEATED TRUTH WAS INTRODUCED IN I JOHN 1:5-7 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).

(4) AND THAT MEANS IF WE PROFESS THAT WE ARE CHRISTIANS, BUT DO NOT LIVE BY THE STANDARD OF GOD'S WORD, THAT IF WE PROFESS TO KNOW GOD BUT WALK, LIVE, OUR MANNER OF LIFE IS SIN AS THE NORM, WE LIE AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US, OUR LIVES BETRAY OUR PROFESSION.

\* AND TODAY IN OUR TEXT, JOHN CONTINUES THIS THEME OF HOW TO KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE BY GIVING US THE CONTRAST BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN, WHICH IS THE TITLE OF MY SERMON TODAY: "THE CONTRAST BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN."

\*\* AND BY GOD'S GRACE I WANT YOU TO SEE 6 THINGS IN OUR STUDY OF I JOHN 3:4-10.

\*\*\* NO. 1 THE DEFINITION OF SIN, V. 4; NO. 2 THE DELIVERANCE OF SIN THROUGH CHRIST, V. 5; NO. 3 THE DECEPTION BY SIN AND FALSE TEACHERS, VV. 6&7; NO. 4 THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORKS OF SATAN, V. 8; NO. 5 THE DISPOSITION OF ONE TRULY BORN OF GOD, V. 9; AND NO. 6 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL, V. 10.

\*\*\*\* SO AS YOU CAN SEE I HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER TODAY SO LET'S JUMP RIGHT INTO THE TEXT BY LOOKING AT OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE DEFINITION OF SIN. LOOK AT I JOHN 3:4 PLEASE.

I. THE DEFINITION, (READ V. 4)

**A. NOW JOHN USES 3 GREEK WORDS IN I JOHN, TWO OF THEM HERE IN V. 4 TO DEFINE SIN.**

**\* AND THE FIRST ONE IS HAMARTIA TRANSLATED SIN IN V. 4 WHICH LIT. MEANS MISSING THE MARK OR FALLING SHORT OF THE TARGET.**

**\*\* AND WHEN WE SIN WE MISS THE TARGET, THE GOAL OF WHAT WE WERE CREATED TO DO, TO GLORIFY GOD, WE WANDER FROM THE PATH AND PLAN THAT GOD HAS SET BEFORE US.**

**\*\*\* NOW THE 2'D WORD THAT HELPS US TO DEFINE SIN IS ANOMIA TRANSLATED LAWLESSNESS HERE IN V. 4 FOR SIN IS LAWLESSNESS AND LIT. THIS WORD MEANS TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW. AND GOD HAS GIVEN US LAWS TO LIVE BY IN HIS WORD, HIS MORAL LAW AND SIN IS REBELLING AGAINST THOSE LAWS AND THE LAWGIVER WHO HAS GIVEN THOSE LAWS, WHO IS OUR CREATOR.**

**\*\*\*\* AND INSTEAD OF SUBMITTING TO GOD'S LAWS WE WANT TO BE A LAW UNTO OURSELVES.**

**1. THEREFORE SIN IS MANKIND'S REFUSAL TO SUBMIT HIS MIND, HEART AND WILL TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD. SIN IS ANTI-GOD; IT IS TREASON AGAINST THE MOST HIGH. IT STRIKES OUT AGAINST GOD'S HOLINESS AND GLORY.**

**\* IN FACT IT FLIES IN THE FACE OF EVERY ATTRIBUTE OF GOD.**

**\*\* JOHN BUNYAN SAID: "SIN IS THE DARING OF GOD'S JUSTICE, THE SEARING OF HIS PATIENCE, THE SLIGHTING OF HIS POWER, THE CONTEMPT OF HIS LOVE." (END QUOTE)**

**\*\*\* BUT THE DEFINITION OF SIN IS FURTHER DEFINED BY A THIRD GREEK WORD FOUND IN I JOHN 1:9 AND I JOHN 5:17 TRANSLATED UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**\*\*\*\* IT IS THE GREEK WORD ADIKIA AND LIT. MEANS “WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS,” “A VIOLATION OF LAW AND JUSTICE,” “AN ACT OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

