

Title: Dirty or Clean
Text: I John 1:5-2:1

Would you turn in your Bibles, please, to I John chapter 1 as we continue our study of the Doctrine of Assurance. I John chapter 1 beginning with Vs 5.....(READ Vs 5-2:1)

PRAYER

We are looking at the concept of "FELLOWSHIP" as presented here in chapter 1. The word fellowship means "that which we share in common." And the thing that we share in common as a Christian is "ETERNAL LIFE". And because of that we can have fellowship with the Father and with the son and with one another. *That basically what verses 1-5 is saying*

Then John goes on to say that the one thing that hinders our fellowship with God is SIN. Sin stand in the way of fellowship. So, John in ~~is~~ *our* Scripture is dealing with some problems relating to sin.

In Vs 6..8..and 10 John presents three problems relating to sin.

Then in Verses 7..9 and 1 of chapter 2, we find the solutions to those three sin problems.

O.K...?...Now, last Sunday, we looked at the first problem as presented in Vs 6....This sin problem concerns the issue of OUR POSITION IN CHRIST. There is a false claim: Some folks claim to have fellowship with God. ^{That} is they claim by way of position to be a christian. BUT the actual condition of their life is that they are walking or living, as a habit of life, in darkness, or living like a non-believer. And the conclusion of John is that they are lying when they say they are a christian; and they are not practicing, as a habit of life, the truth.

And there are ~~many~~ people like that. And that is why the cure, Vs 7, is so wonderful. John says that if this claim is true then we need to get by way of position into the light as Christ is in the light. Then we will have joy and fellowship and eternal life. THE BLESSING: the blood of Jesus will cleans us from all sin...PRAISE GOD.....

(2) Now, let's come to Vs 8 and 9 and the second of these three fundamental problems relating to sin. In Vs 8, we have the issue of the VERY PRESENCE OF SIN...

I would like you to notice something here as we begin. There is a difference between the word "SIN" in Vs 8 and the word "sin" in Vs 10. They look alike, but there is a difference. And please notice it carefully. It is very important.

In Vs 8, "if we say that we have no sin." The word "have" is a separate verb. The word "sin" is a noun. And the word "have" means "to possess something." If we say that we do not possess sin". That is what it is saying. John, here, is talking about our "sin nature".

You know there are some people who get to the point in their life where they don't believe they can sin anymore. Did you know that? They believe they have lost their sin nature. So, in Vs 8, John is talking about your sin nature.

But, in Vs 10 he is talking about something else. Vs 10 says, "if we say that we have not sinned. Here, the verb is translated "HAVE NOT SINNED." Meaning..a particular act of sin. John, in Vs 10, is talking about a particular act of sin.

So, please, keep these difference in mind. Or, you will have trouble understanding these verses.

O.K. coming back to Vs 8 we have, here, the issue of the very presence of sin. And John says that certain people claim to have no sin. That is they claim that they do not have a sin nature.

Have you ever meet someone who would say: "WELL, I KNOW THAT I AM NOT PERFECT, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT I AM..." Have you ever meet someone with that attitude? HAY! let me tell you it is common... There are those people who really believe that they do not have a sin problem. They don't really believe that they have a nature that is going against God.

And John's ^{say their condition} ~~conclusion~~ is that THEY ARE DECEIVING THEMSELVES." ~~ADD THE~~

~~TRUTH IS~~ NOT IN THEM.

My Christian friends, we will never have victory in Christ...we will never know what it means to have a life of joy...unless we understand the terrible nature of ourselves. God says that everyone of us is born in sin; and there is still a sin nature in our life. Even when we come to accept Jesus as saviour....even then, that sin nature will be influenced by Satan to try and destroy us or defeat us, or pull us away from the truth. And if you try to argue that it is not there.....you are deceiving yourself And John's conclusion in Vs 8 is that the truth is not in us.

