

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOILNESS

Chapter 2 Lesson 9

Chapter's Subject: Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness

Main Point: Called Out (Part E1)

Sub-Point: Wholesome Life of the Believer (1 John 3:4-10)

Today's Study: 1 John 3:4-6

(a) V. 4: Depraved Nature

(b) V. 5: Design and Errand of the Lord Jesus Christ

(c) V. 6: Distinction of Lifestyle

Time is available for only a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

Introduction

1. Brief Review

(a) In lesson 6 and 7 we completed our discussion on "The Word in the Believer" (1 Peter 1:13-25)

(1) The passage was divided into two main sections:

- Vv. 13-21: He (the Apostle) Exhorted Them to Sobriety
- Vv. 22-25: He Exhorted Them to Sincere Hospitality (Brotherly Love).

(2) 1 Peter 1:13-25 was discussed in three lessons: (a) lesson 5 Vv. 13-21 (b) lesson 6 V. 22 and (c) lesson 7 Vv. 23-25

(b) This brief review will cover lessons 6 and 7

(c) **He Exhorted Them to Sincere Hospitality (In this case it is "Brotherly Love.")**
1 Peter 1:22-25.

(1) **Power of God's Word (v. 22)**

"You have purified your souls in obeying the truth ..." v. 22

- The Word of God functioning in the believer's heart as truth and light is the formal cause of sanctification.
- God has done His part; the human agency has his part to do
 - No one is made pure without personal intention and effort.
 - Remember: "In order to pursue holiness there is a need for diligence and effort."
- The divine agent in the purification of the heart is the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Rom. 15:16; etc.). The Holy Spirit purifies its man's responsibility to walk in the light and live in obedience.
- One of the products of a pure heart is "unfeigned love for the brethren."

(2) **Purity of God's Word (v. 23)**

"Being born again, not of the corruptible seed, but of incorruptible ..." v. 23

- You were born again by the Word of God.

- The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of new power and spirit in life. It is a new life, a renewed soul, regenerated (quicken) spirit that was dead in trespasses and sin.
- The new birth is so radical a change in a person's life that it can be best described as being "born again."

(3) **Perishable Reality (v. 24)**

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass." v. 24

- Man in his utmost flourish and glory, is still a withering, fading and dying creature.
- All flesh, all human being is like grass
 - There is no stability in anything that man does.
 - Man himself resembles grass that soon fades away and withers; but God and His Word endure forever the same.
- By all means take care, very good care of yourself; there is nothing wrong in looking presentable, but place emphasis on inner beauty!!
- See 1 Peter 1:3-5 and "Adorning the Heart" a brief presentation included with the Additional Information in lesson 8.

(4) **Permanence/Preservation (v. 25)**

"But the Word of the Lord endureth forever ..."

- You were not purified with that which is perishable -- the Word of God.
- The perishable man is redeemed by that which is imperishable. Man will be preserved as he allows the imperishable God to abide in him and he abide in God (John 15:1-11; etc.)

2. **Introductory Notes (1 John 3:4-10)**

(a) The wonders and depth of God's Word ... a quick thought

(1) The Word of God is penetrating, powerful, etc. it is also infallible, inexhaustible, etc. We can take some passages and present different divisions and all divisions are relevant to the context; 1 John 3 is an example, note these divisions:

- **Two main divisions:** (a) Vv. 1-10 (b) Vv. 11-24
- **Six main divisions:** (a) Vv. 1-3 (b) Vv. 4-6 (c) Vv. 7-8 (d) Vv. 9-12 (e) Vv. 13-17 (f) Vv. 18-24.
- **Another example of six main divisions:** (a) Vv. 1-3 (b) Vv. 4-10 (c) Vv. 11-13 (d) Vv. 14-19 (e) Vv. 20-22 (f) Vv. 23-24

(2) In regards to the second example of the six main divisions, note the following (*Listed without comment, the second main point will be used for this lesson*).

- Vv. 1-3: **Worthy Followers of Christ**
- Vv. 4-10: **Wholesome Life of the Believer**
- Vv. 11-13: **Warning Sign: A Mark of Satan's Control**

