

Title: The Problem of Sin *and its Control*

Text; I John 3: 4-10

Open your Bibles, please, to I John, chapter 3. I hope you are enjoying your study from this book. This is a great book. For, here, we find the doctrine of ASSURANCE. How to know that you are really a Christian. Over and over again, people say they are Christians. But they have no knowledge of what the Bible says about being in Christ. They might refer to church membership, or how they live, or some standard, But, none of that has anything to do with salvation. Salvation which gives me a position. And a position that says I possess "eternal life." I have "fellowship" because I share in common the very life of God. That the moment I accepted Christ as my Saviour I received the life of God. I am now one who has fellowship with Him. It is a positional relationship with God which can be enjoyed, daily.

3A

Now, Today we come to

And ~~in this book~~, John deals with the ^{most} important problem that a Christian, probably will ever face: THE AND THAT IS THE PROBLEM OF SIN.

I invite you to follow along with me as I read.

READ I JOHN 3:4 -10

WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN A MOMENT OF PRAYER?

Our Father, we pray that in these few moments together, we might discover the secret and victory over sin. Father, we pray that you might assure our hearts, that we might have confidence that when Christ appears we might have boldness before Him. And Father, we recognize that ~~in this~~ ^{Listening} ~~service~~, today, are people from all walks of life. There are ^{people} ~~children~~ who need to understand sin. And father, ~~her~~ are young people who are faced with the temptations of this world ~~in~~ in ways that many of us have never faced. There are young people who are full of life and yet, they need to understand the problem of SIN -- least they be wasted at

its altar.

And Father, their are parents, here today, who desperly need to know the answer concerning the problem of sin and ints control in our lives.

And Father, there are people who have spent many wonderful years with the Lord, and they need assurance that when you come sin will be no more. There will be no more sorrow, no more death, no more pain.

I pray for everyone of us here today that you would minister to us according to the need within our life. And we will be careful to give you the praise as we pray in the preious name of JesusAmen....

(1B) (3A) Now, in understanding our positional relationship with God, John deals first of all with the great problem of sin and its control.. And I remaind you that John uses Verbs that are in the present, continuous tense. Thus they refer to ["]habits of life. ["]To a continuous habit of life. And this is very important to remember.. *We are not talking about one act of sin - But sin as a habit of life*

For example: look at Vs 9: "No one who is born of God practices sin." It is not referring to the "ACT" of committing "A SIM." It is referring to the practice ..as a habit of life...sin...And it is true that a person who has been born of God does not praticite ...as a habit of life...sin.

Now, Lets look at The problem of sin. I would like to deal with it in three ways....

(1C) First, the practice of sin.

8 And there are three ^{things} ~~things~~ *things* revealed in these verses about the Practice of sin.....

(1D) Number one, as to the nature of sin. Vs 4: "everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness." The word "SIN" is the Greek word meaning "to miss the Mark." Sin is lawlessness. Lawlessness is "law" combined with a negative: "Not Law"....

In other words "to miss the mark" is to be "lawless." For the perfect standard that God has for us is "the law."

Someone ^{always} ~~has~~ ask: "Do you have to keep the law to be a christian ? Answer...No....WHY?....Because Christ is the end of the law to them that believe for righteousness.....

~~ANYWAY~~ ~~NO, you do not.~~ ^{WHY because} ~~Christ is the end of the law to~~
~~them that believe, for righteousness.~~ However, I remind you that Paul
wrote in Roman ~~ANYWAY~~ 7:14 "that the law is spiritual; but we are of the
flesh, sold into bondage to sin." We have a nature that is prone to
go its own way. ^{And we are saved by grace not law} ~~We are self-centered. We are selfish.~~ But never
mistake this. The LAW of God is spiritual.

And in the book of Levitus, the Bible tells us that if we will ^{Follow} ~~do~~
the law we shall live. If a person could keep the law to its very
letter, he would have eternal life. However, the problem is, as
explained in James 2:2 : "Whoever keeps the law and yet stumbles in
one point, he has become guilty of all." [The person who transgresses
the law of God must suffer the penalty of that law. The penalty of
the law - ~~that which the law requires because of my sin~~ - is DEATH.