**2. AND THIS WORD BRINGS UP THE IMAGE OF A STRAIGHT OR LEVEL EDGE. AND GOD’S PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS OFFERS A STRAIGHT EDGE TO MANKIND FOR HOW WE SHOULD LIVE.**

**\* AND WHEN OUR LIVES ARE MEASURED AGAINST GOD’S STRAIGHT EDGE OF HIS HOLINESS, WE DO NOT SQUARE UP, WE ARE NOT ON THE LEVEL, WE ARE OUT OF LINE.**

**\*\* NOW WITH THOSE 3 GREEK WORDS AND CONCEPTS ABOUT SIN BEFORE US, AS WE GO BACK TO I JOHN 3:4, JOHN USES TWO OF THEM HERE.**

**\*\*\* AND BASICALLY I JOHN 3:4 SAYS, SIN IS LAWLESSNESS, SIN IS A TRANSGRESSION OF GOD’S LAW. IT IS INSUBORDINATION TO GOD, IT IS PLACING OUR WILL ABOVE GOD’S WILL.**

**\*\*\*\* SO JOHN IN THIS NEW PARAGRAPH SAYS THAT SIN IS NOT JUST SOME LITTLE MISTAKE, OR A MINOR PROBLEM, A LITTLE THING, BUT SIN IS AN ACTIVE REBELLION AGAINST GOD’S KNOWN WILL.**

**3. AND THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FIRST STEP IN HOLY LIVING IS TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUE NATURE AND WICKEDNESS OF SIN. AND IF YOU ARE PRACTICING, PARTICIPATING, LIVING IN SIN YOU ARE LIVING IN LAWLESSNESS FOR SIN IS LAWLESSNESS.**

**\* AND EVERYONE WHO HABITUALLY PRACTICES SIN IS LIVING IN AN ONGOING CONDITION OF LAWLESSNESS. SO SIN IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE LAW OF GOD, AND JOHN ESTABLISHES THAT FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS PARAGRAPH AS A BASIC POINT, A WORKING POINT, A BASE LINE TO BEGIN WITH IN CONTRASTING SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**\*\* AND WITH THAT TRUTH ESTABLISHED JOHN BUILDS ON IT BY EXPLAINING THAT SIN IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE WORK OF CHRIST. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE DELIVERANCE.**

## **II. THE DELIVERANCE, READ V. 5)**

**A. NOW THE PRIMARY REASON FOR CHRIST'S FIRST ADVENT, HIS FIRST COMING TO EARTH WAS TO TAKE AWAY SINS, NOT POTENTIALLY, BUT ACTUALLY.**

**\* THE PURPOSE OF HIS APPEARING, THE PURPOSE OF HIS INCARNATION TO TAKE AWAY SINS.**

**\*\* AND NOTE THAT THE WORDS “TAKEN AWAY” MEAN TO REMOVE SOMETHING BY LIFTING IT UP. IT GIVES THE IMAGE OF A STRONG MAN LIFTING A VERY HEAVY OBJECT IN ORDER TO CARRY IT FAR AWAY.**

**\*\*\* AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE CROSS. JESUS BORE HIS PEOPLE’S SINS, HIS ELECT’S SINS IN AN ACTUAL ATONEMENT, IN ACTUAL REDEMPTION THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND APPLIED, JESUS BORE THE SINS OF PEOPLE THAT HE IN HIS PURPOSE WOULD SAVE, TAKING THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF SIN OFF HIS PEOPLE.**

**\*\*\*\* MEANING HE TOOK AWAY THE PENALTY OF SIN AND BROKE THE POWER OF SIN IN THE BELIEVER’S LIFE.**

**1. FOR THE PENALTY OF SIN HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL AND THE POWER OF SIN HAS BEEN BROKEN.**

**\* THEREFORE THE TRUTH THAT JOHN IS COMMUNICATING IS SIN IS NO LONGER THE DOMINANT FORCE OF OUR LIVES BECAUSE CHRIST DIED TO TAKE AWAY SINS AT THE CROSS.**

