



Lesson 3: A Savior For Sinners (Text: 1 John 1:8-2:2)

Message focus: Last week's lesson addressed the first of three "If we say" statements laid out by John. Namely, that it is impossible to say we have a relationship with God if we are ignoring His commandments/ways.

In this lesson we will discuss the other two "If we say" statements, which center around the issue of personal sin.

1. We find the 2nd "If we say" statement in 1 John 1:8. John says we are deceived if we refuse to acknowledge and/or deal with personal sin. This type of deception can be summarized in the following three ways.

(1) I no longer sin at all. (2) I no longer need to focus on my sin. Other things are more important to me and God. (3) I don't sin in big ways like I used to. It makes no sense to worry about my occasional "slip ups".

Why are each one of these views wrong and dangerous?

A.

2. There are, generally speaking, two types of sin described in the Bible.

- Sins of Omission = Willful neglect. Failing to do something good and right. (See Matt. 22:37-39, James 4:17)
- Sins of Commission = Willful disobedience. Doing something we know is bad and wrong. (See Eph. 4:25-29)

Which of the two do you struggle with most? Why might that be the case?

A.

3. Read 1 John 1:9. It is often easier to "compare" our sins to someone else's than it is to "confess" our sins to God. Why is doing so unwise and nonproductive?
A.

Why are spiritually maturing Christians less likely to do it?

A.

4. Why might God use the words "faithful" and "just" to describe His response to us when we confess (admit) our sin to Him? (1 John 1:9)
A.

5. We find the 3rd "If we say" statement in 1 John 1:10. Here John addresses the presence of sin. As in our day, John dealt with people who refused to acknowledge that sin exists. They do not believe their actions are wrong or immoral. Unless there is a fixed moral standard people are free (*pun intended*) to decide what is right or wrong.

What standards do many people use today instead of the Bible to decide what is acceptable behavior?

A.

Are you ever tempted to adopt any of these alternatives yourself? If yes, which one(s)?

A.

6. What lies about the Bible do people use in an attempt to dismiss it as relevant or credible? Why should Christians be prepared to refute these lies? (1 John 2:1-2, 1 Pet. 3:15)
A.