^{Death means} Separation from God not only spiritually, ^{But} now while I am physical
alive, and not only the subject of physical death, but eternally ^{spiritually}
The requirement of the law, if you sin, is eternal separation from God.
"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

So, there is one thing that I see revealed in the practice of sin .
That is the nature of this sin is: A VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF GOD.

The person who is practicing sin as a habit of life, ~~is~~ according to
Vs 4, must remember that he is violating the law of God which is
spiritual; and a law which requires DEATH as a penalty ^{for sin}.

To miss the mark is to miss the mark of God's perfect standard.
The glory of God was revealed in the law. His absolute Holiness and
perfectness, is in the law. And the NATURE of one who is practicing
^{as a habit of life} SIN is THAT HE IS BREAKING THE LAW OF GOD AND MUST SUFFER THE PENALTY.

(20) (2) There is a second thing I see revealed as to the practice
of sin. AND THAT IS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. Look at Vs 6: "No
one who abides in Him." That is in Christ by way of position.

No one WHO Abides in Christ sins:

"Does not practice sin. Whosoever sinneth." That is makes a practice of sin in their life. ~~Who has not seen him or has known him.~~"

If you are living in sin as a habit of life, the Bible says you have not seen Christ and you have not come to know him. It refers to an act on my part. A decision to know Christ. It is a decision of personal experience. The decision by which I realize that I am a sinner. And that within myself I have no possibility to be saved. And at the moment I accept Christ, who died for me, who shed His blood for my sins, at that moment I become a Christian. And then I abide in Christ *by way of Position*

And the person who abides in Christ ~~can not~~ ^{will not} live in sin as a habit of life. It is impossible. And if you live in sin as a habit of life,

It proves YOU HAVE NOT COME TO KNOW CHRIST. Do you understand

The need to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith ^{is important}

We may make lip service - an outward profession of being in Christ.

We may have responded at some time in our life to the encouragement

of Pastor, or parents, or church ^{or sst} and have made some form of outward

lip service to Jesus Christ. BUT I REMIND YOU THAT THE BIBLE SAYS

IF WE PRACTICE SIN AS A HABIT OF LIFE WE HAVE NEVER COME TO KNOW CHRIST.

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(3D) (3) There is a third thing which is revealed through the practice

of sin. And that is down in Vs 8: Here, we find the source of this

problem. "The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil

has sinned from the beginning."

Now, in the book of Romans chapter 5:12 we read: "through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world." Sometimes people will ask

the question: "WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?" "WHY ARE WE LIKE WE ARE?"

WHY AM I PRON TO SIN? WHY DO I DO A SELFISH THING? WHY ^{are people} IS MAN LIKE

HE IS? And the Bible teaches that through one man, Adam, sin entered

into the world. And so death, as a result of that sin, passed to all men, for all have sinned. If I have committed one act of sin, whether one or a thousand, I just prove the point. That in Adam all die. That in Adam all are made sinners. The source

And

~~What~~, One might ^{ask} the question: How did Adam sin?....And the Bible tells us very clearly. That Adam disobeyed a direct command of God. The Bible teaches in I Tim. 2 that Adam directly disobeyed God. It says that Eve was deceived, but Adam knew God's will, and yet, he choose to disobey. Eve was tempted to violate the command of God. She was deceived by Satan, who said things that were not entirely true. He added to the Word of God and he took away from the Word of God. But, Adam was not deceived. He choose to disobey the known revealed will of God. And sin entered the world through one man and ~~the~~ death passed to all men,

(2C) Now, secondly, in this passage of scripture God gives to us proof--- absolute proof---that Christians ~~cannot~~ ^{will not} practice sin as a habit of life.

And I want to say to you that this was one of the most encouraging passages to me in all of 1st John. Proof that Christians, if they really know Christ, ~~cannot~~ ^{will not} practice sin as a habit of life. What is the proof? 2 Principles

(1D) Number One, in Vs 5-6 we have the Provision of the Cross

Vs 5 says: "And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows him."....