**\*\* SIN’S PENALTY IS CANCELLED, SIN’S POWER IS CONQUERED, THEREFORE SIN’S PRESENCE AND PRACTICE IS GUTTED, MEANING WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES OF SIN. ITS PRESENCE STILL AFFECTS US, YES, BUT DOES NOT CONTROL US, TRUE BELIEVERS.**



**\*\*\* CHRIST'S DEATH NOT ONLY CHANGES OUR STATE, IT TRANSFORMS OUR NATURE.**

**\*\*\*\* THEREFORE THE POINT THAT NOW JOHN BUILDS UPON FROM DEFINING SIN IN V. 4, IS THERE IS A DELIVERANCE FROM SIN REIGNING AND RULING OVER US.**

**2. HENCE, TO CONTINUE THEN, TO LIVE AFTER YOU PROFESS FAITH IN CHRIST AS YOU DID BEFORE YOU PROFESSED FAITH IN CHRIST IS TO SHOW THAT YOU NEVER BELIEVED.**

**\* BUT IN CONTRAST BECAUSE CHRIST IS NOW OUR NEW MASTER BECAUSE HE APPEARED TO TAKE AWAY SINS, WE NO LONGER HAVE TO OBEY OUR OLD MASTER, SIN.**

**\* FOR ALL WHO RECEIVE CHRIST'S PARDON ALSO RECEIVE HIS POWER, A CONQUERING POWER TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY OVER SIN.**

**\*\*\* AND AS WE'LL SEE AS WE MOVE ON, THE ONE WHO DOES NOT EXPERIENCE HIS POWER OVER SIN DOES NOT HAVE HIS PARDON FOR SIN.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT ONE LAST THING IN V. 5. IN REMOVING OUR SIN, HE WAS HIMSELF ENTIRELY WITHOUT SIN. FOR ONLY A**

**PERFECT SPOTLESS LAMB COULD TAKE AWAY OUR SINS, QUOTE JOHN 1:29, I PETER 1:18&19.**

**3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ABSOLUTE SINLESS ONE AND BECAUSE HE WAS SINLESS HE DID NOT NEED TO BE SAVED BUT CAME AS THE SAVIOR TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:21.**

**\* SO CHRIST NEVER SINNED, HE WAS THE PERFECT SAVIOR, THE ONLY SAVIOR, AND SIN IN OUR LIVES IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE WORK OF CHRIST IN TAKING AWAY SIN.**

**\*\* WE SEE THE CONTRAST IN CHRIST WHO WAS RIGHTEOUS TO SIN WHICH IS UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, LAWLESSNESS. BUT CHRIST'S APPEARANCE WAS MANIFEST TO TAKE AWAY SINS, THERE WAS DELIVERANCE FROM SIN BY THE SINLESS ONE WHICH LEADS US TO THE DECEPTION THAT SOME ARE DECEIVED BY LIVING IN SIN AND THERE ARE DECEIVERS WHO LIVE IN SIN AND TRY TO DECEIVE YOU. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE DECEPTION.**

### **III. THE DECEPTION, (READ V. 6)**

**A. NOW V. 6 HAS BEEN GREATLY MISUNDERSTOOD THROUGH THE YEARS BY SOME TO COMMUNICATE SINLESS PERFECTIONISM.**

**\* BUT SINLESS PERFECTIONISM OR SINLESS SANCTIFICATION IS NOT TAUGHT IN THIS VERSE IN ITS CONTEXT AND BY ITS GRAMMAR.**

**\*\* FOR THE VERB SINS IN THE NAS AND SINNETH OR SINNING OR SIN SINGULAR IN OTHER TRANSLATIONS IS IN THE PRESENT TENSE IN BOTH OF IT'S USES IN V. 6.**

**\*\*\* AND IN THE PRESENT TENSE OF CONTINUOUS ACTION SIMPLY MEANS THE ONE WHO LIVES OR ABIDES OR TRULY KNOWS CHRIST DOES NOT KEEP ON SINNING, THE HABITUAL ACTION OF DEFIANCE OR REBELLION, A LIFE OR LIFESTYLE OF CONTINUAL UNREPENTANT SIN.**

