

FINDING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD... TOGETHER!



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Gathering at 502 Pike Street

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

**TITLE: A Confident Christian: A Confidence Building Journey in 1<sup>st</sup> John**

**TEXT: 1 John 3:1-9**

**DATE: 18 February 2024**

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**OPENING COMMENTS:**

1st: We come, once again, into our Lord's presence as we meet Him in His Word, the Bible. Jesus is of course, the sole source for the spiritual confidence that we need as we walk in this world.

2nd: The Holy Spirit inspired His writer to pen a clear and confident invitation to all of those who are true followers of Jesus Christ. In light of this past weeks' walk, let the invitation from Hebrews 4:16 encourage us again, today; let's look:

**Hebrews 4:16:**

***<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne (God's authority) of grace, (unmerited favor) that we may obtain mercy (a gift of God's benevolent compassion) and find grace to help in time of need.***

3rd: The invitation is not to come with an air of arrogance but with a heart of humility literally to the one and only throne of divine authority that is able and capable, within His will, to provide help for you in whatever need you're facing.

4th: It might serve us well here to remember what the angel told Mary as he delivered the news of the birth of the coming Messiah; He said, ***"For with God nothing shall be impossible."*** Luke 1:37 Whatever you're facing, Jesus is the Answer, in your life, for your life now!

5th: Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28-29: ***<sup>28</sup> Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.***

**"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.*

**A Note of Transition:**

Coming to our biblical passage for today, 1 John 3:1-9, let's continue to look at our 2 points:

## 1 -- Relationship Secured: 1 John 3:1-2:

<sup>1</sup> ***Behold**, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.*

<sup>2</sup> ***Beloved**, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.*

## 2 -- Fellowship Stressed: 1 John 3: 3-9:

Let's explore the next verse:

### 1 John 3:3:

<sup>3</sup> ***And every man** that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.*

- The assurance of our salvation gives us the reason and the desire to live a godly life. The foundation of our set and settled salvation gives us the reason to live a godly life; not to prove our salvation but to work out the salvation we have to the glory of God as Paul wrote, in **Philippians 2:12-13:**

<sup>12</sup> ***Wherefore**, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

<sup>13</sup> ***For** it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.*

- Think just a moment, only the children of God can desire and actually live out a godly life. You cannot live out a godly life, without God in your life! You may live a “good” life according to the world’s standards, but you can not nor will you ever live a godly life unless it is according to **God’s standards**.

**KJV Study Bible:** The Philippians are to “work out” the salvation God has already wrought in them (v. 13), carrying it to its logical conclusion. God has granted them salvation not just for their own profit, but for the good of others as well. If they work out and manifest the new life divinely worked in them, they will live lives worthy of the gospel in harmony with each other, seeking the progress of the gospel. If they don’t, it doesn’t mean they are not saved, it means they are not doing as suggested.

- At the beginning of **verse 3** it states: “***And every man that hath this hope,***” what hope? This takes us back to the **chap. 2 vs. 28:** “***And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.***”
- **Dr. Thomas Cucuzza** (*Northland Bible Baptist Church, St Cloud MN*) states: Abiding in Christ is far different than being saved. Only those who are saved can abide in Christ. A lost person who is not in Christ, nor Christ in them cannot abide in Christ! Then, if we are children of God, we can, we’re called to live like children of God! The truth is that when you receive salvation ... you are eternally saved from that point even if you never live for Christ ... you’re still going to Heaven ... salvation is by grace, but that doesn’t mean that He doesn’t want us to live for Him now ... He does!
- The word, “hope,” here in the original language is not like we interpret it today; as it might or might not happen, but no guarantee. Here, in **verse 3** it means “***to anticipate with joy!***” The similar thought is expressed in --

### **Titus 2:13-14:**

<sup>13</sup> ***Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

***14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.***

- In verse 3, we read the word “purify” literally, *to make pure of every fault.*” The idea here is that every child of God should continue to sanctify ourselves continually because we all, as God’s children, have room to grow spiritually; live by new nature, not the old nature.
- Dr. Cucuzzo again: This should humble every child of God because we are not immaculate ... on our way but not there yet ... none of us have arrived yet ... we’ve got a lot of room to grow, God’s serious about sin ... about our sin as His children. The word *purify* is the same word as *sanctify* ... so, here in **verse 3** it says that we **purify ourselves** ... but wait, when I got saved I thought I was made pure ... you were ... that was/is ... in Christ, positional sanctification or purity. ...there is then in every believer’s life a practical sanctification/purity where you choose, as a child of God to choose purity, in Christ we can grow and ought to be growing in holiness and in purity and godliness not growing in carnality!