Christ, God, came and dwelt amongst us...WHY?....So that, He might take away sins. In the O.T., when a person brought an animal sacrifice and put it on the altar and blood was shed, the Bible says that it was for a covering, an atonement for sins. In other words, the shed blood of that animal simply covered man's sin. And as God looked upon man he saw the blood of that animal as a covering. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him he said: "behold, the lamb of God ^{is} who takes away, not covers, but takes away the sin of the world."

~~Jesus came to earth. Him he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."~~

When Jesus Christ died on the cross he took away SIN. And the number 1 proof that Christians ^{will not} ~~can not~~ practice sin is the PROVISION OF THE CROSS. ^{as a habit of life} ^{What Does That mean?} When Jesus died he took away sin. He removed its effectiveness, over me. He took away its consequences - and that is DEATH. YOU SEE -- ONLY ONE PERSON COULD HAVE EVER DONE THAT -> AND THAT IS GOD. A man could not have done it. Only God could remove ^{The} ~~sin and its penalty~~ of sin. Thus, Christians ^{will not} ~~cannot~~ live as a habit of life in sin, because of the very provision of the Cross of Christ.

SUBTLY

In I Peter 2:24 we are reminded that Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

My Christian friend, let me remind you of something. When Jesus took our sins upon Himself, he ~~delivered~~ delivered us not only from the penalty which is death, but from the very control of sin. A Christian ^{will not} ~~can not~~ live as a habit of life in sin. He ^{will not} ~~CANNOT~~.

You say, Well, I believe Christ paid for my sins, but how does it work? It works by faith. How do you receive Christ? How? By faith. You mean, you actual just believe what this says? -- Yes ---

Isn't it amazing how many of us who have come to know Christ can in simple faith believe that Christ is our saviour, but we ~~can~~ cannot believe that when God said he conquered sin, and that it has no more power, no more effectiveness, WE CANN'T BELIEVE THAT. ~~Let's be honest~~ ~~There is no other doctrine~~ ^{says}

I want you to turn to Romans 6. Romans 6. As far as Christians our concerned there is no other doctrine as important as this one, because we are all faced with the sin problem. And what we do with it, and how we understand it, and how we understand the provision of the cross, will make all the difference in our happiness and joy, our peace and victory in christ and our assurance.

Romans chapter 6. Look at it carefully. Beginning at Vs 3

3-11

Read Romans 6:3-11

Now, ~~drop down to vs 11.~~ ^{Notice} ~~Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin.~~ It doesn't say that sin is dead. The first time you count sin

to be dead you will be fooled. Just watch. In the next hour you will be sinning. ^{Aware} "Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Now, ~~listen carefully,~~ ^{Remember} The Bible teaches that the moment you accept Christ, God gives you a new nature. It is His life. The moment you ask Christ to come into your life you receive the very life of God. It is in you. DO YOU BELIEVE IT? Amen

In the same breath, the Bible says your old ~~nature~~ was crucified and buried. DO YOU BELIEVE IT? (NOT TO MANY AMENS THAT TIME)

You see how little faith we have. HOW LITTLE FAITH WE HAVE. IT IS FAITH THAT COUNTS THESE THINGS TO BE TRUE IN MY LIFE. But I want to tell you something. Whether you have faith or not, it is still true. And a lot of Christians are going around reserructing the old man. And he has been crucified and buried. ~~of faith we have~~

Positional - if I am in Christ, I have a new nature. Old things pass away all things become new. I am in christ as a new creature. And I believe this is one of the most thrilling things taught in ^{I John} the Bible.

I ~~cannot~~ ^{will not} practice sin as a habit of life. ^{AND IF YOU DO IT ONLY, NEVER YOU ARE NOT CHRISTIAN}

You say, SURE, ^{But} I BET YOU DO. LACK OF FAITH. GOD SAYS I CANN'T.

WHY DON'T I REST IN HIM. We should thank Him -- and Praise Him - that we don't have to live under the control of sin because He delievered ~~us~~ ^{us} from the power and control of sin over ~~my~~ ^{our} life at the cross.