**\*\*\*\* WE WILL NOT LIVE AS WE DID BECAUSE NO ONE WHO SINS CONSISTENTLY OR HABITUALLY AS THE NORM AND PATTERN OF LIFE HAS SEEN CHRIST THROUGH THE EYE OF FAITH, HAS SEEN HIM AS HE IS PRESENTED IN SCRIPTURE OR KNOWS HIM.**

**1. AND HERE IS THE LOGICAL CONTEXTUAL DEDUCTION IN THE FLOW OF THIS CONTEXT. SINCE THE ETERNAL NATURE OF THE SON OF GOD IS SINLESS, V. 5, AND SINCE HIS PURPOSE OF HIS FIRST APPEARING OR COMING WAS TO REMOVE SIN TO TAKE AWAY SIN, V. 5.**

**\* THEN NO ONE WHO ABIDES IN HIM, KNOWS HIM, WHO DWELLS IN HIM, KEEPS ON SINNING, WHILE ON THE**

**OTHER HAND, NO ONE WHO LIVES IN SIN HAS EITHER SEEN HIM OR KNOWN HIM.**

**\*\* AND JOHN'S METHOD IS CONTRAST AND USES A DOUBLE HAMMER BLOW ABOUT SINNING AND NOT SINNING.**

**\*\*\* NO ONE WHO ABIDES IN CHRIST, JOHN SAYS, WILL PRACTICE SIN AS AN ONGOING LIFESTYLE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE NEVER COMMIT SIN, BUT THAT WE WILL NEVER PRACTICE SIN AGAIN AS WE ONCE DID.**

**2. SO SINLESS PERFECTIONISM IS NOT COMMUNICATED. IN FACT IF THAT WAS THE MEANING HERE IT WOULD CONTRADICT WHAT JOHN SAID IN I JOHN 1:8&9, QUOTE THEM.**

**\* SO WE SIN AS CHRISTIANS, BUT DO NOT LIVE THE WAY WE DID BEFORE AND WALLOW IN AND PRACTICE SIN. WE ARE NOT WHAT WE WERE, BUT WE ARE NOT WHAT WE WANT TO BE.**

**\*\* SO DON'T BE DECEIVED IS WHAT JOHN SAYS, THEN IN V. 7 HE GIVES A WARNING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WILL TRY TO DECEIVE YOU IN THIS AREA. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.**

**B. READ V. 7. NOW HERE IN V. 7 JOHN BEGINS WITH A SOLEMN WARNING TO HIS DEAR CHILDREN, TRUE BELIEVERS.**

**\* AND THE WARNING HAS TO DO WITH ANYONE WHO WOULD LEAD THEM ASTRAY, LIT. ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE THEM AND TRY TO SEPARATE THE TRUTH OF SALVATION FROM THE TRUTH OF SANCTIFICATION.**

**\*\* IT IS TO SAY, DON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO LEAD YOU ASTRAY AND SAY THAT PROFESSION AND LIFE ARE SEPARATE, LIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS IN ASIA MINOR TAUGHT, PRE-GNOSTICS.**

**\*\*\* A RIGHTEOUS LIFESTYLE IN CONTRAST TO A SINFUL LIFESTYLE MUST BE DIFFERENTIATED.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR JOHN GOES ON TO SAY IN V. 7, "THE ONE WHO PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RIGHTEOUS JUST AS HE IS RIGHTEOUS."**

**1. MEANING THAT A TRUE BELIEVER HAS BOTH A RIGHT STANDING BEFORE GOD AND PRACTICES A RIGHT LIFE BEFORE GOD.**

**\* AND UNDERSTAND THIS: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS AND BEING RIGHTEOUS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SANCTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION.**

**\*\* AND BEING RIGHTEOUS REFERS TO JUSTIFICATION; WHEREAS PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS REFERS TO SANCTIFICATION.**

**\*\*\* JUSTIFICATION INSTANTLY IMPUTES THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST TO THE BELIEVING SINNER BY FAITH ALONE, RESULTING IN A RIGHT STANDING BEFORE GOD.**