***1 Corinthians 2:12-3:3:***

***12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.***

***13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

***14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

***15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.***

***16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? but we have the mind of Christ.***

***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?***

- Ok, let me interject a principle that we will be referring to for some time and that’s the “Two Nature” principle. Before you received God’s salvation you had only one nature, **a sin nature**. You were lost, walking in darkness toward an eternity separated from God-forever! While in that lost position you were a child of the Devil; he was your father, and you were under his power to do only that which he commanded you to do. You lived a life of sinful rebellion against God. You faced the physical, spiritual and eternal death as the wage of sin.

Then, one day and in a moment in time you personally accepted and received God’s free-gift of salvation by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone! That old-sinful nature under the rule of the devil was put to death. The **penalty** and **power** of sins dominance was gone!

The single-sinful presence of that old man no longer has power over you but is now joined by the new Christ in you; you became a forever-newborn child of God as in **2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if any man (person) be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

So, we are, saved children of God with the **penalty** of our sins **forgiven**, with the **power** of sin no longer in control, but still in the **presence** of sin until we see our Lord Jesus face to face. The **old nature** and now the **new nature** of God living in you are in constant struggle:

**Rom. 7:14-25:**

*14 For we know that the law is **spiritual**: but I am **carnal**, sold under sin.*

*15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

*16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*

*17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

*18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is **present with me**; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

*18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is **present with me**; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

*19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

*20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

*21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

*22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*

*23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

*23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

*24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

*25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

Now look at **Galatians 5:16-17:**

*16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

*17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

The War is Over; But the Battle Rages On:

The Arm of Flesh vs. The Arm of the Spirit ...

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Fellowship Stressed: 1 Jn. 3: 3-9:**

Let's take the next 2 verses, ver. 4-5, here:

1 John 3:4-5:

<sup>4</sup> Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1. Ok, remember that John is talking to believers-Christians ... children of God and He is making it abundantly clear that God is very serious about the sins of His children; yes, Christians can and do sin and when we sin, we can/must confess and ask God for His cleansing from sin.

2. In verse 4, John moves from his stress upon purity to that which would not reflect that purity; the choice to sin against the law and the holiness of God. As a child of God, stop choosing your old way of sin and choose your new way in Christ; the life of sinless living.

3. **KJV:** John turns from stress on Christ's and Christian purity to the need for believers to abstain from sin. The verse means: "Everyone who sins is indulging in unlawful behavior; sin is still, in fact, lawlessness. Acts of sin occur when the Christians acts according to the old man.

Let's continue with **Fellowship Stressed: 1 John 3: 3-9:**

Let's take the next 2 verses here:

**1 John 3:4-5:**

***4 Whosoever committeth sin trangresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.***

***5 And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.***

1. John the Baptist cried out upon seeing Jesus approach him for baptism: ***“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)*** Jesus did and still does confront and offer forgiveness for all sin; even the sins of God's children (***1 John 1:9***).

2. The direction of a godly life is the practical-actual living of a godly life. If sinful acts happen in our lives, it is because we have chosen to allow our old nature to have its' way and God has nothing to do with it because God does not produce sin; God is thoroughly holy.

3. So, the good news for today is that whether we're talking about the sins of a lost person, or the sins of a child of God; Jesus came to take care of ALL sin. ***1 John 3:5: And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.***

### **CONCLUSION**

**Psalms 46:1-7a:**

***1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

***2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;***

***3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.***

***4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most-High.***

***5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.***

***6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered His voice, the earth melted.***

***7 The Lord of hosts is with us;***

### **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.***