WHAT IS MY PART? FAITH TO BELIEVE HIS WORDD Just as it took faith to ask Christ into my heart, so I must believe that Christ has delievered me from the power of sin. CHRISTIANS ^{will not} CANNOT SIN AS A HABIT OF LIFE BECAUSE OF THE PROVISION OF THE CROSS

EXEM
10/1/29

Now, I must add one thing, least you become confussed. The sin problem will always be with you. We will never be delievered from the presence of sin until Christ comes again. But, do not mistake that for the POWER OF SIN. For now, as a believe I already, positional, have been delievered from the power and control of sin. And that is the exciting thing. My position in christ, abiding in Him, makes it impossible for me to sin as a habit of life.

(2) There is a second proof, here, and that is in Vs 1; This involves the person of Christ himself. "Little Children." Literaly it is "little born ones." And this brings us back to Chapter 2: 12. Why did he write to little born ones? Because your sins are forgiven you for his name sake. This book deals with the doctrine of Assurance. And if you are new in Christ, what is the most important thing that you need to know? You need to know that your sins are forgiven. That sin does not have power and effectiveness over you any more. Because of ~~the~~ the work of Christ at the Cross. And here is the exciting thing. Vs 7: "Little born ones, let no one deceive you." Do not let any person change your mind or cause you to wander away from the truth. Because here is the truth from God's Word. Vs 7: "The one who practices righteousness, as a habit of life, IS RIGHTEOUS."

Now Righteousness This is not something you are acquiring. If I am practicing righteousness in my life, I am not receiving righteousness. It only proves that I already possess it. WHY? Because Christ is righteous; and Christ live in me.

I cannot continue in sin because Christ is righteous and His righteous life is the only righteousness I have. I have non of my own. *just draw the personal relationship*

You know why Christians have problems with other christians? Almost all of our problems are related to the righteousness of Christ. We cannot look at the Christian who doesn't agree with us and say: "Hay, you are

in the sin nature

just as righteous in Christ as I am." Because we have built these little spiritual ladders and we have ourselves up on rung number 10 and other down lower. And we hope as long as he does a certain ~~amount~~ amount of things or doesn't do something, that he might be more spiritual than I am. But listen friends, God doesn't have any spiritual ladders. You are not acquiring any righteousness in your christian life. One person is not more ~~spiritual~~ righteous than someone else. YOU ARE EITHER RIGHTEOUS OR YOU ARE NOT RIGHTEOUS. If you are saved, you are declared righteous. THERE IS NO DEGREE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GOD'S SIGHT.

jump out

Aren't you glade of that? You know, the day I realized this was the day that my struggle were over. AMEN Why do we go on the way we do? Some of you are unhappy this morning because of this one problem. You are unhappy because you are not by faith realizing that the only righteousness a person can ever have is Christ. He is the hope of Glory. Amen

out

You know how to have the unity of the Boddy and to really love one another? You do it by looking at that person you don't like and say: "He is ~~righteous~~ righteousness in Christ." To realize that the life I now have is the life of Christ. And God sees the righteousness of Christ in me. I am so glade that God doesn't look at my old sinful nature; but he looks at me through the perfect life of Christ. AMEN I hope you get awholed of this concept.

(9C) Then, we have the final principle stated in Vs 10. It is the principle of family position. Vs 10 says: "By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious; any one who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."

Here we have an example of one who does not practice righteousness. In other words, you are in one of two families. You are either in God's family or you are in the devil's family.

Jesus said, once, to a group of religious leaders in John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. He is the father of lies."

And my friend, if you have never come to know Christ and you have never been born of the spirit of God, you are in the wrong family.....

You ask: is God going to condemn me?...NO....you are already condemned. "He that believeth not is condemned ahead." You are already a sinner by nature and by choice. And the result is death which is separation from God. Both, now through spiritual death even though I am physically alive. And forever - eternal death. And if you don't solve the problem of spiritual death, right now, you will be lost forever.

Christ died to pay for death, the result of sin. And the moment you receive him, you receive his righteousness. You receive at that moment complete forgiveness of sin. You receive eternal life. You receive the very life of God. ~~And you can never practice sin, again, as a habit of life.~~

How do you become a member of God's family? John says "but as many as receive him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name."

You can become a member of the family of God, right now, by asking Christ to come into your life. "Will you do it?"

Let us close in prayer