

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Amen and Amen

Turn your bibles with me to 1 John 1

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this very powerful and practical personal letter that the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle John to write to you and me.

Not only does John remind us about the reality of who God is –

John reminds us about the reality of what does it mean to walk with Lord, to be obedient to the Lord, to have fellowship with the Lord, to walk in the Light.

In other words -

The reality of what it means to be a Christian.

Again, anyone can say that they have fellowship with God.

Anyone can be self-deceived into thinking that everything is a-ok

But John provides us with these tests that will reveal whether or not we are walking in fellowship with the Lord.

Do are actions match what we say –

John challenges.

If we say.....this is the proof

In our text last week-

[1Jo 1:6 NKJV] 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

We are walking in self-deception.

Jesus in Matthew 15:8 –

He rebukes the pharisees for their self-deception.

Jesus actually quotes from the prophet Isaiah.

[Mat 15:8 NKJV] 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me.

Our sin hinders our fellowship with Him and with those that we love.

In our text this morning – John is going to encourage us on how to deal with our sin so that we may continue walk in fellowship with Him and we may continue to walk in fellowship with each other and be able to know the truth.

The truth about what it means to know Him and love Him and be known by Him so that we can make Him known to others.

Let's pray...

Grace that has been given to us,

Mercy that has been extended to us,

forgiveness that has been lavished upon us

Read text –

In the life of the believer –

There is evaluation that needs to be made.

You see, self-deception is one of the enemy's greatest ploys for the believer.

To think we are something that we are not.

Listen to this warning that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth -

[2Co 11:3 NKJV] 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

You see church,

It is not a hard thing to get things right with God.

It is not a hard thing to walk in the light.

It is not hard to have fellowship with our Redeemer. All we have to do is to keep Him as our Redeemer.

All we have to do is to be honest with Him. Remember, light exposes everything, that is why some chose to walk in darkness.

All we have to do is admit our sin and bring it to Him and allow Him to remove it.

This is what John is going to tell us in our text.

This is how we can walk in the Light

[1Jo 1:8-10 NKJV] 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

I want you to look closely at the word “sin” – I had you make a note of the phrase.

Is it singular or plural???

It is singular.

If we say that we have no “sin”

What is John referring to?

He is making reference to our sinful nature.

[Rom 5:12 NKJV] 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

David – in the Psalms

[Psa 51:5 NKJV] 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

David is not saying that he was born out of a sinful relationship.

He is not excusing his sinful behavior by saying “it was my mom’s fault or it was my dad’s fault”

He is acknowledging the depths of his sin.

We are born in sin and rebellion.

[Rom 7:18 NKJV] 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but [how] to perform what is good I do not find.

As a believer, we have been given a new nature that wants to obey God.

He has rescued us from the darkness and brought us into the light.

Because of this, we will learn to walk more and more in obedience.

And yet, we are still stuck with our “old” nature.

We are not sinners because we do sinful thing – we do sinful things because we are sinners.

John is making this point to warn us about self-deception.

To warn us that people will say whatever they want.

Remember, one of the reasons that John wrote this epistle was because the Gnostics were going around the early church and saying that it really didn't matter how one lived their life.

They were making the claim that God only cared about the spiritual and not the physical.

Remember – they had a false view of the reality of Jesus.

So they were saying that it was possible to walk in darkness and walk in the light at the same time.

John is exposing their lies and others who are self-deceived.

You see church,

Those who are self-deceived / those who are living a lie – they hide their sin.

It is something we see in the scriptures from the very beginning.

What did Adam and Eve do after they sinned – they hid from God / they attempted to cover themselves.

What did Achan do when he took what belonged to God after He gave them victory in Jericho – he buried underneath his tent.

What did David do when he found out that Bathsheba was pregnant – he tried to hide it by having Uriah killed in battle.

That is what sin does in our lives.

You see church –

Nobody – besides Jesus can make the claim that they lived a sinless life.