**\*\*\* BUT SANCTIFICATION HERE IS THE LIFELONG PROCESS BY WHICH THE ONE WHO TURNS IN REPENTANT FAITH TO CHRIST IS BROUGHT PROGRESSIVELY INTO CONFORMITY WITH THE PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**\*\*\*\* THEREFORE JUSTIFICATION IS POSITIONAL AND SANCTIFICATION IS PRACTICAL.**

**2. JUSTIFICATION IS IMMEDIATE, SANCTIFICATION IS PROGRESSIVE.**

**\* AND WHOEVER IS JUSTIFIED IS ALSO BEING SANCTIFIED, IT'S A PACKAGE DEAL AND JOHN IS SAYING DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU OTHERWISE, A DECEIVER.**

**\*\* DON'T BE DECEIVED THAT YOU CAN SEPARATE JUSTIFICATION FROM SANCTIFICATION.**

**\*\*\* BUT JOHN CONTINUES HIS SERIES OF CONTRASTS BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN IN V. 8 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 4<sup>TH</sup> POINT TODAY, THE DESTRUCTION. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.**

**IV. THE DESTRUCTION, (READ V. 8)**

**A. NOW THE CONTRAST TO PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS, IS TO PRACTICE SIN, AND THE ONE WHO PRACTICES SIN IS OF THE DEVIL, A VERY CLEAR STATEMENT.**

**\* CHILDREN ACT LIKE THEIR FATHER. AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL PRACTICE SIN AND THE CHILDREN OF GOD PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS NOT PERFECTLY BUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THEIR LIVES, AS THE PATTERN OF THEIR LIVES.**

**\*\* SO WE ARE LIKE OUR FATHER AND THE DEVIL (WHICH MEANS "ACCUSER" OR "SLANDERER") HAS CHILDREN THAT ACT LIKE HIM. AND HOW IS THAT?**

**\*\*\* THEY PRACTICE SIN AND THEY ARE LIKE THEIR FATHER WHO HAS SINNED FROM THE BEGINNING WHICH LIKELY REFERS TO THE MOMENT OF SATAN'S ORIGINAL REBELLION AGAINST GOD IN HEAVEN TALKED ABOUT IN ISAIAH 14:12-14 AND EZEKIEL 28:12-17.**

**\*\*\*\* AND JOHN'S POINT IS THE DEVIL IS THE FIRST REBEL, THE PROTOTYPICAL REBEL AND TO LIVE IN REBELLION, TO PRACTICE SIN IS TO BE LIKE THE DEVIL.**

**1. BUT THEN JOHN MAKES THE CLEAR POINT THAT BECAUSE THE SON OF GOD (JESUS CHRIST) APPEARED TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL, TO CRUSH THE SERPENT'S HEAD AS JESUS WAS THE SEED OF THE WOMAN IN GENESIS 3:15,**

**\* BECAUSE THE SON OF GOD APPEARED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, YES UNTHINKABLE THAT TRUE BELIEVERS WOULD CONTINUE IN DEVIL-LIKE BEHAVIOR.**

**\*\* I MEAN JESUS CHRIST HAS DESTROYED THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS. SO THOSE WORKS OF HIS, OF THE DEVIL LIKE TEMPTATION, HIS LIES IN FALSE RELIGION, HIS PERSECUTIONS, HIS DECEPTION NO LONGER CONTROL US.**

**\*\*\* WE AGAIN HAVE A NEW MASTER. SO JOHN GIVES US THIS CONTRAST, CHRIST IS RIGHTEOUS, THE DEVIL IS UNRIGHTEOUS, JESUS DESTROYED THE POWER OF THE DEVIL IN HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH, THEREFORE TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ACT LIKE HIM, NOT THE DEVIL.**



**\*\*\*\* AND AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR THAT IS GIVEN IN V. 9 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> POINT TODAY, THE DISPOSITION, THE NEW DISPOSITION THAT WE HAVE AS BELIEVERS. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.**