The word "deceive" gives to ~~us~~ ^{us} our word "planet." The Greeks would look up into the sky and they would see the planet, and they thought of them as ^{Moving} "wandering" through the heavens. They notice that the heavenly bodies moved and did not stay in one place. And not understanding why they moved they described them as ^{Moving} "wandering things." And that is the Greek word John uses here in Vs 8... ^{Moving} "wandering away from a give point." We are deceiving ourselves. We are straying or ^{Moving} wandering away from reality and being honest with ourselves ^{about God's Truth}

Let me illustrate.... A man was interviewing a famous hollywood actor. And the interviewer commented to the actor: "that there was a basic inherite goodness in all people. And he ask the actor: "How could you take on this present role in this new film?" This actor has always played one of the good guys. (If I told you his name, it might shadden your hearts). But anyway, he has been one of the good guys. But, now, he is going to be one of the bad guys. And not just any old bad guy. But one of the most hardened bad guys. All kinds of violence and corruption. And the interviewer ask: "How can you let yourself do this?" And the answer that the actor gave, I thought, was spectacular. He said: "All men are sinners and I find it very easy to be what we are." He said: "There isn't a single ^{Person} ~~man~~ alive who could not commit the worse sin possible. I am simple showing what we are by nature. I am simplely being honest. It is a very easy role to play."

I would like to have known what the interviewer thought of this answer. Especially since he believed in the basic goodness of all men.

But the actor was right. Oh, listen, God says the same thing. You will never know what a clean life is and what it means to live the abundant life unless you recognize the complete falshood of trusting in 'SELF'. You are deceiving yourself. You are ^{Moving} wandering from the truth. And John says in Vs 8 that the truth is not in us. ^{His Truth}

Out

Melvin

That is not the truth God taught. The truth God taught is that every person is a sinner. He has the capacity to do ~~the worst~~ ^{evil}. That is ~~why~~ why we need to fall at the feet of Jesus. And claim his power and his ability to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

out

So, often I hear people talking about how good other folks are. And I know what **you** mean. You are talking about the good things they do. But listen, the Bible says that no one is righteous. There is none that doth good. God says that our best deeds are as filthy rags in his sight. That is God's description of ~~man~~ ^{us}.

So, here is a fundamental problem about ~~the~~ ^{an} ~~man's~~ sin nature. And the claim is: If we say we do not have it. The condition is: we deceive ourselves - the conclusion is: the truth is not in us.

We ~~do not know~~ ^{are} what we are talking about. We ~~do~~ ^{is} not agree with God's Word. So WHAT IS THE ^{CURE} CAUSE? Well the cure is found in vs 9

out

Have you ever thought of I John 1:9 in the light of ~~what I have~~ ^{The meaning} just said ~~about~~ Vs 8. A verse Christians quote a lot.

Vs 9: "If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I would like to share with you what this did to me. After I really understood Vs 8 and faced honestly before God the awfulness of my own selfish sinful nature, it was like a drink of clear cool water on a hot sultry day to read Vs 9. ~~I want to tell you it was~~

"If we confess our sins." ^{That is} To recognize the awfulness of our sin nature. This recognition might cause one to through up their hands and say: "What is the use?" "How can any person be clean before God?" "How can any person be clean before God and not be involved in the sin and corruption of this world?"

out

~~_____~~

over Here is God's answer: If we continually, constantly, as a habit of life confess our sins - He is not talking about that shallow little confess that you make once in awhile - he is talking about confess as a habit of life. The Christian who knows who he is - knows he must be alert to his sin. And if we constantly confess it - which means to agree with God and what he says about my sin - the moment it happens.

my ~~The moment it happens.~~ ^{FOR EXAMPLE} If ~~you~~ lie, to say God I lied. Not to say: Well, "I had to." To say "I lied God. I didn't tell the truth." ~~you~~ ~~put~~ ~~it~~ ~~down~~

If we say the same thing about our sin that God does, if we don't hid it, if we don't try to excuse it, -- you know how it is in your life because I know how it is in mine - WE ALL ALWAYS TRYING TO EXCUSE OUR SIN.

✗ The point ~~is~~ ^{PHENOMENON} is to be honest with God. To say the same thing that God says about our sin. "If we confess our sins he is" two tings: "Faithful and ~~just~~ just." The word "just" is simple the word "righteous."

HE IS FAITHFUL. I like that. You know, God will never get tried of me confessing my sins. ~~God He is Faithful.~~ ^{WHY?} He is a faithful God. He knows what I am going through and he is ready to forgive me. He is faithfull.

