

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 3- The True Test of Salvation- Part 1

#### 28. The Correct View of Sin Part 11

---

WAOY Friday/Monday 05/25-28/07; WOSM Wednesday 11/09/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about, “A Biblical View of Sin”. So, let’s open our Bibles and read **1 John 1:8-10** again together.

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

In order to fully teach the Church about the correct view of both sin and Salvation, the Apostle John had to divide those who claimed to be saved and yet rejected Truth into three categories:

1. Those Who walk in Darkness
2. Those Who Live in Deception
3. Those Who make God to be a Liar

Now on the last broadcast, we studied the second group and today I want to look at the third group- Those Who make God to be Liar. Let’s read verse 10 again together:

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

The list of people who incorrectly view sin ends with those who not only claim that they do not have sin present within them now- but these deceived people say that they have never sinned. This is the height of arrogance and pride. For anyone to say that they have never sinned is to be self- deluded to the maximum.

Sin is the transgression of the law. So, to check and see if you have sinned, you simply have to go through the list.

Have you ever in your life one time in either thought, word, or deed ever loved anyone, or anything more than you loved God? Have you ever one time in your life in either thought, word, or deed ever had someone or something as an idol in your life? Have you ever bowed down in front of a statue to pray to that person? If so, you are an idolater and are guilty of sin.

Have you ever one time in your life in wither thought, word, or deed ever used the name of God or the name of Jesus in any way other than in adoration or praise? If so, you are a blasphemmer and are guilty of sin.

Have you ever one time in your life in either thought, word, or deed ever dishonored your mother or father? If so, you are a wicked sinner in God's Eyes.

Have you ever laid out of Church or wish you had when you came? If so, you are a sinner.

Have you ever one time in your life in either thought, word, or deed ever stolen anything from anyone including gum out of your mother's purse or time from your employer or income from the IRS? If so, you are a thief and in God's Eyes- a wicked sinner.

Have you ever had a lustful thought in your heart about anyone even one time? If you, you are guilty of adultery and that makes you a sinner in God's Eyes.

Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever exaggerated the Truth? Have you ever told a partial truth with the idea of manipulating someone to think or believe what you wanted them to? Then in God's Eyes- you are a wicked transgressor of the law and a liar.

Have you ever secretly desired what someone else has? Have you asked God to give you something because you wanted what someone else had? Have you sought after money or power in order to feel good about yourself? Then you are a covetous person and a sinner.

After you go through this list, you can begin to see that if you are honest that you are guilty of several violations and you are guilty of those several violations many times.

Now most people don't judge themselves based upon this holy and righteous standard that I just went through with you. Most people don't examine themselves based upon God's test- but they use another test to determine whether or not they are sinful that goes something like this:

*I'm not as good as Paul, but I'm not as bad as Hitler, so I'm somewhere in the middle and that makes me okay.*

This false test, based upon other human relationships, gives great comfort to all but the worst mass murders and cannibals- but God doesn't use this test to determine whether someone is sinful or not- He uses His Own test that was fashioned after His Own Personal Character and Nature.

The one single standard which determines sinfulness in any of us is any violation or deviation in any way from God's Own Personal Righteousness which is both perfect and continuous. In Alabama English, if you ain't perfect- you're a sinner.

So, since no one on earth is perfect- except the Lord Jesus Christ- who was sinless- every single human being that is alive now or that has ever lived is a wicked and evil sinner in the Eyes of God and this Truth goes to the heart of why Salvation is so important and why Salvation is solely a Sovereign work of God alone.

God is holy and Righteous, and we are sinful- so how are we going to pass through God's Tribunal on our sins? How are we who are evil in God's Eyes going to be able to go to Heaven? This is the single most important question of all time that anyone can ever answer. And there are only two possible answers to this question.

The first answer is that anyone who plans to go to Heaven must work real hard to become as holy and as righteous as God is.

Now keep in mind as you attempt to earn your own righteousness- that you can't transgress any the law of God even one time in either thought, word, or deed. For example, you may not physically fornicate with someone- but if you lust after a woman in your heart- even though you don't physically commit the act- you are guilty before God as an

adulterer. And this goes even further than that to say that if a woman dresses or acts in a way that entices a man to lust after her- she is also guilty of adultery.