- Vv. 14-019: **Whole-hearted Love Emphasized**
 - Vv. 20-22: **Well-founded Evidence of a God-loving Heart.**
 - Vv. 2-24: **Witnesses' Qualification as Pioneers.**
- (3) We will discuss, "The Wholesome Life of the Believer" in lessons 9 and 10. In lesson 11 which covers "Additional Information" for lessons 9 and 10, I will present a brief follow-up on 1 John 3: 4 and 9. I will also present a brief coverage on verses 11-17.
- (b) The development of this lesson and its challenge (*briefly noted*)
- (1) Originally, I intended to expound solely on 1 John 3:9. However, by going through the chapter (1 John 3) I realized how God was directing me. As a result we have verses 4-10 cover for this lesson, as well as brief remarks on some other verses.
- (2) **Note these brief highlights on 1 John 3:1-3**
- The apostle expresses with great admiration and appreciation the outflow of God's wonderful and amazing grace, whereby, He has made us His children (v.1)
 - We are not only privileged to experience intimate fellowship with God but what awesome breath-taking privileges lie ahead for all believers (v. 2).
 - No one can deny the imperativeness of obtaining and maintaining a holy life. Those who hope to live with Jesus Christ must live holy lives because He is holy and undefiled (v.3).
- (c) **Many are living in ignorance of or denying the reality of sin**
(*This is a sad fact noted throughout this study*)
- (1) In today's, modern day Church (Universal), the fact of sin has been thrown out, trampled on, watered down, etc. resulting in the "Laodicea Type Church" and this sad state is very much evident in so many local congregations and denominations.
- (2) We do need to be compassionate, caring, etc. without compromising the standards required by God. The great truth is, no matter the compromise that is so obvious **nothing changes "The Book!" God still requires holiness of all His subjects.**
- (3) Whether anyone wants to accept the fact or not, it is established in the Word of God that righteousness CANNOT be mixed with unrighteousness!! They are as different a light from darkness, etc.; they are not the same. Beloved, a fountain does not flow sweet and bitter water at the same time!!!
- This fact we have discussed before but repeated for emphasis. **It remains undeniable, there is a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous (Psa. 1:5, 6; Matt. 13:30, 49; 25:32, 46; Luke 16:26; 17:34; etc.)**

- The saint and the sinner, righteousness and unrighteousness, Spirit and flesh, etc. repel each other, there is no cohesion!! (For example see Gal. 5.

Gal. 5:16-17 Amplified Bible

“But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certain not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.”

- There is a great need for the Church (Universal) to accept the fact that there must be a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - The Word of God says that we cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 10:21; etc.).
 - The Word of God says that he who **habitually sin**, is of the devil but he who lives a righteous life is of God (1 John 3:9-10).
 - We may soften the reality of sin, compromise the standards of God, twist His Words, etc. but the fact remains, sin is of the devil (John 8:44)
 - **Christians MUST live practically who we really are in Jesus Christ; we are called out of darkness and were once alienated from God but now called into an intimate relationship with the true an living God (1 Peter 2:9).**

(d) **Summary of 1 John 3:1-10** (Limited notes)

Some of these pointers were highlighted earlier.

(1) The law of God was given to man as a rule of life. They are rules of conduct, as to how we govern our daily activities. They are given with authority and are meant to enhance our lives to the glory of God. Note the following: (some additional pointers are included with the first pointer.)

- The law of God was given to reveal when we were not living by God’s standards; it exposes our sins and makes us realize we need God to save us by His grace and not our own efforts.
- The law of God was given to point us towards the ways of righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The law of God was given to show us how to glorify God through reflecting His image as we express faith in love and obedience.
- The law of God was given to offer a sign of obedience on those who are save by faith; for we are not saved by works but works show that we are already saved by faith.

- (2) **The objective of the apostle (John), as we will observe in the study passage (1 John 3) is to excite those he addressed (as well as us today) to holiness and discourage them (us) from committing sin.**
- (3) The apostle having alleged the believer's obligation to purity based on two things in the passage (1 John 3:4-10).
- **First, because of his heavenly hope (1 John 3:3)**
1 John 3:3
NKJV: "And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
Amplified Bible: "And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless)."
 - **Second, anticipating of communion with Christ in glory at the day of His appearing (1 John 3:2)**
1 John 3:2 NIV
 "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."
Now include verse 3(NIV)
 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as He is pure."
- Everyone who has the hope of heaven will aim to be holy like the Savior (we will not be exactly as holy Jesus Christ because He is God and possesses "absolute perfection" but we can experience "Christian perfection" which means loving God with our all and others as ourselves (Deut 6:5; Matt. 22:37-39; Mark 12:29-31).
- (4) The consideration by which the apostle would deter them from indulging in sin are as follows (See 1 John 3:1-10):
- All sin is a violation of the moral law of God (v. 4).
 - The very object of the coming of Jesus Christ was to deliver man from sin (v. 5).
 - Those who are true Christians do not **habitually** sin (v. 6).
 - Those who **habitually** sin cannot be true Christians, but are of the devil (v. 8).
 - He who is born of God has a germ or principle of true pity in him and he cannot sin (**he does not sin habitually**).
- (5) From a careful evaluation of 1 John 3, it seems evident that the apostle John was combating an established opinion that men might sin and be true Christians (See 1 John 3:7).
- The apostle addressed this issue with multiple arguments (*these will be discussed in this lesson and lesson 10*). We will observe that John spoke out:

- Against sin, the habitual practice of sin.
 - Against all communion with the impure, unfruitful work of darkness ... the result of one living consistently above sinful practices is a holy life without which no man shall see God (Heb 12:14).
- In lesson 3 (chapter 2), we saw Paul also using a series of arguments in what I have presented under the topic “Necessity of Sanctification” . . . it is imperative to live a holy life with the enabling of the Holy Spirit (See chapter 2 lesson 3, pages 12-25). See also lesson 2, where we discussed “Abuse of Divine Grace” based on Rom. 6, pages 4-8.

