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Gathering at 502 Pike Street

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

TITLE: A Confident Christian: A Confidence Building Journey in 1st John

TEXT: 1 John 3:1-9

DATE: 03 March 2024

OPENING COMMENTS:

The first statement comes as a question for all who are truly-born again children of God, seeking to be spiritual and not just carnal: “Did you enjoy spiritually abiding in Jesus Christ, this week?”

The second statement reminds all of us, that only those who are “in Christ” can abide in Christ; and if you’re not presently in Christ, a saved child of God, you can be a born again-child of God, now!

The third statement is also a very important reminder that we’re not forming a private-exclusive club that is open to only those that we approve of ... we’re not in charge!

The fourth statement states that while we are not in charge of the eternal membership-family, it is our sincere desire to proclaim to all that it’s not too late to join Gods’ forever family, as one of our brothers, John, says in

1 John 1:1-4:

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

The fifth statement presents the very idea, that if there was anyone ... and there’s not ... who could “out rank” the rest of the followers of Jesus, the apostle John *might* be at the top of the list!

The sixth statement is a reminder that 1st John was written to believers and still applies those who are truly followers of Jesus Christ. This letter [*epistle*] is a personal letter to you with Fellowship with Jesus as the theme.

The final statement brings us back to 1 John 3:1-9 as we continue this confidence building journey with a focus on verse 7, and, with “The Two Nature” understanding, let’s look; but first ...

“Let’s Pray Together”

Father, we come to Praise You today. Jesus, we come to Thank You today. Holy Spirit we come to Express our Love to You today. And, Lord God, we come to tell you that We Need You today. Amen.”

Coming to our biblical passage for today, 1 John 3:1-9, conclude looking at 3 pts:

1st: Relationship Secured: 1 John. 3:1-2:

2nd: Fellowship Stressed: 1 John. 3:3-5:

3rd: Abiding Stated: 1 John 3:6-9:

1 John 3:7:

7-Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.

[1] **Remember**, even though there is a possibility of repetition, we must state again that 1st John is written to believers, “Little children” and the emphasis is on the fellowship of abiding in Jesus Christ.

[2] **Realize**, that there’s a warning to avoid man-made deceptions that points to a difference between man’s goodness and God’s righteousness. Man, today wants to equate his “good works” with God’s acts of righteousness; not in any way the same!

3rd: Abiding Stated: 1 John 3: 7:

Look at a clear Outline:

- First, **Natural man** [unsaved person]; can only produce corrupt acts of unrighteousness:
In a conversation with the Pharisees Jesus speaks to the reality of all unsaved [lost] people in John 8:42-44:
42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me.
43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.
44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
- Second, the **Carnal Christian** [saved child of God] but unfortunately NOT abiding in Christ, resulting in acts of unrighteousness [not sourced from God] but just a choice of a believer to live by the **old nature**, not the **new nature**.

Yes, you may be saved and eternally secure in Christ, (Romans 10:13) but that doesn’t excuse a believer’s choices of carnality which is addressed in ...

1 Corinthians 3:1-3:

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you, envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

- Third, the **Spiritual Christian** who is abiding in Christ, chooses to walk in the Spirit, and relies on the power of God to produce acts of righteousness. A spiritual believer understands the truth from several verses:

Proverbs 12:28:

In the way of righteousness is life: and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Proverbs 14:34:

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Matthew 5:6:

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:10:

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20:

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:33:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Romans 6:13:

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Ephesians 5:9:

(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

1 John 2:29:

²⁹ *If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him.*

1 John 3:7:

⁷ *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.*

Cucuzzo: This true righteousness is that which can only come from God, the Holy Spirit that comes to and through our new nature as we abide in Christ ... No counterfeits accepted here ... Only folks who are born-again-children of God can do acts of godly righteousness ... only children of God can abide in Christ through the new man, the new nature. God does not recognize a lost person's "good work" as works of righteousness ... a lost-unsaved person can only produce corrupt works of unrighteousness.

Isaiah 64:6a states, ***“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;”***

No matter how warm and fuzzy man’s good works may be, God only gives His seal of approval upon that which is holy and righteous unto Him! ***Verse 7*** of ***First John*** states that true righteousness only comes from God who enables His children to produce righteous deeds.

[3] Recognize the presence and cost of the deception mentioned here in ***verse 7***. Yes, John was addressing the false teachings of the Gnostics of his day and also speaks to the same deception that is still present in our world today. Like the Gnostics of John’s day, many today, replace the spiritual transformation of the new-birth (salvation) with a man-made, DIY salvation that only values knowledge. Many still want to get “saved” their way not Gods’.

You can’t fake or replace true salvation, or the true works of righteousness; although man has tried to down through time. Such a cost would be losing an eternity with God in Heaven and missing out on abiding in Christ, now!

1 John 3:7:

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.

CONCLUSION

Right this very moment you are either:

- A **natural man**: lost in need of salvation
- A **carnal Christian** living like a lost man
- A **spiritual Christian** seeking to abide in Jesus (***1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:3***)

1 Peter 2:9:

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;

INVITATION

Romans 10:13:

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 6:47:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.