AND HE IS RIGHTEOUS. He has to forgive me. You know why? Because ~~Jesus~~ Jesus has already paid for my sins - past - present - and furture. That is wonderful to know, isn't it? ^{and} No matter what I might do tomorrow, ^{if I see my sin as God see it} how I might goof or stube my toe, it is already forgiven.

you're I can't be any more "in christ" tomorrow than I am today.

✗ That doesn't give me a license to sin - that gives me LOVE for the one who forgives. It makes me wonder how God could love me as much as he does. He has forgiven me. And even though I will probàble continue to goof and sin, he has forgiven me because he loves me.

And all he wants is for each of us, individual, to agree with him and to say the same thing about our sin as he does. He, then, immediately brings us back under the control of the Holy Spirit. Filled with his love and joy with a clean heart and a clean mind.

And he says he will forgive. The word "forgive" means "to take away." The Bible teaches that when God forgives he removes our sin as far away as the East is from the West. God will never bring a confess sinned before me again. It is taken away..completely. Thanks be unto God. I am so glad that God will never bring up a sin that I have confessed. Aren't you?....Aren't you glad you have a God of forgiveness like that? He takes it away. And once more he cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

He cleanses us..right at that moment of confession...you have a clean heart, a clean mind. Oh, my frinds, why is it that we don't practice as a habit of life..confession? A person would be out of his mind not to. ^{do} You ~~can~~ know the cleaning and forgiving power of God? You can know clean life and a clean heart. If you would, only, as a habit of life agree with God as to what he says about your sins. ~~We need to~~ ~~agree with God.~~ To be honest and to realize ~~your~~ 'self' is in a battle with the will of God. To see our sin as God sees it. To recognize ~~on~~ what we are and to agree with God about our sin. And to confess that sin. Praise God for his forgiveness and cleaning power....

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(8) You do not have to sin

(30)

The third fundamental problem relating to Sin is found in Verse 10 and 1 of Chapter 2. This is the matter of the practice of ~~our~~ ^{A particular} sin.

It is concerned with individual acts of sin. Vs 10; "If we say that we have not sinned." It is referring to a particular act of sin.

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

First, we have the claim. Saying that we have not sinned - ^{SAYING} ~~Making~~ a certain act ~~a sin~~ - ^{IS NOT SIN what is} ~~we haven't done it~~. If we say that by committing certain acts, it is not a sin, if we say that, whether by thought, deed, or motive; ~~THE CONDITION IS~~ THE CONDITION IS -- WE ARE MAKING GOD A

LIAR. ^{For Example - If we say that gossip is not a sin, we make God a liar because He says it is sin.}

Now, my Christian friends, God teaches that all christians will sin. He doesn't want you to. And he has made provision so you don't have to. But all christians will sin. If you ever come to the place where you think you won't sin again.... You have just sinned. You made God a liar. God knows what we are. That is why he has ~~his~~ ^{his} solutions.

We are always trying to solve this sin problem ourselves, And it is not working. God wants to do it. AND HE WILL, IF YOU WILL LET HIM.

Now, you make him a liar and once more His Word is not in us.

~~So~~, does that mean that I should just figure that I am going to sin today? WELL, LET'S SEE. CHAPTER 2 vers 1.

"My little children, I am writing these things to you that you --- WHAT DOES IT SAY ---MAY NOT SIN." MY FRIEND -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIN. YOU DON'T HAVE ~~TO~~ TO. ^{Oh} You will never come to the place in your life where you can say: "I ~~won't~~ won't sin." Then you are making God a liar BUT, notice the contrast. YOU, AS A HABIT OF LIFE, DON'T HAVE TO SIN.

~~Now what?~~
~~we have an advocate~~
~~and he himself is the propitiation~~

(9)

Now WHY? HERE IS THE WONDERFUL CURE. "If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he Himself is the propitiation (that is the word for "mercy seat") for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

And again, what John is doing is bring you back to what you have IN CHRIST. YOU HAVE AN ADVOCATE.

and
Now, there are two meanings for the word "Advocate." Both are important in the Bible. The Word that is translated "Advocate" is also translated "Comfortor." In John chapter 14 and chapter 16 it ^{Talks} ~~talks~~ about the Holy Spirit being a comfortor. Jesus said; "I will send you another comfortor." "And he will teach you all things." Another comfortor, another one like unto me. The word "ADVOCATE" means "ONE CALLED ALONG SIDE OF." -- to help you, to encourage you, to instructe you.

and
~~But, now~~ it is interesting that in the days of the early church, ⁱⁿ the first century christians, the word "ADVOCATE" was used, as we would say, as a **DEFENSE ATTORNEY.** Someone who would defend you in court. WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER. He is a "CONFORTOR" YES. BUT I believe the understanding of this must be its basic meaning - and that is ^A **DEFENSE ATTORNEY.** THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE WITH JESUS CHRIST.

