

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 15- The Affections of the Heart

142. The Assurance of Salvation- Part 11

WAOY Tuesday 01/29/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what the Apostle John taught about, "The Assurance of Salvation". So, let's read **1John 3: 19-24** again together:

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the three questions that we need to ask and answer about this issue:

1. What happens when someone who is saved- sins?
2. How are sins that are committed *after* Salvation paid for?
3. And just how do our sins that we commit after we are saved affect our Salvation?

And we have found out that how you answer these three questions formulates your view of just how secure and steadfast your Assurance is. Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the first question and on today's broadcast- I want to look at the second:

2. How are sins that are committed *after* Salvation paid for?

Now in order to comprehend this *second* issue- we must restate what the Bible teaches about forgiveness in the first place. Forgiveness is a precious and wonderful commodity that God has brought to sinful men through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are forgiven and washed and cleansed by being bathed in the sinless, spotless Blood of Jesus Christ.

God the Father placed all of our sins on God the Son and Jesus literally became sin in one of the greatest acts of Mercy and Grace the world has ever seen. The sinless Christ became pure sin- not because He *personally* did anything wrong- but only because God placed all of our sins upon Him. So every evil intention of our hearts; every secret perversion; ever wicked concept; every evil deed; every transgression; every horrible act was laid upon the sinless Son of God and in that moment- Jesus became sin. Nothing was left out; nothing was overlooked; nothing was forgotten. Jesus took on Himself the sins of us all. Let's read **2 Corinthians 5:21**:

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Now this verse clearly says that God the Father made Jesus to be sin- and look at the next three words- "**on our behalf**". This sovereign Act of Grace was done for us! Oh, how we should marvel at this, beloved! God made Jesus to be sin for us!

But this verse doesn't stop there, does it? No, this verse goes on to describe to us Jesus' Own Personal Condition at the time that God placed our sins on Jesus. Look at the next part:

... who knew no sin; ...

Now the way that the Greek reads here is very interesting. This verse is very careful to point out a very important distinction between us and Jesus- that even though He was made to be sin for us- He still knew no sin *Personally*.

You see, unlike Jesus- when *we* sin- we are in fact sinful. And we are sinful precisely because we are guilty of committing that sin. So, in God's Eyes- we are guilty. And because we are guilty- we are separated

from God and God cannot bear to be in our presence- because God is Righteous and Holy.

But when God Himself placed all of our sins upon Jesus- this was a very unique Act- that had never happened before or since. And while it changed everything for us- it did *not* change Jesus' Own Personal condition and status with God. Even with all of our sins upon Him- Jesus still knew no sin *personally*.

So when the Apostle Paul wrote down that inspired phrase- “**who knew no sin**”... in this verse- Paul was teaching us that even though Jesus was *legally* guilty of sin- that in fact He was still Holy And Righteous before God- precisely because He Himself had not personally committed those sins.

Now here's how this works. Jesus did not sin Himself. Jesus was and is and always will be- sinless. And this is a very important concept that we must understand and keep in our hearts if we are to be saved. Jesus never sinned a single time in thought, word, or deed. And so, Jesus was in fact sinless, and He *remained* sinless- even while on the Cross.

But God placed; or God credited; or He *imputed* our sins unto Jesus. Now Jesus didn't do anything to *deserve* having our sins imputed to Him; He wasn't Personally guilty of any sin- but in order to redeem lost Humanity- *somebody* had to pay for the sins of the world.

God said that the Payment for all sin is death. But not just *any* death. You see, God is so perfect and so holy and so righteous – that He cannot be in the same galaxy with sin. And God hates sin; He despises every single sin- because sin is an affront to His Own Righteous Character and Nature. So, God in His perfect Holiness is insulted and offended by sin. And that is why sin is wrong.

We have come to believe over the last 150 years or so that sin is wrong because it bothers and troubles us- and that is true- sin- or better put- the *results* of sin do indeed trouble us. We get sick when we sin; we lose money when we sin; we hurt other people when we sin; we get stupid when we sin and the results of sin bother and trouble us. That is true.

But that is *not* why sin is wrong. Sin is wrong, dear friends because sin offends God- period. So, sin would still be wrong even if you did not suffer adversely for it.

You see, *some* sins have an immediate and sever penalty that is brought about when we engage in them. But other sins are much more subtle- and there doesn't seem to be any negative response to them at first. Now it is true that *eventually*- we will all pay the piper for our sins- but there are some sins that *appear* not to have any adverse effects from them- at least not for a while.