And most believers will agree with this biblical truth.

However, not everyone will admit that they are sinners.

Some will choose to say, “I am only human” or “I am not perfect” or “I make mistakes”

This is not acknowledging that we are sinners – it is making excuses for our sin.

Why is this important?

God’s grace and mercy is extended to sinners, not to “those who make mistakes” or “I’m only human” or “no one is perfect” people, but sinners.

I had you make a note of the word truth in the last part of the verse –

And the truth is not in us –

Those who live in self-deception – the truth is not in them

The truth here is in reference to

who God is

who Jesus is

the gospel

the availability of forgiveness

the truth about what sin does and the remedy of sin

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

When I was being discipled – this was the first verse that my pastor made me memorize.

While forgiveness isn't something we can earn, one of the things we have to grasp is that it is conditional!

If we

We must confess the sins we want to be forgiven of.

Now, let me make this absolutely clear –

- confession isn't the basis of forgiveness.

what makes forgiveness possible is the work of Jesus on the Cross.

in His death - there's atonement for our sin – for all sin.

- but the value of what Jesus did at the Cross only accrues to those who receive it by faith;
- The kind of faith that admits sin
- The kind of faith that sees how wretched and wicked we truly are
- The kind of faith that looks to our Savior for help.

This is what it means to confess.

The word that is used here means to agree or to acknowledge

When we confess our sins, we are agreeing with God about them

We agree with Him about how evil and deserving of judgment those sins are.

Turn with me to Matthew 5

[Mat 5:3-6 NKJV] 3 “Blessed [are] the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed [are] those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed [are] the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed [are] those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

These first four beatitudes are summed up in the opening portion of 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sin”

Jesus said “Blessed are the poor in spirit”

- we have to begin at the place of realizing our spiritual bankruptcy before God; sin has robbed us and left us poor in the things of the Spirit

Jesus said “Blessed are those who mourn”

- this means we grieve over our sin
- We don't rationalize it or ignore it
- We lament on how sin has hurt us and others

“Blessed are the meek”

- the meek are those who realize they don't have what it takes to remove their own guilt and shame.
- The meek are the ones who come to the end of themselves and their own efforts at being righteous.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”

- realizing righteousness doesn't arise from within themselves but rather comes as a gift that only God can provide – it becomes their passion to obtain that gift.
- And just as our physical bodies crave food and drink, their spirit craves freedom from sin.

We must not lose sight of the context of what John is peaking oh here.

Confession of sins is necessary for maintaining continual fellowship with God.

sin is what breaks that fellowship

when we sin, we damage communion with Him because God cannot tolerate sin – it's a violation of His holiness- there is no darkness in Him

sin is an offense to God, and just like any offense that we make against someone we have a relationship with, it has to be confessed and forgiven in order for fellowship to be restored.

Jesus provides a perfect example of this on the night He was betrayed.

Remember, He began washing the feet of the disciples

And then He comes to Peter

And Peter says – Jesus, You are not washing my feet

He said, :If I do not wash your feet, then you have no part with me.”

to which Peter replied like only Peter would and said, “Well then, don't just wash my feet, but give me a whole bath!”

But what did Jesu tell Peter – you don't need a bath – you need your feet washed

Like Peter, we have been born again and we are now the children of God – that is our relationship

Confessing our sins means coming to the Lord and saying, “Lord Jesus, please wash my feet!”, please wash the filth that gets splattered as we walk through this world.

So, what happens when we confess? What's the result?

God is faithful to forgives us

We can depend on God to be true to His word and to His promises to forgive us.

He is not reluctant to forgive – He's ready, willing and able to forgive.

This is something each and every one of us needs to make sure we understand.

what does it say here? He is faith to do what? FORGIVE!

Some of us here this morning have a difficult time grasping the reality of God's forgiveness for the simple reason that we are not forgiving of others.

