

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

1 John Lesson 8

1 John 3:4-10

return pages 6 & 7 only

JESUS was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Related reading: 1 John 3:4-10; John 8; Romans 6; 1 John 1;
Galatians 5:22-27

Why did Christ come to earth? There are many correct answers to that question. On one level, Christ came as the fulfillment of numerous prophecies of the Old Testament. His coming to earth confirmed God's truthfulness.

Christ also came to reveal God in human form. Through His compassion, teaching, and miracles, He demonstrated in ways that humans could see, hear, and comprehend what the infinite God is like.

In 1 John 3:4 -10, John focused on two additional crucial purposes for Christ's coming to earth. Both of these purposes have wonderful implications for our lives.

Christ came to earth to die on the cross. His death was not just the inspiring example of a martyr; it was the act of the perfect substitute for sinners. By dying on the cross in our place, Christ took away our sins. He took our sins on Himself, and in their place He gave His righteousness to those who believe in Him.

In addition, Christ's death on the cross and HIS resurrection from the dead destroyed the works of the devil. From the beginning of time Satan has endeavored to undermine God's program. By tempting Adam and Eve into sin, Satan led the human race into rebellion against the Lord. Nevertheless, when Christ died and rose again, HE struck a mortal blow against Satan. Although Satan is still doing all he can to defeat God and His people, his days are numbered and his doom is certain. Christ's coming brought victory over sin, death, and the devil.

Defining Sin

Most people prefer to avoid discussing the subject of sin. Although we all sin daily in deed, thought, and intent, we try to pretend that it is not a problem that seriously affects us.

Some people attempt to handle the problem of sin by defining it away. Instead of admitting that their actions and attitudes are sinful, they insist that sin refers only to major crimes, such as murder, which they do not do. By defining sin like this, they endeavor to make sin a problem for others but irrelevant to them.

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**Scripture Memorization***1 Jn 3:10*

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

(KJV)

Other people try to avoid the sin issue by making it simple. Instead of speaking of sin, they refer to mistakes, weaknesses, or poor judgment. Rather than taking personal responsibility for their sins, they excuse them as merely human lapses that may be regrettable, but they certainly are not worthy of judgment. To support their assessment they say that these are things everybody does; therefore, they are not really so bad.

When John referred to sin in 1 John 3:4, he described it in clear, convicting terms. In a word, sin is lawlessness. It is not just a human weakness; it is a violation of the law of God.

The Bible teaches that God is holy in His character, so He has established a holy standard for His world. That which measures up to God's standard is righteous. That which violates God's standard is sin.

Humans, however, resist God's authority. Instead of living in submission to our Creator, we insist on living by our own standards. Every time that we choose to disregard God's law in what we desire, say, and do, we rebel against a HOLY GOD. Every rebellious act and attitude, no matter how large or small by human estimations, is sin. Sin is a serious matter, because as much as it may or may not injure other people, it is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Those who are sincerely for God must also be solidly against sin.

With Christ against Sin

In numerous surveys people have named Jesus Christ as one of the greatest humans who ever lived. They respect Him as an outstanding example and teacher, and they applaud His call to compassion for others.

Certainly these characteristics of Him are true, but those who say that they esteem Christ often ignore some even more crucial aspects of His life. Jesus is more than just a good man who inspired his followers to love as he did and who died as a martyr. When Christ came to earth, He died to take away the sins of men and women (1 John 3:5). He Himself was perfectly

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flawless, for in Him there is no sin (v. 5). Christ is totally opposed to sin of every sort, and He suffered and died to break its hold over humans.

In His fight against sin, Christ set the pattern for how Christians should face sin. He did not compromise with sin; therefore, Christians should not obey sin's appeal. He did not treat it lightly, so Christians must not think of it as a simple mistake either. He suffered to eliminate sin; consequently, Christians should not embrace it. To stand with Christ means that Christians must stand with Him against sin.

It is logically impossible to abide in Christ and at the same time have a pattern of sinful behavior (v. 6). If a person professing to be a Christian continues to have a life dominated by sinful actions and attitudes, it is likely that he or she has never come to know Christ personally. Our profession is validated by our practice.

As long as we live on this earth, sin will confront us from every direction. If we truly abide in Christ, we need to come out against sin. We cannot be neutral, and we certainly must not yield to sin. Rather, we must hold fast to Christ by holding fast to God's righteousness.

What Christ Wants in Our Lives

John was confident that his readers were Christians, so he addressed them again as "little children" (3:7). At the same time, he was concerned that the false teachers could undermine the believers' commitment to Christ by deceiving them about the threat of sin. A careless approach to sin can easily produce disastrous consequences in the lives of Christians, so we must be careful lest we be ensnared by the deceitfulness of sin.

The false teachers were setting up their own standards of right and wrong, of truth and error. To counteract them, John brought his readers back to the foundation of the Christian faith. He reminded them that Christ Himself is righteous, because He fully meets the standards of a HOLY GOD. His righteousness is the unchanging standard for righteous behavior. In other words, what is right does not vary from time to time or from place to place. No situation ethics exist in Christianity. There is absolute truth, goodness, and righteousness. Morality is not relative or variable; it is what corresponds to Christ's unchanging standard.