THE WHOLESOME LIFE OF THE BELIEVER (1 John 3:4-10, NB v. 9)

1 John 3:4-10 Amplified Bible

“Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness; for [that is what] sin is, lawlessness (the breaking, violation of God’s law by transgression or neglect—being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will).

You know that He appeared in visible form and became Man to take away [upon Himself] sin, and in Him there is no sin [essentially and forever].

No one who abides in Him [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him-- deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experimental acquaintance with Him].

Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous even as He is righteous.

{But} he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the evil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works of the devil [has one].

No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.

By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness [who

does not conform to God's will in purpose, thought and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ)."

Trying to get you to read these verses together; I will also present them separately as we present them in our study below.

A. Deprave Nature (1 John 3:4)

1 John 3:4 Amplified Bible

"Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness (the breaking, violating of God's law by transgression or neglect—being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will)."

Here John looks at the nature of sin and the intrinsic evil of it.

1. The unregenerate man by nature is sinful and he transgresses the law of God. We were all born with the inclination to sin because of the inherited depraved nature (Rom. 5:12; Isa. 64:6; Mark 7:21).
 - (a) Few people will accept the fact of sin as it relates to man. Some will react with fury, resentment, etc. to the fact that man by birth is a sinner and he is unless he is "born again" (John 3:1-11). The word "sinner" is regarded as insulting, etc. and as a result the Church (Universal) constantly make changes to please the general public until the reality of sin has become meaningless to many. The irony is, many are proud to be identified according to their depraved, immoral lifestyle.
 - (b) To most people sin is thought to be gross sins of society, the crimes that make the headlines of our news papers and telecasts.
 - (c) **The sins committed by most people are not thought to be serious as far as they are concerned.**
 - (1) Most people think that what little they do could never be interpreted as sin.
 - (2) Based on their classification of sin; to them they only commit ...
 - ... a mistake
 - ... a little slip-up
 - ... a failure
 - ... a bad decision
 - ... an irrational act
 - ... not a big deal because everybody is doing it
 - ... Etc.
 - (3) The truth is, this is not what sin is to God and to the Bible.
2. **Sin is violation of the law of God (1 John 3:4)**
 - (a) God has given a **law** to men to regulate their conduct, and whatever is inconsistent and is a departure from that **law** in any way is held to be sin.
 - (1) The **law** measures our duty, and measures therefore the degree of guilt when it was not obeyed.

- (2) The **law** determines what is right in all cases, and of course what is wrong when it is not complied with.
 - (3) The **law** is the expression of what is the will of God as to what we shall do; and when that is not done there is sin
 - (4) The **law** determines what we shall love or not love; which our passions and appetites shall be bounded and restrained, and to what extent they may be indulged; . . .
 - ... what shall our motives and aims in living ...
 - ... how we shall act toward God and toward men ...
 - ... and whenever in any of these respects; when its requirements are not complied with, there is sin.
- (b) **James 4:17 Amplified Bible**
 “So any person who knows what is right to do but does not do it, to him it is sin.”

3. **SIN !!!**

- (a) Sin is contrary to divine law (1 John 3:4).
- (b) Sin is acts off transgression or sin occur when does not obey the law of God (we have used the term, “The known will of God”).
- (c) Sin is disobedience which occurs . . .
 - (1) When we do that which is forbidden (**sins of commission**) (Gen. 3, NB Vv. 1-6).
 - (2) When we fail to do what is required (**sins of omission**) (Jams 4:17)
- (d) **Sin is both overt and covert.**
 - (1) **“Overt”** ... that is external ... appearing in the outward acts of disobedience. What King Saul did was easily seen (1 Sam. 15, NB Vv. 18-2) as well as so many other examples.
 - (2) **“Covert”** ... that is inward ... realized in unholy attitudes of mind, will and heart. Jesus reads the hearts Matt. 12:25; 22:18; Mark 2:8; etc. See also Matt. 15:10-20 and note v. 19; the corresponding account is found in Mark 7:20-23. Keep in mind “heart” in Scripture refers to mind, emotion and will, also referred to as the inner man.
- (e) **Sin must be seen for what it is in essence and that is “the rejection of divine authority.”**
 - (1) I guess that Prodigal Son was sick and tired of his father’s rules and regulations etc. but eventually saw what it means to wander away and have one’s own way.
 - (2) No matter how man modernizes the definition of sin and the Church (Universal) compromise; **sin is an outright rejection of divine authority!!**
 - (3) **When men reject divine authority, consequently, it is a rejection of God.**
- (f) **God is perfect and only perfection is acceptable to God (Christian perfection).** His people are to be well pleasing and acceptable in His sight (Isa. 56:7; Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 1:16;; 1 Peter 2:5).