But they are still wrong because they still offend God- regardless of how they affect us. And that means that we are still guilty for committing them. That is the point that I am making. So even if you did well and didn't seem to pay a price at first- sin would still be wrong. For example- you may temporarily prosper when you commit certain sins- but that sin is still evil and you are still guilty of offending God.

So regardless of how much or how little our sins affect us- sin always and in all cases offends God. And that is why sin is wrong.

So, because sin is an insult to God- God is correct and proper and just to judge our sin. Because God is not only the Creator of the Universe- but because He is also the Owner of everything- including our breath and heartbeat- God is correct to make demands on our lives and to restrict our behavior.

Sin is so horrible to God- such a blatant insult to Him- that God has chosen to judge sin with death. But not just *any* death- *eternal* death. Those who sin will die- but not just physical death- those who sin will die eternally in hell.

So just think about this for a minute. The Bible says that all men sin. The Bible says that all men sin all the time- that every imagination of our hearts is only evil continually. So, in His perfect Righteousness and Holiness- God would be perfectly justified to end it all right now and send every one of us- me included- into hell right now. We deserve to be in hell- we have earned hell by our continual and blatant sins.

And yet God doesn't send us all into hell- does He? No, God holds back His Holy Anger and His Righteous Fury against our sins- doesn't He? And like I said- even though He would be perfectly justified to do so- He does not immediately judge us every time we sin-; He does not give us immediate retribution for our sinful acts; He does not immediately punish us for our wickedness. Why?

Some say that God doesn't see- but that can't be true- because He sees everything. Others see Grace as being leniency- and that is a perverted understanding of Grace. Grace is undeserved and unmerited

favor- but Grace is not leniency. So, God is not one bit lenient with any sin- He has told us over and over and over that he is going to judge every single sin. So, God does see, and no, Grace is not leniency. But even though God is not lenient- He is longsuffering.

God suffers long as we heap insult upon insult upon Him as we continue to boldly live and conduct our lives in hostile opposition to Him- but He is longsuffering for only one reason- not because He doesn't see; and not because He doesn't care- but because God is giving us space to repent.

So please don't ever make the mistake of thinking that just because you seemed to get away with your sin- that that means that God didn't see it or that God is not going to eventually judge you. The only reason that God did not immediately judge you at the very second that you sinned is because He is giving you space to repent. So don't waste any time. Don't play around with God- don't presume upon His mercy- but quickly repent so that your sins will be forgiven.

So the Bible says that Jesus was made to be sin for us- Sin was imputed to Him by a Sovereign act of God one time- so that a sinless, spotless Lamb could die with all the sins on Him- and yet at the very same time- He Personally knew no sin.

Now this Truth is part of The Doctrine of Imputation that has pretty much been thrown out today. So few people even teach this anymore it is scary. Jesus did not Personally sin and so He retained His Own sinless status with God- and yet in order to redeem man- God placed upon Jesus our sins- that Jesus was not Personally guilty of.

And this had the effect of allowing Jesus to stand before God with a dual status. He was Personally sinless and yet He was at the same time- also pure sin. And He was able to stand in this dual role as both sinless Son and sinful Scapegoat without any contradiction or conflict. But how could this be?

All of Jesus' time here on earth was spent with Him in a dual role. Jesus was and is the most unique Person in all of human history. Truly, He is the One and Only of the Father. No one is like Jesus and no one will ever be. He is both God and Man; He is both Lion and Lamb. He is both the beginning of all things and the end of all things. He is both Alpha and He is also Omega. He is the first and the last. He is both the promised Messiah and the Christ of God. He is both Lord

and Judge; He is both King and Servant; He is both Friend and Savior; He is both Grace and Truth.

John Chrysostom- a fourth century Bishop in the Church in modern day Turkey said this about Jesus- *“Jesus is fully God and fully Man in the same body at the same time without conflict or contradiction.”*

And the Bible says that this sinless, spotless Lamb was made to be sin for us- so that you and I could be made the righteousness of God in Him.

So when God imputed all our sin unto Jesus- God could then pour out His full fury and wrath against that sin on Jesus while He hung on the Cross. And that does two things: It allows all our sins to be punished and it allows us to go free so that we may be forgiven and go to Heaven. And that makes God both Just- in that He fully condemned sin and it makes God to also be the Justifier of him who has faith in Jesus Christ.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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