

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 3- The True Test of Salvation- Part 1

27. The Correct View of Sin Part 10

WAOY Thursday 05/24/07; WOSM Tuesday 11/08/22

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

Now on the last broadcast, we studied the first group and today I want to look at the second group by studying those who live in deception. Let’s look again at verse 8:

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

The second group of people who falsely think they are saved are

those who claim to have no sin at all. The first category are those who just ignore their sin and say it doesn't matter how they live or what they believe but that they are saved by virtue of some prayer they prayed or by virtue of the fact that they joined the Church without ever receiving the new nature or becoming a new creature.

But this second group are those who proudly say that they have no sin at all. These people do this in one of two ways. Either they change the definition of what sin is or they believe that by virtue of their Salvation- that when they do sin- it really isn't sin.

Now as strange as this may seem to some of you- this heresy is not new. The Apostle John confronted this false teaching about 1900 years ago. Gnostic mystics brought this lie into the Christian Church toward the end of the first century and it has been in the Church and taught in various forms by succeeding generations for over 19 centuries.

Anyone who thinks that they can reach a so-called spiritual realm where they will no longer sin or where they will not even be tempted has no understanding of either the nature of sin or their own condition.

Now I am sure that I am going to touch on some of your own cherished beliefs today, but that is not my intention. But in order to comprehend what John is saying here about sin, we need to understand what Salvation is and what it is not.

It is popular today to think and be taught that Salvation solved every problem of the human condition. Many people believe and have been taught that by virtue of being saved- every bad or negative thing that can possibly happen to them has been eliminated and that if something bad comes to them like disease or financial problems or even trials and tests- that we are to reject them; rebuke them; ignore them; cast them out; or other- wise overcome them. Of course this false teaching has much more in common to the cult of Christian Science than it does to Biblical Christianity.

Many of us have been taught that if we just will exercise enough faith that we will never be sick; never have financial difficulties; never be sad or disappointed or even go through a trial. Let me say to you that such teaching is wrong and unbiblical and is not from God.

The sad reality of this false teaching is that it is like a carrot on a stick- promising people a reward if only they prayed louder; or prayed longer; or psyched themselves up; or if they talk themselves into it; or if they can just somehow manage to believe more- then all the money and

all the good health and all the prosperity and all the nice things of life- like the new cars; the fine homes; and the better schools; and maybe even a lear jet will come their way and all the diseases; all the pain; all the misery; all the suffering; all the disappointments and even all the trials will vanish away.

The net result of this heresy is that when people don't get healed- they are told it is their fault. They didn't believe enough; they didn't push into the things of God enough; they didn't trust enough. So not only are these people still sick- now this theology condemns them too.

I cannot tell you the anguish that I have seen as I have personally held people in my arms who just lost a child and were told that the reason their child died was because they didn't believe enough.

I tell you that this teaching is one of the most evil and wicked and cruel and ungodly lies that the devil has ever brought into the world.

Salvation did not rescue your physical body from all harm, beloved. That is not true. Salvation gloriously redeemed your evil nature- but not your fleshly body. Your body is in the process of dying and it began that process of death the day you were born. Every human being on earth is going to die. Some people will die young; others will die old; some will die sick others will die in an accident- but 100% of every human born of woman is going to die.

Your body is going to periodically get sick; it is going to change as you age, and you will begin stick out in places that you never knew existed as the aging process does it's work. Your eyes will need glasses; you ears will need help to hear; your step will slow down; your body will get tired more easily; and you will eventually return to the dust from whence you came.

God can and God does heal sick bodies today. In God's great mercy- He chooses to heal some people for His own reasons. Others, He chooses not to heal, for His own reasons. Healing is no more a sign of favor from God than sickness is a sign of displeasure from God. God does not punish your sin with cancer, neither does He bless you because you quit sinning.

No one earns healing any more than anyone earns blessings or earns Salvation. It is all Mercy from a good God to undeserving sinners.

Your faith didn't qualify you to be healed or blessed and your prayers are not going to twist God's Arm to get what you want.

People get sick because the human body still lives under the curse that God placed upon Adam after he sinned, and our bodies are going to return to the dust of the earth. Saved people get sick because although God has redeemed their sinful souls- their fleshly body has not been redeemed. There is coming a day though when our corrupted bodies will be clothed upon with new body that will never die- but that glorious event will not occur until we are Resurrected.

Now you can doubt what I am saying, but the proof that what I am saying is true is the fact that everyone dies. Saints die and sinners die- everyone dies. If it were true that our bodies were redeemed in the same way that our souls have been redeemed through Salvation, then only lost people would die- but obviously that is not true.

But in spite of the irrefutable fact that saved people die every day- some people inexplicably teach that saved people can reach a place in the Spirit whereby they will never get sick and they will never die. I'm not trying to be rude here, but it is interesting to note that everybody who was born in the nineteenth century and who taught that saved people can reach a place where they will never get sick and where they will never die are no longer here to teach us this lie because they all died.

Physical healing is God's business and is a mystery to every human on earth. God has not chosen to share this information with anyone. Healing is not based upon anything other than God's Will and you can pray till the cows come home- but if it isn't God's Will to heal someone- they will not be healed. And if it is God's Will to heal someone, then nothing can stop them from being healed.

The reason that I am talking about this today is that the same logic that people apply to healing- they apply to both blessings and sin. Those who believe that it is always God's Will to heal everyone who is sick and that it is just a matter of faith also believe that it is always God's Will to bless someone financially and that it too is simply a matter of faith and of understanding secret prayers or special insights into the Bible or learning the so-called "way of faith".

It is frightening to see how much in common these people have with the ancient heresy of Gnosticism than they do with Biblical Christianity.

If you accept the first two false concepts about healing and prosperity, then it is very easy to begin to believe that by simply using

faith or by trying harder- we all can reach a place in the Spirit where we actually cease from sin and even get to a place where we are no longer even tempted. The Apostle John says here in verse 8 that this is a false belief.

John says that anyone who believes or teaches that we can stop sinning does not have the Truth in them. Again, John was referring to the Gnostics, who taught that all flesh was bad and all spirit was good. This teaching had the effect of saying that since all flesh was bad anyway – that the evil deeds that are done in the flesh are really not bad after all- but are really good because they show the great contrast between the flesh and the spirit.

So those who followed Gnostic heresy felt the liberty to engage in horrible acts of lewdness and wickedness all the while believing that they were actually pleasing God and that what they were doing was not really sin.

So John teaches here in verse 8 that if we say that sin is not really sin; if we say that evil is not really evil; if we begin to call good evil and if we call evil good; if we say that when we commit sin that we are not actually committing sin- then we are deceived and the truth is not in us.

Christians are not free from sin. Salvation did not eliminate either temptation or sin from believers. Salvation allows guilty people to go to Heaven because our sins have been forgiven and we have been made Righteous by Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Some today reject the concept of Original Sin or they do not fully comprehend the Doctrine of Total Depravity or in some other way they minimize the results that the Fall had upon all who were born after Adam. The Apostle Paul give us a clear picture of the sinfulness of fallen Man in **Romans 3:10-23**:

- 10** as it is written, "***THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;***
11 ***THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;***
12 ***ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.***"
13 ***"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";***

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";
15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,
16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."
18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."
19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;
20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.
21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Bible is clear that Jesus alone was the only Person ever born of woman who could lay claim to be sinless. Anyone who makes such a foolish claim is only fooling themselves. It will not be until we stand in Heaven in our glorified bodies that our sanctification process will be complete and we will be both without sin and we will be unable to sin.

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.