(1) God will not allow any imperfection in heaven (Matt. 5:20; Mark 10:15; 1 Cor. 15:50; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:2; Rev. 21:27).

Matt. 5:20 Amplified Bible: “For I tell you, unless your righteousness (your uprightness and your right standing with God) is more than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

(2) Sin is imperfection . . .

- ... it is coming short of God’s glory and perfect nature.
- ... it is missing the mark.
- ... and we know that sin is a universal situation (Gen. 6:5; 1 Kings 8:46; Psa. 53:3; Prov. 20:9; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 6:2).

Psa. 53:3 Amplified Bible

“Every one of them has gone back [backslidden and fallen away]; they altogether become filthy and corrupt; there is none who does good, no not one [Rom. 3:10-12].”

(3) This has been repeated several time but such is necessary in order to be reinforced: man’s alternative to live without **habitually** sinning is to experience God’s forgiveness, His sanctifying grace and live obediently under the directing of the Holy Spirit’s control.

(4) **Allow me to expand a little more on the sin factor ...**

- Sin is choosing to go one’s own way in life, doing one’s own thing instead of doing what God says.
- Sin is living like one wants instead of living like God says.
- Sin is disobeying God, not doing what God says to do and doing what God says not to do.
- Sin is disobeying God instead of believing and obeying what God says.
- Sin is ignoring God and neglecting God instead of following and worshipping Him as He says.
- Sin is rejecting and denying God instead of confessing God; sin is living contrary to His standards for our lives.

(g) Because of where we are today, in the Church (Universal), in regards to the sin factor, and the need to genuinely separate from the prevailing destructive practice of sin; the call is: “it’s high time to awake out of sin and cast off the works of darkness” (Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:11; etc.). I will include some additional information on sin under the topic “Sin Emphasis Continues” in lesson 11. There are far too many who are satisfied with their external display of righteousness when their professed piety is vain and meaningless; when weighed in the balances of God they are found wanting (Dan. 5:27; see also Prov. 16:2; Rev. 6:5).

Although so many enjoy religion, it (religion) is responsible for the destruction of many precious souls. Individuals who are thus trapped in these manmade religions feel as if they are secure for heaven when they only have a form of

godliness and lack the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5). I was in that sad situation; I was a devoted member and highly respected but it was all praise of men because while it was true that I was wholly dedicated, I was still a sinner. God be praised for the miraculous way in which I was converted and now able to also say I once was lost but now I am found. It is all by the mercy and grace of God!! We all need more than merely going to church services, etc; man needs deliverance from the tyranny and power of sin, possible only through Jesus Christ!! However we must move on with our lesson.

4. I have mentioned before that “Christian Perfection” is a term used by some to define holiness. Remember also that this perfection refers to loving God with our all and others as we love ourselves. With this thought on love; I do need to continue emphasizing the importance of loving God in sincerity and genuinely, serving Him as He requires. With this in mind, I will close this first point with a quote by Dr. Harvey J. S. Blaney.

“Sinning is contradictory to dwelling **in Christ**, which is the experience of the Christian. The spirit of lawlessness is also contradictory to keeping God’s commandments Here it would be proper to say that **sin is transgression of the law of love**. Lawlessness grows out of hatred as obedience originates in love. When one acts from any other motive than of love, he acts selfishly, irresponsibly, and denial of the value and selfhood of other persons involved. To purposely injure another in anyway – physically, or socially – is to act contrary to the law of love; it is to sin. ‘Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law’ (Rom. 1:10).”

We can live a life of victory over habitual sin but it requires our complete dedication to Jesus Christ and live according to His will. We can walk in the newness of life as we pursue “Christian Perfection” which means loving God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength and it also requires us to love others as we love ourselves!!!

B. Design and Errand of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 3:5)

1 John 3:5

KJV: “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him is no sin.”

Amplified Bible: “You know that He appeared in visible form and became Man to take away [upon Himself] sins, and in Him there is no sin [essentially and forever].”

Here, John discusses the design and errand of Jesus Christ in and to the world, which was to remove sin.

