

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 3- The True Test of Salvation- Part 1

26. Belief in God and Belief in the Reality of Sin Part 9

WAOY Wednesday 05/23/07; WOSM Monday 11/07/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about, “A Biblical View of Sin”. So, let’s open our Bibles and read **1 John 1:8-10** again together.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

In order to fully teach the Church about the correct view of both sin and Salvation, the Apostle John had to divide those who claimed to be saved and yet rejected Truth into three categories:

1. Those Who walk in Darkness
2. Those Who Live in Deception
3. Those Who make God to be a Liar

So, let’s examine all three groups. First, let’s look at Those Who Walk in Darkness. Look again at verse 6:

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

We have to remember, beloved, that it is in our daily walk and in our

personal conduct where Salvation resides. John says here that people who say that they have fellowship with Jesus Christ or in other words- those who say that they are saved- and yet walk and live and operate in darkness or in sin are liars. They lie about being saved. In other words, John is telling us here in this sixth verse that if you walk in darkness; if you abide in sin; if you dwell continually in that which displeases God- you are not a Christian.

Now we have to admit, beloved that the modern Church is filled with people like that. Many would agree that we have far too many people today who *say* that they are saved and yet are engaged in sin on an ongoing basis.

But the prevailing sentiment about this issue is that this is a personal matter between these people and God and that we shouldn't say anything about it. I disagree. So did John. Today it seems that the one verse that almost everybody knows, and quotes is **Matthew 7:1** which says:

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

Now of course the reason that many people use this verse today is *not* so that they will be Biblically correct- but simply to stop anyone from telling them that what they are doing is wrong- which is not why Jesus said these words.

John says that anyone who says that they are saved and yet dwells continually in sin is a liar. Now we can only have one interpretation of this verse and that is that anyone who says that they are saved and yet dwells continually in sin is a liar. If you go back to the original Greek and break all the words down – you will arrive at this one single conclusion about what John said here: John clearly taught that anyone who says that they are saved and yet dwells continually in sin is a liar.

So as leaders in the Church; as watchman over the flock of God; as overseers over the Household of Faith; as shepherds of the souls of men; as those who understand the terror of the Lord- we have the duty; and we have the responsibility to reason and plead and speak to anyone and everyone over whom we are accountable to warn them that if they dwell continually in sin- they should not think for one second that they are saved.

For any leader to turn their head and pretend that they don't see and pretend that they don't know; for us to say that this is just a private matter between that individual and God is to abdicate our holy responsibility to speak the Truth.

You see, if you are truly saved, beloved, your nature has been changed. And if your nature has been changed- then you love God and you love the things of God. And while it is true that you may not always be successful in doing what you know to be right- saved people never want to sin; they never desire to transgress; they don't ever want to displease their wonderful Lord. Saved people may well do wrong- but they are not trying to do anything wrong.

And this is the big difference between lost people and saved people. Saved people are certainly not perfectly sinless- I'm not saying that, and neither was John- saved people can and do sin- sometimes grievously- but saved people do not and they cannot abide *continually* in sin once they are saved because their new nature simply will not allow them to remain in sin continually.

And this is one of the infallible proofs of our Salvation that John gives us here- that we walk with God and no longer walk in darkness. Now lost people may modify their behavior temporarily- but they cannot and they will not walk continually in Light because in their nature- they are still children of darkness.

John makes it clear to us that those who walk continually in sin are not born again and we do have the duty and the responsibility to warn these people to repent and to be saved. And by walking in darkness- these people are shouting out the proof of their lost condition in no uncertain terms and so when we correctly hear what they are shouting- we are not judging them self- righteously- but we are simply agreeing with them and with John that they are lost.

John tells us here in verse 6 that for anyone to profess Salvation and yet live in contradiction to Salvation is to lie and to not practice the Truth. And to see what Jesus said to the Jews about this very issue- we need to read **Matthew 6:22&23**:

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Now in these inspired Words, our Lord shows us that it is a negative thing to be in darkness in a physical sense but that it is much worse to be in darkness in a spiritual sense. And in his Gospel Account, the Apostle John tells us that Jesus alone is the true Light for a world which is completely overtaken in total darkness when he said in **John 1:4&5:**

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

But as true as this is and as bad as darkness is- it is also true that in their normal state of operation, lost people love to dwell in darkness. John says that the reason that men love darkness and do not come to the light is because inwardly; inside their very nature- in their heart- they are wicked, and their deeds are evil.

So, to a lost person- true godly and holy Light is the enemy. True Light exposes their sin; true Light shines upon their wickedness; true Light will cause them to clean up their act and they intuitively know this- so to the lost; to those who love the darkness- true Light is something to be avoided at all costs.

Light and Darkness are opposites; they are not related; they have nothing in common; Light and Darkness are diametrically opposed to one another; their agendas clash; they fight against each other; they cannot co-exist in the same space at the same time. So, for anyone to say that they are a Christian and walk in darkness, John says is the height of deception.

So, in his customary style of being in your face- John says in verse 6 that no one who thinks or who says that they are saved and yet at the same time dwells in darkness on an ongoing basis as a normal function of their daily lives is actually saved.

Although John is quite brutal in his pronouncement- he is by no means the only one who taught this. Look at what our Lord Jesus said in **John 14:15:**

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Here Jesus is saying that if you do not walk with God, if you do not

walk in the Light; if you do not keep God's Commandments- you really don't love Jesus. So, Jesus is linking here obedience to what He says to love for His Person. There is no such thing as loving Jesus and walking contrary to what Jesus taught. In these seven words, Jesus is forever shattering the myth that I hear people speak all the time that they love Jesus- but they just don't serve Him.

Again, I look at this issue as one of value. If Jesus Christ is not worthy to serve- why would anyone consider Him worthy of their love? I mean if Jesus is not valuable enough to obey why would He deserve my love? But if Jesus is valuable enough to love- then by default- He is valuable enough to serve and to obey and to follow and to submit to. It is either all or nothing. Either Jesus is a myth or just a figment of someone's imagination or else He is Lord.

If Jesus is a myth or an invention of Man- then not only is He not deserving of my service- but He is not in any way deserving of my love. But if Jesus Christ is Lord- then I am sinning by not submitting to Him and I am a terrible person for not obeying Him and I am a liar if I think that I am saved and I walk in darkness.

Paul taught the same thing. Let's look at **2Corinthians 6:14-18**:

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

So if the music that you are listening to teaches you that there is no difference between saved people and lost people; or if the Church that you are attending teaches you that there is no difference between lost people and saved people; or if the pastor that is feeding you tells you

that there is no difference between lost people and saved people- then you are listening to the wrong music; you are attending the wrong Church and you are being led by someone who is deceived.

John and Jesus and Paul taught that light has no fellowship with darkness and so if we are to be Christians- we cannot walk in darkness; we cannot fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; we cannot be unequally yoked together with the darkness of this world.

Let's look at what the Apostle James said about this by looking at **James 1:22-25:**

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

The Bible teaches that all true born again believers possess internally God's very light and life within them. So saved people are not those who have just adopted a moral code or who have "straightened up their act" but they have been born from above and are new creatures. Salvation is not about making a decision or walking down an aisle. Salvation is a supernatural miracle whereby the old Adamic nature of the human being is miraculously transformed into a new divine nature that is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The Bible teaches that to the same degree that these people loved their evil deeds, now that they are saved- they now love God and the things of God. So, John tells us here in verse 6 that those who think that they are saved and yet walk in darkness lie and do not practice the Truth. Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.