We are bitter toward others

We resent others

We are always looking to see if we can spot an offense in other people

Those individuals find it difficult to grasp the forgiveness of God because they think this is the way God looks at them.

So they are trapped in a prison of unforgiveness.

The good news is that God is eager to forgive.

God is so ready and wants to forgive us so much that He went as far as He could and sent His own Son to die for our sins and now, He waits for us to turn to Him quickly in confession so we can be forgiven.

In His faithfulness, He is not going to bring it up again.

God will not tell us, "I told you so"

He will not ridicule us when we come to Him

[Psa 103:14 NKJV] 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we [are] dust.

He is also just – don't lose sight of that

And the reason that it is important is because when we go before His throne asking for forgiveness – we don't approach His throne looking for justice.

Because in His justice – He would judge us.

And the penalty of sin is death.

We approach His throne looking on the basis of His grace and mercy

So why does John include that God is faithful and just.

You see, we are going to get into this in our study next week as we look at Ch 2 –

But the thing to understand is that when God forgives us of our sins – He isn't simply ignoring our sin or forgetting our sin out of the blue.

That would make Him unjust.

What God has done is that He has provided the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

And therefore, your sin and my sin have been judged on the cross.

Jesus has paid the penalty of sin.

God is not merely turning His head at our sin – He is accounting our sin onto the just and righteousness of Jesus Christ

Christ has satisfied God's righteous demands on us, so that now God is bound to forgive all who believe in his Son.

Remember Jesus' request on the cross –

“Father forgive them.”

He wasn't just asking for those who had placed Him there that day.

He was praying for all those in all history who placed Him there!

He was praying for you and me.

He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse

That word 'forgive' means to “send away.”

When God forgives us, He sends our sins away.

He takes the guilt and lifts it off us, and hurls it into the depths of the sea.

But then, John goes even further and says that God 'cleanses' us from ALL unrighteousness.

That means that His Spirit purges our hearts of the sense of shame.

He purifies our conscience.

He removes guilt from us and cleanses our hearts

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

In verse 8 we had a denial of sinful nature (singular sin)

But here in verse 10 – John is referring to the denial of sinful actions.

To claim sinlessness is proof that a person is not walking with God.

Think about the people who say the following,

God loves me and accepts me the way that I am –

Apart from God

Apart from Christ

Apart from the gospel

Apart from grace

Apart from forgiveness

That person isn't telling you the truth.

When His Word is showing us that we have indeed done something wrong, yet we deny that our actions are wrong, we are calling God a liar.

All sin begins by lying to others, then it moved to deceiving yourself – but it will always end with an accusation against God.

For the person who wonders – am I really a Christian – do I really have a right relationship with God –

John gave us three tests in ch 1

Do you enjoy fellowship with God's people (vs3)

Would people say that we walk in the light or walk in the darkness (vs 6-7)

Do you admit you sin and confess your sin (8-10)

You see, if we genuinely enjoy fellowship with God and God's people, if we genuinely walk in the light instead of the darkness, and if we genuinely confess and forsake our sin –

Then we have every reason to be confident that God is at work in our life

Do you see how powerful this is???

If our fellowship with Him has been affected by sin – all we have to do is come clean with ourself and with the Lord.

I want to end with this -

Ernest Hemingway wrote a story about a father and his teenage son.

In the story, the relationship had become somewhat strained, and the teenage son ran away from home.

His father began a journey in search of that rebellious son.

Finally, in Madrid, Spain, in a last desperate attempt to find the boy, the father put an ad in the local newspaper.

The ad read:

“Dear Paco, Meet me tomorrow in front of such and such place at noon.

All is forgiven. I love you. Papa.”

The next day, eight hundred Pacos showed up.

They were all seeking forgiveness.

They were all seeking the love of their father.

We all need forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, the Father WILL forgive us.

forgiveness is available through Christ.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Heb 8:12 NKJV] 12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

the sin God forgives , is the sin He FORGETS!

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace!