1. A summarized view of 1 John 3:5

John wrote like this because **in Him** (Jesus Christ) **is no sin** and Christians are to be like Him. God never makes demands which we cannot attain (achieve, accomplish, obtain); He always provides the capability!! John says, **“And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins ...” (1 John 3:5 NKJV).**

(a) The design and errand of Christ is clearly seen throughout the Scriptures.

(1) Time wouldn't allow at this time for me to make a listing of the Messianic prophecies (a few examples are Gen. 3:15; Psa. 69:21; Isa. 9:6, 7; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; etc.)

- Jesus Christ is that long awaited King and Deliverer, the Anointed One. He is that divinely concealed mystery not made know to many generations (Col. 1:27), who was manifested in these days (Heb. 1:1-2; Gal. 4:4-5).
- The announcement of Christ's birth by angels to the shepherds as well as the prophetic utterances in Luke chapter 2 authenticates the fact that with the coming of Christ introduces a new era which we refer to as the period of grace.
 - The angels to the shepherds and how the shepherds responded are seen in Luke 2:8-20.
 - Simenon's prophetic utterance found in Luke 2:21-35.
 - The prophetess Anna's prophetic utterance in Luke 2:36-40.
- **Another Messianic prophecy was fulfilled!! Glory to God!!**
Isa. 9:2 NKJV

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.”

(2) **Mat. 1:21 Amplified Bible**

“She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God].”

(3) **John 1:29 NKJV**

“The next day, John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

(b) The Redeemer was not only promised but He came, was known and can be known ... See 1 John 1:3

(1) He came to vindicate and exalt divine law.

(2) He accomplished His mission by:

- Obedience to the precept of divine will.
- Subjecting and suffering under the penal sanction, under the curse.

(3) Because of His accomplished mission, we have “eternal life (John 3:16; 10:28; 1Peter 1:2; 5:12, 13; etc.). **John defines eternal life in terms of Christ. It can be found only through faith and fellowship with Jesus Christ** (1 John 1:2, 6, 7; 2:22-25; 5:20).

2. **Jesus Christ the Redeemer!!**

(a) Read Phil. 2

(1) Note carefully Vv. 5-12; I will quote Vv.7-11

(2) **Phil. 2:7-11 NKJV**

“But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

Taking these verses by themselves we have sufficient material for another lesson; however, at this time I am quoting only as a source of reference. I pray that you will take time to do your own study on the passage.

(b) The design and errand of Jesus Christ is clearly made known in 1 John 3:5: **He came to take away our sins; and yes, He was worthy: and in Him is no sin!!**

(1) To take away the guilt of our sins by the sacrifice of Himself.

(2) To take away the pollution of our sins by implanting a new nature in us (regeneration).

(3) He takes away sin, that He may conform us to Himself and in Him is no sin.

(4) The yoke and bondage of sin can be broken! Jesus give a gracious invitation to ALL who “labor and are heavy laden” with the troubles of life and their sin (See Matt. 11:28-30)

(5) **The end goal is to be like Him! Remember, in essence the best way to describe a holy life is “Christlikeness”!! OH TO BE LIKE HIM!!!**

(6) How is it possible for Christ to actually remove our sins and take them away so that God can accept us?

- It is possible because of His sinless life.
 - **1 John 3:5: “... in Him is no sin.”**
 - See also 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22.
- Jesus Christ was (is) **perfectly** righteous, the very embodiment of righteous and holiness.
- **This differs from the Old Testament system.**
 - Under the Old Testament sacrifice, a lamb without blemish was offered as a sacrifice for sin.
 - **In the New Testament period (period of grace), Jesus Christ is “the Lamb of God who take away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).**
 - Because Jesus Christ lived a perfect life and sacrificed Himself for our sins, we can be completely forgiven.
 - We can look back to His death for us and know that we need never suffer eternal death (1 Peter 1:18-20).
- **Jesus Christ secured the perfect and ideal righteousness; He was the perfect and “Ideal Man”!!** Let’s summarize as follows:

- Because of what the Ideal Man (Jesus Christ) did, it provided a covering for man.
- This means when Jesus Christ died, His death was the perfect sacrifice for man.
- He was the Perfect Man, so He was able to die as the perfect sacrifice.
- God was able to accept His death as the perfect sacrifice for sin (See Isa. 53; etc.).
- Remember: we are declared righteous because of Jesus Christ's righteousness; holy because of His holiness!!

1 Cor. 15:10a Amplified Bible

"But by grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect) ..."

