

THE USE AND MISUSE OF 1 JOHN 1:9

A. EXAMINING THE CONFUSION ABOUT 1 JOHN 1:9

Various teachers view 1 John 1:9 as...

1. a _____ for _____. (e.g. Gospel tracts)

Problem with this view: the context of 1 John 1 is _____ for believers, not SALVATION FOR UNBELIEVERS. Also, the condition for eternal salvation is _____, not confession of sins. (Acts 16:31)

2. an _____ of salvation. (e.g. John MacArthur)

Problem with this view: The conditional clause is “if we confess our sins”, it is not found as the _____ but the _____ as MacArthur teaches. In addition, John makes it very clear that he is writing this epistle to _____ not unbelievers, like the Gospel of John.

- Observations:

3. having _____ for the _____ believer. (e.g. Hyper-dispensationalists)

Problem: Why would the apostle John be writing to “Kingdom believers” in _____ instead of to the Church (which has been in existence for 60 years or so?) When did these “kingdom believers” and a separate message allegedly to them cease to exist?

4. having _____ for the _____. (e.g. Bob George)

Problem with is view: There are abundant reasons to believe that all of 1 John is written to believers, not to unbelievers, including 1 John 1. Furthermore, the “fellowship” John is describing in 1 John 1 is _____ not “positional”.

5. the _____ to being filled by/with the Spirit. (e.g. R.B. Thieme)

Problem with this view: This is a _____ in the Christian life and tends to become mechanical or mystical instead of _____.

- Is confession of sin for the believer a trans-dispensational principle?
- Which pile is bigger in the Bible? Confession of sin or walking by faith?

B. EXEGETING THE CONTEXT & CONTENT OF 1 JOHN 1:9

1. The CONTEXT is not salvation from Hell but _____ with God. (1:3-7)

- Observe parallels between 1 John and Upper Room Discourse:

- Observe that there is a series of five 3rd class conditional clauses following by certain consequences / promises that follow:

2. The CONTENT of 1 John 1:9

- Our part: *If we confess our sins,*
- Keep in mind that _____.
- What does confession of sin not require?
- God's promise: *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- What is the purpose of this confession of sin?
- Having confessed, now what?
- What is confession of sin contrasted to? (1:10)

C. EVALUATING SOME MISUSES OF 1 JOHN 1:9

1. Its **MECHANICAL** use — this merely _____ without _____ or an intent to _____ to the Lord.
2. Its **MYSTICAL** use — this views it as a key to a spiritual state instead of _____ a relationship / fellowship.
3. Its **MISEMPHASIS** — this views it as the key to living the Christian life instead of a corrective means to restoring fellowship with God so that the believer can now _____ in the Lord.
4. It's **MISUSE** — this views it as a _____ for sin. (1 John 2:1-2)
5. It's **MISUNDERSTANDINGS**:
 - a. It is for _____, not salvation.
 - b. It is for _____, and not for a future dispensation.
 - c. It is _____ for Christian living, and not unnecessary.
 - d. It is not the _____ to Christian living, but necessary when we _____ and fail to _____ under the enablement of the Holy Spirit.