Another example that those of you who are trying to become good enough to deserve to go to heaven need to keep in mind is that it isn't enough that you just don't kill someone- No, Jesus taught that if you hate anyone you are sinning. If you don't forgive someone- even when they have wronged you- you are sinning. If you withhold your love- you are sinning.

In God's Eyes, if you don't give it is the same thing as if you stole; if you don't speak the Truth- it is the same as if you lied. And Jesus said that your love for God must be so great and so overwhelming that it will make the love that you have for your wife or husband, or children appear to be hate by comparison.

Every single religion on earth beside Biblical Christianity promotes this false concept of Salvation. The false religions of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Shintoism- all of the false religions of the world teach that Salvation is brought about through human beings making themselves worthy for Heaven by performing certain tasks; keeping certain rituals; or by obeying certain Laws.

All of the cults and perversions of Biblical Christianity like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Oneness Pentecostals, and Roman Catholics all teach that Salvation is either brought about by what we do or that Salvation is brought about through a co-operation between us and God.

Now I fully realize that it is theoretically possible that some who attend these religious organizations may not know what these organizations actually teach, or they may not personally believe what these organizations teach and therefore it is theoretically possible that some may physically attend these organizations and yet be saved. But it is a fact that these organizations all officially teach a false "gospel" about Salvation that is diametrically opposed to what the Bible teaches.

Only Biblical Christianity teaches that Salvation is a Sovereign work of God alone and that no one deserves Salvation and that no one can ever earn it. Biblical Christianity alone teaches that God is not obligated to save anyone- but in His mercy – He does save some.

The Bible teaches that everyone who goes to hell deserves to go to hell by virtue of the fact that they are guilty of transgressing God's

Law; and that everyone who goes to Heaven got there based upon nothing that they did- but based upon Mercy and Grace alone- again because we are, in fact, all sinners.

God is merciful in that He saved some of the lost sinners and God is Just because all who are eternally punished in hell deserved it. No one deserves heaven and everyone deserves hell- so those who are saved got that way due to nothing of their own merit and so all glory and all praise and all honor goes to God and to God alone.

Every single person on earth is an undeserving sinner in God's Eyes and so for anyone to say or believe that we have no sin- makes God to be a liar and all that God says about sin in His Word to be a lie. But it is even worse than that. To say that you have no sin makes all that Christ did to be not applicable to you. Why would you need a Savior if you have no sin? So, to say or believe that you have no sin is to insult the great work of Jesus Christ.

To admit your sin is to acknowledge your wicked state and to admit your own helplessness in fixing this problem and to admit your great need for God to save you. To say that you have no sin is to deny the Bible; reject all that Jesus did; and to make God to be a liar because God says that we are sinners.

All three of these false categories fail John's second Doctrinal test by denying the certainty of sin. By failing John's test- they prove without any doubt that the Truth is not in them. Anyone- especially a believer who tries to cover up his sin is in the depth of spiritual darkness. To cover up sin is to attempt to deny its existence. To deny the existence of sin – John says- is to walk in darkness.

Conversely, those who walk in the Light and are truly saved are eager to confess their sins and to admit their failings and never attempt to hide their sin or deny its existence. Saved people earnestly and openly acknowledge and confess their sins before the Lord and turn from it.

John's first two tests of Salvation are confirmed by other Scriptures. These two doctrinal tests of true Salvation are 1. Belief in God and 2. Belief in the certainty of sin.

Jesus Himself gave one of the clearest examples of true Salvation in His Words found in **Luke 18**:

**9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:**

**10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.**

**11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.**

**12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'**

**13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'**

**14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

So, I plead with you today, beloved, do not have a false security about your Salvation. Look honestly at whether or not you pass John's two Doctrinal tests here. That you believe in God and that you believe in the certainty of sin. You must not trust in your own ability to save yourself- but you must trust only in Jesus Christ for Salvation.

Come to Jesus today my friend; admit your lostness; acknowledge that you are an undeserving and wicked sinner; become so overcome with grief about your sins that you will beat your chest in agony and confess that you are lost and that you cannot save yourself.

Repent of all yours sins and trust Christ today and then your Salvation will be secure, and your name will be written in the Lamb's Book of life.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America  
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The King James Version* © 1977 by Thomas Nelson Publishers.  
Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of the Epistle of 1 John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.