3. This is the great love of God for man, the giving of His Son to die for the sins of man (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-11; Eph. 2:4; 1 John 1:3; 4:9; etc.)
 - (a) How eternally thankful we ought to be ... we should daily live in adoration and appreciation, as we practically adopt to the life of righteousness and true holiness which is our reasonable response to an awesome God!!
 - (b) God gave us His best!! His very best!! Jesus Christ gave His life!! Because such sacrifice was to redeem lost and hell-bound humanity, our test of love is to turn away from sin!!
 - (c) **GIVE THANKS!!**
 Give thanks with a grateful heart
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
4. **Practical Lessons (from 1 John 3:5)**
 - (a) We profess to be the followers of Christ, and should carry out His ends in view as to why He came into the world ("We Have a Story to Tell to the Nations!!").
 - (b) The great and leading purpose of His coming was to set us free from the bondage of transgression.

Redemption cometh, Praise the Lord
 What a wonderful feeling, Glory to His name
 I am out of the bondage; I'm into God's freedom
 By the blood of Jesus; Praise the Lord!!

- (c) In order for Christ to accomplish this goal:
 - (1) He gave Himself up to a life of poverty, shame and sorrow
 - (2) He gave Himself to a most humiliating, intense pain and a most bitter death on the cross!!

HE DID IT ALL FOR ME!!!

ALL THE WAY TO CALARY HE WENT FOR ME

... ..

HE DIED TO SET ME FREE!!!

- (d) **We should not indulge in that from which He came to deliver us, and which cost Him so much toil and such a horrible death!!**
- (1) How could we indulge in that which has brought heavy calamity on the head of a father, or which has pierced a mother's heart with many sorrows?
 - (2) Still more, how can we be so ungrateful and hardhearted as to indulge in that which crushed our Redeemer in death!!
- (e) Once more I must stress the imperativeness to be holy!!
- (1) As He was perfectly spotless, **all** His followers should aim to be as He is. We will not attain His perfection (absolute perfection) but we can have a perfection of love for Him!! OH TO BE LIKE HIM!!!
 - (2) No one can truly claim to be His who do not desire and design to become **like Him!!**
 - **Heb. 7:26 Amplified Bible:** "[Here is] the High Priest [perfectly adapted] to our needs as was fitting – holy, blameless, unstained by sin, separated from sinners, and exalted higher than the heavens."
 - See also 1 Peter 2, NB Vv. 21-25.
- (f) **Those that expect communion with Christ above, should study communion with Him here in utmost purity**

Matt. 5:8 Amplified Bible

"Blessed (happy, enviably fortunate, and spiritually prosperous --- possessing the happiness produced by the experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His grace, regardless of their outward conditions) are the pure in heart, for they shall see God! [Psa.24:3, 4]."

C. Distinction of Lifestyle (1 John 3:6)

1 John 3:6 Amplified Bible

"No one who abides in Him [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him – deliberately, knowingly and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experimental acquaintance with Him]."

Here, John argues from the opposition between sin and real union or adhesion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Abide In Him!!

(a) **1 John 3:6**

- (1) **KJV:** "Whosoever abideth in Him ..."
- (2) **Amplified Bible:** "Whoever says he abides in Him ..."

(b) See also **1 John 2:6**

- (1) "He who says he abides in Him ..." (**NKJV**)

- He who remains in the belief of His (Jesus Christ) doctrines, and in the comfort and practice of righteousness.
 - The expression here is one of those which refer to the intimate union between Christ and His people.
- (2) He who claims to be in Christ “ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:6b NKJV).
- The incentive here is the believer “**Ought ... to walk just as He walked**” in other words a genuine believer patterns his life after that of Jesus Christ.
 - We ought to strive more and more to be like Jesus Christ.
 - If he (the believer) is one with Christ or professed to be united with Him, he ought to **imitate Him in all things** (John 13:15).
 - **See Eph.5, NB. v. 1**
- Eph. 5:1 Amplified Bible**
 “Therefore be **imitators** of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father].”
- (c) **1 John 3:6 ... “abides” (NKJV) ... “abideth” (KJV)**
- (1) The word means to remain, to dwell, to continue, stay, sojourn and rest in **Christ**
- (2) It is used of persons remaining or dwelling in a place, in the sense of abiding there permanently, or lodging there.
- (3) See Matt. 10:11; 26:38; Mark 6:10; Luke 1:56.
- (d) In the writings of John, “abide” is quite a favorite word to denote the relationship one sustains to another . . .
- (1) . . . in the sense of being united to Him ...
- (2) . . . or remaining with Him in affection and love ...
- (3) . . . being with him in heart, mind and will.
- (e) We live in Him; we remain steadfast in our attachment to Him, as we do in our own home.
- (f) Some examples of such usage (the use of abide or abiding) found in John are: John 5:38; 6:56; 14:10,17; 15:4, 7, 9; 1 John 2:6, 10, 14, 17, 27,28; etc.
2. “Whosoever abideth in Him **sinneth not ...**” (1 John 3:6a KJV)
- The emphasis here is: “**sinneth not**”*
- (a) To sin, as used here, is the same as to commit sin.
- (b) To commit sin, as used here, refers to the practice of sin.
- (c) The passage teaches a most important truth in regards to the true Christian.
- (1) **He who is born again does not sin habitually, nor is he a habitual sinner.**
- Read 1 John 3:6 ... I call your attention once more to the importance of **abiding in Christ!**
 - A vital union with the Lord Jesus Christ breaks the power of sin in the heart and nature.
 - There **MUST** be a continuance in Christ which assures victory over sin.
 - Those who abide **in their covenant with Christ** will be watchful and walk in the newness of life . . . he stays in the light!!