What Christ wants from us is that we live out His righteousness. Instead of following our own inclinations, or taking our lead from our peers, we should live according to His pattern and principles. In other words, Christians should be people whose lives follow the example of Christ and obey the commandments of Christ.

How Sin Slipped In

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If sin is a rejection of God's righteousness, how did it come to affect the human race so powerfully? The Bible teaches that Satan, the devil, led the first humans into disobedience against God. From the beginning of the Biblical record about the devil, he is seen as the adversary of God (1 John 3:8a). Instead of submitting to God's authority, the devil sought to be like God, able to do as he pleased (Isaiah 14:12-14). Instead of obeying God's direction, Satan seeks to undermine all that God has established.

In his all-consuming resistance against God, the serpent (the devil) tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God's clear command. Because they listened to the devil rather than obeyed God, sin entered into the human race (Genesis 3:1-7) through the blood. Since that time, all humans have been born with a sin nature (Romans 5:12). The sin nature within and the sinful temptations from outside combine to compel us to desire, say, think, and do the things that displease God.

Apart from the saving work of Christ, people begin and end their lives as children of the devil.

Destroying the Works of Satan

Satan has many different names throughout the Bible, just to name a few are Lucifer, the old serpent, the crooked serpent, Leviathan, King of Tyrus, the devil. Just as the devil has many names, sin has many names also.

From the time that Satan led the first humans into sin, his power on earth has been evident. We only have to read the morning newspaper or to look into our own hearts to recognize how sin has reached into every area of life.

Even the lives of Christians are not immune to Satan's temptations. We know from experience that all of our good resolutions cannot defend us against sin. We are born with a sin nature that betrays us time and again. Humans are unable to defeat the devil, so they easily succumb to his strategies.

What we cannot do, Christ came to do. John stated that the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b). When Christ the Son of GOD was manifest, He broke the back of Satan's powerful opposition to God. The Bible teaches that Satan will continue to resist God and afflict Christians, but his eventual doom is certain. When Christ came the first time, He defeated sin, death, and Hell. When He returns to earth the second time, He will complete the work by imprisoning Satan.

Part of the way in which Christ is now destroying the works of the devil is by what He is doing in the lives of Christians (3:9). Through the new birth, sinful humans are born again into God's family. Rather than being children of the devil, they are now the children of God. God gives to His children a new

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nature with power for victory over sin. By renovating His people from the inside out, God is destroying the control of Satan, one Christian at a time. The process is often slow and difficult, because we still have to contend with our sinful human nature. Nevertheless, on the battle-field of human hearts, Christ is winning His victory over the devil. In our lives, He is claiming the triumph that He won on the cross.

A Tale of Two Families

Have you ever heard someone remark that you remind him or her of one of your parents? Or perhaps you have noticed that your child has some of your mannerisms. We expect that people in the same physical family will resemble each other in their talk, walk, and appearance.

This principle also holds in spiritual families. John, therefore, concluded this passage by stating that some clear evidences distinguish between the children of God and the children of the devil (1 John 3:10).

Earlier in 1 John, the apostle described several marks of God's children. Those who are Christians should manifest obedience, love, and truth. Without repeating these marks of Christians, John pointed out how the children of the devil are profoundly different.

The children of Satan follow his example in refusing to live in obedience to God's righteous standards. They insist in choosing their own way, wanting to be the authority over their own lives. Unlike the children of God, their lives are marked not by obedience but by disobedience.

In addition, true godly love is foreign to Satan and his family. They may have a measure of human kindness, but they do not manifest the kind of agape love that marks Christ and His people.

Just as physical resemblances demonstrate what is our physical family, so actions and attitudes reveal our spiritual parentage. Christ produces righteousness and love in the children of God, but unrighteous actions and unloving attitudes mark the lives of Satan's people.

How well is your behavior matching your belief? Can other people see the resemblances to God as they observe your actions and attitudes? This week ask the Lord to help you in a specific area of your life to become more like Him.

Notes

KJV

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1 John Lesson 8

Name _____

1. According to 1 John 3:4, what is sin?

2. According to 1 John 1:8 and 10, Christians will sin at times, but what should we do in those cases (v. 9)?

3. In spiritual terms whose children are the unsaved?

4. What do 1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 11:14 suggest are some tactics Satan uses, or what is he like in his temptation of us?

5. What is the key verse of this Lesson?

6. What was the purpose of this Lesson?

7. Give three reasons why JESUS CHRIST came to earth?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

8. Why do most people prefer to avoid discussing the subject of sin?

9. Explain why it is important to take personal responsibility for you sin?

10. Explain the character of GOD's righteousness?
11. How does sin slip in your life?

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12. Does the face of sin change from age to age?
13. Explain how your life should reflect your parentage:
 - a. Earthy -
 - b. Spiritual -
14. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

True/False

- Situations that may of been sin 30 years are no longer sin now.
- Satan encourages and compels his people to unrighteous behavior.
- When a life is dominated by ungodly actions, attitudes, and desires, it is apparent that it belongs to the devil.
- Godly living is not an optional accessory, but it should be standard equipment for Christians.

**Scripture Memorization**

Write out these verses on the back of this sheet

Romans 5:12; 1 John 3:7, 8; 1 John 3:11

Any questions ?