**V. THE DISPOSITION, (READ V. 9)**

**A. NOW JOHN CONTINUES TO BUILD HIS CASE BY COMMUNICATING TWO FACTS. NO. 1 NO CHRISTIAN CONTINUES OR PRACTICES SIN AND GIVES THE REASON WHY. AND THEN NO. 2 ONE BORN OF GOD CANNOT GO ON SINNING.**

**\* LET ME EXPLAIN. NO ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD PRACTICES SIN. AND THE NEW BIRTH, BEING BORN OF GOD IS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, REGENERATION.**

**\*\* AND IN THE NEW BIRTH THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPLANTS IN THOSE HE REGENERATES THE PRINCIPLE OF HIS DIVINE LIFE, WHICH JOHN HERE PICTURES AS SEED. SO WE HAVE AN ENTIRELY NEW DISPOSITION PLANTED WITHIN US, WE HAVE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A NEW HEART, NEW AFFECTIONS, NEW DESIRES, A NEW HOLY DISPOSITION, A NEW NATURE.**

**\*\*\* AND JUST AS A HUMAN BIRTH COMES FROM AN IMPLANTED SEED FROM A MAN INTO A WOMAN THAT BRINGS ABOUT NEW PHYSICAL LIFE, SO ALSO SPIRITUAL LIFE BEGINS WHEN, AT THE MOMENT OF REGENERATION, THE DIVINE SEED IS IMPLANTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH ENABLES A PERSON TO SEE AND HAVE LIFE WHICH ENABLES A PERSON TO BE SAVED OR BELIEVE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND THE SEED OR INSTRUMENT WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT USES TO GIVE NEW BIRTH TO SINNERS IS WHAT? THE WORD OF GOD, QUOTE I PETER 1:23&25 AND PSALM 19:7.**

**1. SO THE NEW BIRTH IS FROM IMPERISHABLE SEED, SECURING THE BELIEVER'S SALVATION.**

**\* AND THE FRUIT OF THAT IS THE MIND OF CHRIST, I CORINTHIANS 2:9, WE BECOME NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST, II CORINTHIANS 5:17 AND WE ARE RAISED IN CHRIST TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE, ROMANS 6:4.**

**\*\* THEREFORE ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD CANNOT CONTINUE OR REMAIN IN SIN AS WE GO BACK TO THE END OF V. 9 AND THE WORDS CANNOT SIN ARE IN THE PRESENT TENSE, AGAIN MEANING HE CANNOT GO ON SINNING AS THE NORM, THE PRACTICE AND HABIT OF LIFE.**

**\*\*\* BELOVED THE PRESENT TENSE INDICATES THE NEW HABIT OF THE HEART THROUGH GOD'S SEED BEING IN US COMMUNICATES WE WILL NOT REMAIN, CONTINUE IN AS THE HABIT OF LIFE IN SIN.**

**\*\*\*\* WHY? WE HAVE A NEW DISPOSITION, A NEW NATURE, A NEW LIFE, A NEW MIND, NEW DESIRES, WE ARE NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST.**

**2. SO THE SEED HERE IS A METAPHOR FOR THE NEW LIFE OF CHRIST PLANTED WITHIN US THAT PRODUCES THE FRUIT OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE. THE NEW BIRTH CAUSES A DRAMATIC RADICAL CHANGE WITHIN US.**

**\* SO NO LONGER CAN WE PRACTICE SIN BECAUSE IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE NEW SEED IN US. WE HAVE A NEW DISPOSITION.**

**\*\* AND THAT NEW DISPOSITION DIFFERENTIATES US FROM THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL, WHICH IS OUR LAST QUICK POINT TODAY, THE DIFFERENCE. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.**

**VI. THE DIFFERENCE, (READ V. 10)**

**A. NOW JOHN CONCLUDES THIS PARAGRAPH WITH A SIMPLE SUMMARY STATEMENT.**

**\* AND THAT SUMMARY STATEMENT COMMUNICATES THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL IS THIS: THE CHILD OF GOD PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OBVIOUSLY THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL DO NOT.**

**\*\* AND THERE ARE ONLY TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY NEW BIRTH AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL BY PHYSICAL BIRTH.**