(2) **He who is born again does not do wrong deliberately and of design.**

- The truth need to be understood by so many who profess to be Christians; it must be understood that **the genuine born again, who abides in Christ, is not a willfully and deliberate sinner.**
- **The man who deliberately and intentionally does wrong proves by his lifestyle that something is missing ... he is falling short of the glory of God ... he is missing the mark!!**

3. **Whosoever sinneth ... 1 John 3:6 KJV**

(a) As we have seen above “sinneth” in this passage **refers to sinning habitually, deliberately, etc.**

(1) One scholar renders this phrase as: “Who habitually and avowedly sinneth.”

(2) Within the Church (Universal) there is too much emphasis on externalism, some will do everything to be externally impressive but in reality is void of the genuine presence of God.

- There is that look of dedication, devotedness, etc. but it is all sham (hoax); it is an act of deception ... definitely sanctimonious!!
- Some practice sin in the dark, others do so openly and without any conviction of the evil habit. Sad to say that this is evident in too many churches and among various ranks. Some of these offenders are not only professed believers but claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit; which is definitely inconsistent with righteousness and true holiness required by God!!
 - They preach like Paul but in God’s sight they are wretched, miserable, etc.
 - They sing like angels but live like the devil.
 - They pray like saints but live like sinners.
 - They are lively and excited but are nothing more than noisy gongs and tinkling cymbals.
 - Etc.
- Time wouldn’t allow for detailed discussion but the outcomes of each inconsistency are disastrous and I encourage a reality check and if you are falling short, getting weak, etc. turn to God in sincerity. I will have time to draw attention to two references that show the consequences of living contrary to what we profess and you are encouraged to study the context in which they are used.
 - Old Testament **Isaiah 1** note carefully **Vv. 13-20**
 - New Testament ... a rather short passage **Matt. 7:21-23**
 - Etc.

(b) This is a sad note but the facts are very much evident. There are far too many individuals, within the Church (Universal) who go through the motion of worship and continue to give the impression that all is well when their life style says

otherwise. Such examples distort the testimony of the Church and undoubtedly, not pleasing in the eyes of God.

(1) This is not being judgmental, that is not and never has been our intention.

The concern here is in regards to the many that are lost in the name of religion. They are allowed to feel secure of everlasting life even though they **habitually sin**. Religion may say one thing but the Word of God is specific; here are a few references Prov. 26:23; Isa. 1:10-15; 29:13-16; 58:1-4; Ezek. 33:31,32; Matt. 23:28; Mark 7:6; Titus 1:16; etc. Amidst it all God's mercy has been extended Isa. 1:18, 19; 55:1; etc.; however, the response to God's open invitation must be made while the offer is still available Isa. 55:6, 7; 2 Cor. 6:2

(2) **As people of God, we must stay focused on the fact that we have a covenant with a holy God who indeed is "glorious in holiness" (Ex. 15:11). This holy God requires His subjects to be holy (Lev. 11:44, 45; 1 Peter 1:15, 16; etc.)**

4. The distinction between the two lifestyles are made obvious in this verse

*Above we noted "Whosoever abideth in Him (God) does not **habitually sin**." 1 John 3:6a*

1 John 3:6b

KJV: "Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."

NKJV: "Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him."

Amplified Bible: "No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him, [recognize, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experiential acquaintance with Him]."

(a) The believer who **abides in Christ**, abides in the potent light and knowledge of Him; and therefore, he that **habitually sins**, does not have his mind impressed with a sound biblically based discerning of Jesus Christ, neither has an experimental acquaintance with Him.

(b) Observe carefully: "has neither **seen** Him nor **known** Him." (1 John 3:6b NKJV)

(1) The verbs "seen" and "known," (perfect tense) refers to action that occurred in the past with its results continuing to the present moment.

(2) In 1 John 3:6, John is saying that no one who is living in sin has seen (and continues to see) Him, nor has known (and continues to know) Him.