IF anyone sins, remember this, you have sinned and God must bring judgment. YOU ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT ROOM OF GOD. YOU ARE GOING TO BE JUDGED FOR YOUR SIN. AND SOMEONE IS GOING TO STAND UP AND DEFEND YOU. THAT SOMEONE IS JESUS CHRIST.

He is going to stand up and say: "Now, wait a minute. I have already paid for Bill's sin. I have already paid for that sin. JESUS CHRIST IS RIGHTEOUS AND IN HIM IS NO SIN. YET, HE BORE THE SINNS OF THE WHOLE WORLD UPON HIMSELF. // ~~MA~~

Here

John

And what is ~~he~~ ^{John} doing here? He is bringing everyone with an awareness of their sin, and wondering - how am I ever going to get to the place where I am not sinning - HE IS SAYING - REMEMBER AGAIN - every time you sin and are brought before the judgement seat of God there is one there, a defense attorney, Jesus Christ, who is righteous. And he pleads your case. ~~SOMEONE WHO~~

So, right away, as a christian, and as you study this whole issue of sin in this passage, these three problem in this series of verse, ^{Answer} the real ~~one~~, if you are a christian, that will be most meaningful to you - is Vs 9. AS A HABIT OF LIFE- CONTINUELY CONFESS YOUR SINS. Knowing that you have an advocate - a defense attorney who has already paid for ~~them~~, you are already in christ for he is the righteous one. And this is ^{you vs} ~~God~~, already, by way of POSITION.

THANK GOD FOR IT -- REST UPON IT -- AND AGREE WITH GOD ABOUT YOUR SIN. The moment you do - the moment you agree with God and ^{Confess} ~~admit~~ your sin - at that moment ~~He~~ is faithful and just to forgive you. ^{Because} WHY? Christ has paid for all sin. HE JUST WANTS YOU TO RECOGNIZE IT, YOU SEE.

We need to be honest with ourselves. We need to realize that "self" is in a battle with the will of God. We need to ~~see~~ see our sin as God see it. To recognize what we are and to agree with God.

Here

And then, my friend, if you don't know Christ today, and you are walking as a habit of life in sin and self, YOU SAY: Now, wait a minute, I am not a murtder." OH, God says for all have sinned and come short of his moral glory. AND IF YOU ARE NOT IN CHRIST YOU ARE WALKING IN DARKNESS. CHRIST IS THE LIGHT. IN HIM IS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. And until you are IN THE LIGHT you are in darkness. There is no middle ground.

~~Y~~

You ask: How do I get in the light? The place where I can have fellowship - which means to have eternal life - to have something in common with all christians which is the life we share. How do I get to that point?

Well, ~~don't~~ The gospel of John 1:12 told us how: "But as many as receive ~~him~~ ^{Jesus}, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." You see, you are not saved by your own desire, you are saved, ~~spiritual~~, b y the power of God. He will total change your life by putting a new life in you.

But, that experience of changing will be a gradual process. It is call growth. But, it begins ^{when you} ~~by~~ ~~accepting~~ Christ as the Lord of your life. It begins by being placed in the light, it begins by way of POSITION BY having fellowship with the Father and with Jesus. ~~By getting life from them~~ By having "The Life" which is Jesus Christ placed into your life. YOU ACCEPT IT. IT IS A FREE GIFT. YOU REACH OUT AND TAKE IT. YOUR RECOGNIZE YOUR ARE A SINNER. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF. THAT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE God WHO CREATED YOU AND TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER, You MUST ACCEPT CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD. Christ who died for your sin. ~~GOD has already forgiven you.~~

The question is: have you applied this free gift ~~to~~ ^{to yourself?}
I HOPE YOU WILL.

LET US CLOSE WITH PRAYER.