**\*\*\* IT IS TO SAY THE DIVIDING LINE IN OUR WORLD TODAY THAT DIVIDES OUR WORLD IS NOT ECONOMIC OR RACIAL, BUT SPIRITUAL.**

**\*\*\*\* EVERYONE EVERYWHERE BELONGS TO ONE OF TWO FAMILIES, GOD'S OR THE DEVIL'S.**

**1. AND THE CREDIBILITY OF A PERSON'S PROFESSION OF FAITH IS SEEN IN A TRANSFORMED LIFESTYLE.**

**\* THAT'S THE MORAL TEST. AND THEN THE LAST PHRASE IN V. 10 INTRODUCES US TO THE NEXT PARAGRAPH OF THOUGHT, WHICH IS THE SOCIAL TEST AGAIN, THE TEST OF LOVE FOR THE BRETHERN.**

**\*\* AND IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND YOU DON'T LOVE OTHER TRUE BELIEVERS, YOU HAVE**

**NOT BEEN BORN OF GOD, YOU ARE NOT A CHILD OF GOD BUT A CHILD OF THE DEVIL.**

**IN WRAP UP: (1) PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND WHAT WE'VE STUDIED TODAY. CHRISTIANS SIN. MOSES GOT ANGRY, PETER DENIED CHRIST, DAVID COMMITTED ADULTERY AND GAVE THE ORDER IN ESSENCE FOR BATHSHEBA'S HUSBAND TO BE KILLED BY PUTTING HIM ON THE FRONT LINE OF BATTLE.**

**\* BUT WHAT FOLLOWS FOR A TRUE BELIEVER IS REPENTANCE. FOR DAVID PSALM 51 AND OTHER PENITENTIAL PSALMS. FOR PETER GOING OUT AND WEEPING BITTERLY, WITH MOSES' ACCEPTANCE OF HIS FATE TO NOT GO INTO THE PROMISED LAND.**

**\*\* THE QUESTION TODAY IS NOT DO YOU SIN, BUT WHO ARE YOU TRUSTING IN FOR YOUR SALVATION AND HAS THAT FAITH ALONE CHANGED YOUR LIFE?**

**\*\*\* WHAT IS THE BENT OF YOUR LIFE? DO YOU GO ON COMMITTING SIN IN COMFORT AND EASE? DO YOU CONFESS SIN? ARE THERE NEW AFFECTIONS AND DESIRES? IS SIN THE NORM OF YOUR LIFE?**

**\*\*\*\* ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS TODAY IN APPLICATION IN THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SIN AND**

**RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH JOHN HAS MADE IN GOD'S WORD.**

**(2) AM I CONVICTED OF THE HEINOUS NATURE OF SIN? AM I RESTING BY FAITH IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH OPPOSES SIN? AM I PERSUADED OF THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF CONTINUING IN SIN WHILE LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN?**

**\* FURTHER ASK: HAS THERE EVER BEEN A TIME OF DIVINE CONCEPTION WITHIN YOU? HAS GOD EVER ACTED ON YOUR DEAD SOUL AND GIVEN YOU A NEW BEGINNING? HAVE THE OLD THINGS EVER PASSED AWAY?**

**\*\* HAVE NEW THINGS COME? HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED PRACTICING SIN? HAVE YOU EVER STARTED PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS?**

**\*\*\* THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL REVEAL WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN.**

**\*\*\*\* IF NOT, CRY OUT TO JESUS CHRIST FOR MERCY. IF YOU SEE YOUR NEED TODAY, GOD IS AT WORK. IF YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT A CHILD OF GOD, GOD IS AT WORK. REPENT AND CALL OUT TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE OF YOUR SIN RIGHT NOW.**

**(3) DO YOU PASS THE MORAL TEST? IF YOU DO BY GRACE ALONE BY FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE, PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MERCY, LIVE A LIFE OF WORSHIP AND SEEK HIM FIRST THIS NEW YEAR IN YOUR PRIORITIES, YOU OWE HIM YOUR ALL. (LET'S PRAY)**