(3) **The application refers to those who have never had real faith in Christ or the apostate who knew God in the past but have not continued knowing Him in the present.**

(c) Practical renunciation of sin is great evidence of spiritual union with, continuance in, and saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 1:6 Amplified Bible

“For the Lord knows and is fully acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly [those living outside God’s will] shall perish (end in ruin and come to nought).”

- (d) The choice must be made as to who we will serve see Joshua 24:1-28. The challenge given in essence was: “How long will you halt and limp between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him!” Note carefully verses 14-23 with emphasis on verses 14 and 15.

- (e) **Jesus is the Light Abide in Him!!**

John 12:35-36a Amplified Bible

“So Jesus said to them. You will have the Light only a little while longer. Walk while you have the Light [keep on living by it], so that darkness may not overtake and overcome you. He who walks about in the dark does not know where he goes [he is drifting]. While you have the Light, believe in the Light [have faith in it, hold to it, rely on it], that you may become sons of Light and be filled with Light ...”

The hymn: **Holiness unto the Lord**

Second Stanza

“Called unto holiness,” Children of light,
Walking with Jesus in garments of white;
Raiment unsullied, nor tarnished with sin,
God’s Holy Spirit abiding within.

Refrain

“Holiness unto the Lord” is our watch-word and song,
“Holiness unto the Lord” as we’re marching along.
Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
“Holiness unto the Lord,” now and forever.

2 Tim. 2:15**KJV**

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

Chapter 2 Lesson 9 Review Questions

- Match the references on the right with their corresponding statements on the left. Based on our review of 1 Peter 1:22-23. (The statements are not presented here in sequence as presented in our study)

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCES	JUMBLED REFERENCES
"Being born again, not of the corruptible seed but of incorruptible." (Purity of God's Word)		1 Peter 1:24
"But the Word of the Lord endureth forever..." (Permanence/Preservation)		1 Peter 1:22
"You have purified your souls in obeying the truth." (Power of God's Word)		1 Peter 1:23
"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass." (Perishable Reality)		1 Peter 1:25

- Briefly explain what is being taught in 1 John 3:1 and 2. Comment on each verse individually.

- What very important message is conveyed in 1 John 3:3?

4. Give at least three reasons why the law (rules of conduct) was given by God.

5. When we carefully review 1 John 3, what objective the apostle intended to accomplish?

6. In 1 John 3:4-10, upon what two things the believer's obligations were based in living a life of purity?

7. In what ways the apostle (John) deter (prevented from, discouraged, etc.) those he addressed from indulging in sin?

8. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer: It is evident that the apostle John was taking action against the teaching that men might sin and remain true Christians (Give reference).

9. Complete the following:

The law is the (a) _____ of what is the (b) _____
of God as to (c) _____ we (d) _____ do; and
when that is (e) _____ done there is (f) _____.

10. Based on the Word of God, what is sin? Give references.

11. Explain what is meant by (a) sins of commission (b) sins of omission. Give references.

12. Complete the following:

Sin must be (a) _____ for what it is, in (b) _____
and that is "the (c) _____ of (d) _____
(e) _____.

13. Complete by choosing the correct answer listed below: "When men reject divine authority, consequently it is a _____

- (a) unintentional mental blunder
- (b) little unavoidable slip-up
- (c) ignorant, irrational act
- (d) rejection of God

14. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer:

Some of the things required by God are difficult and not attainable.

15. Explain what was the design and errand of Jesus Christ (1 John 3:5).

16. How was it made possible that we can experience complete forgiveness through Jesus Christ?

17. In what way did God expressed His great love for man? Give references.

18. Complete the following:

We should not (a) _____ in that from which He came to
(b) _____ us, and which (c) _____
Him so much (d) _____ and such a (e) _____
(f) _____.

19. Explain what is meant by “**Whosoever abideth in Him ...**” (1 John 3:6a KJV)

20. Choose the correct answer from the list below

The believer **“Ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked”** (1 John 2:6b). This statement means:

- (a) To think that he is just like Jesus in every way.
- (b) To pattern his life after that of Jesus.
- (c) To feed the multitudes exactly as Jesus did.
- (d) To day dream that he is living like Jesus.

21. In the writings of John “abide” is a favorite word used to indicate relationship one sustains to another. Give ways in which this relates to our abiding in Jesus Christ.

22. 1 John 3:6a: **“Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not ...”** What two great truths are taught in regards to the true Christian (based on 1 John 3:4-10).

23. Explain the usage of **“sinneth”** in 1 John 3:6.

24. According to 1 John 3:6, what does it say in regards to anyone who **habitually sins**?

25. Complete the following:

Practical (a) _____ of sin is great (b) _____
of spiritual (c) _____ with (d) _____
in and saving (e) _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.