

25-12-21-The Sin and the Commandments

So far in my thesis for understanding I John, these are the points that we need to remember:

1. The main thought beginning the book is that Jesus Christ is eternal life. Outside of him there is no life.
2. The writer is one who walked with Jesus during his earthly ministry and was an eyewitness of his eternal life, so most likely John.
3. John is writing to the remnant of believers in the last times. He is mainly addressing the little children, who are the ones with the least understanding at that point.
4. The reason they are the main focus is because the whole subject of the book is being able to discern those who would seduce them and those who are telling them the truth.

The last two times we met, we talked about the significance of **1 John 1:8-10** ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just 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.

The sins that are being confessed are the national sins of Israel. It is the sins of their fathers and their own sins. We looked at examples of this from the Old Testament and the verses that told them they must do this.

The reason is not for their own individual eternal life. It is for blessings. Jesus Christ is the only place in which eternal life resides, and they aren't forgiven for their confession of sins but for his name's sake.

1 John 2:12 ¶ I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Because they believe he is the Christ. Just as in the gospel of John, he plainly gives them what they believe to be put in Christ:

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might **believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

He also closes this epistle with that same gospel of salvation for the remnant of Israel:

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, **even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.**

I know I keep harping on this, but it is important. Our gospel today is to believe that Jesus Christ is God and that he died for our sins and was raised for our justification.

That is the power of salvation, and what allows God to justify anyone in any dispensation. But what one must believe for that power to be made available to them differs. For the remnant in Israel, what they must believe is that Jesus is the Messiah. They believe on his name, which is Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, God with us.

That is what Israel rejected and the reason they were cast aside. That is what they must confess to receive their blessing of entering in to the kingdom on earth. That is their sin.

This is summed up in just a few verses in another letter from John.

2 John 7-9 ¶ For many deceivers are entered into the world, **who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. **8** Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. **9** Whosoever **transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. He that abideth **in the doctrine of Christ**, he hath both the Father and the Son.

The doctrine of Christ here is that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. He is the Messiah, the promised one, etc. The transgression, or sin, is not abiding in this doctrine. This is the doctrine that was rejected and now must be confessed. There is a message on our website where I go into great detail about this when I explain what Paul was talking about in Romans 10:9-10. It is the same idea. They must confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus: That Jesus Christ is come in the flesh and is Lord, and believe that he is alive, that God raised him from the dead. That is the doctrine of Christ. Those who transgress are the ones who don't abide in that doctrine.

John 15:22-25 If I had not come and spoken unto them, **they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin**. **23** He that hateth me hateth my Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, **they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father**. **25** But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Here Jesus even identifies that sin. If he hadn't come and shown them that he was from the Father, they wouldn't have sin. But he did, and they rejected him and the Father. They would get one more chance with the Holy Spirit, and they resisted Him also.

That is the sin, again, that Israel has committed, and the ones that forsake that sin are the ones who are given eternal life. Now when we start in the second chapter of I John, you can see why he begins addressing "my little children." They are the most likely to be deceived.

1 John 2:1-2 ¶ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

So he begins by telling them the purpose of the letter: that ye sin not. The sin is not abiding in the doctrine of Christ. If ye – you as a group sin, he doesn't elaborate on here, but the writer of Hebrews does in several places.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Here, the writer is identifying what sin he is going to talk about in a few verses. The profession of faith without wavering is the complete trust that Jesus is the Christ and that he will fulfill his promises to the nation. The same as in I John.

Hebrews 10:26-31 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. **28** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: **29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

If we fall away at this time – after we have been grafted back into the olive tree and the blessings of our father Abraham, we will become an adversary and receive the same judgement that they receive. Paul actually explains this in Romans 9 when he says

Romans 9:6 ¶ For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

There will be an Israel that is counted with the adversaries, and there will be an Israel that will be saved. It all depends on which Messiah you end up trusting.

But back to I John 2. He isn't concerning himself with the consequences of the nation sinning here, but in giving confidence to those remnant believers. Because all Israel shall be saved.

1 John 2:1-2 ¶ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

He doesn't want a massive deception to happen to the most vulnerable believers. But if an individual is deceived, it isn't going to affect the remnant. Later he will say that those who do sin weren't part of us to begin with, otherwise they wouldn't have sinned. But here he is

telling them that if you see any man, or some individuals – your friends, your family, even those who are in positions of authority – if they sin, it doesn't affect our position at all.

He goes from ye, to any man, to us. He knows that some of them are going to be seed that falls upon the rock, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. But he wants to assure them that those were never with us.

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us; but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Don't let any man's falling away make you doubt who our Messiah is. He is the one who is our advocate with God the Father. He is the fully satisfying sacrifice that allows the Father to place us in him so that we can have eternal life. And he is not only our Messiah, he is the fully satisfying sacrifice that can also save the Gentiles.

Now he is going to tell them how to identify the ones who truly know him and the ones who only say they know him.

1 John 2:3-6 ¶ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. **6** He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

We can tell who we are by seeing who is keeping his commandments. We'll see what they are in a minute.

First, in verse four and six, notice the phrase: "he that saith." That is important, because we have seen in the past weeks that John is concerned mainly with showing them who the deceivers are. He that saith is one that is proclaiming something. So the idea is, don't just listen to his words, look at his deeds. He will manifest himself to you in one way or another. He will keep his commandments or he will not.

The next question is, then, what are 'his commandments?' It isn't the law of Moses. He references the law of Moses one time in this book, but when he is speaking about knowing who is the sinner and who is the saint, he always says "his commandments."

These are the commandments that Jesus gave. He tells us all of them in this book, and we can also find them in the gospel of John.

1 John 3:23-24 ¶ And this is **his commandment**, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. **24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

These two verses almost completely capture his commandments. You see that verse 23 says this is his commandment – that is the commandment of the Father; at the end of the verse it says ‘as he gave us commandment’ – that is the Son.

So the first commandment is that the Son received these things of the Father. Keep a marker in I John, because we’ll be going back and forth.

John 12:49-50 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, **he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.** **50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

John 15:9-10 ¶ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; **even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

This means that Jesus Christ walked by faith in the Father. Therefore they must walk by faith in the Father and the Son through the Spirit.

John 14:1 ¶ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, **believe also in me.**

1 John 5:3-5 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. **4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith.** **5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but **he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

*Here that faith is brought to the forefront, along with the second commandment found in chapter 3:23 – believe that Jesus is the Son of God, or as it is said in 3:23: ‘believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ.’

John 14:10-11 Believest thou not that **I am in the Father, and the Father in me?** the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwelleth in me**, he doeth the works. **11** Believe me that **I am in the Father, and the Father in me**: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

The next commandment is love one another.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, **That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

We will probably be coming back to that verse, because later this will be another of the ways to differentiate between the true and the false teachers.

Then the last of these commandments is that they have the Spirit and the Spirit will lead them into all truth.

John 14:15-21 ¶ If ye love me, keep my commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever**; **17** *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **18** ¶ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. **19** Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. **20** At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. **21** **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.** **14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. **15** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

In the early part of the book of Acts, the Spirit comes to them, and many times causes them to remember the words that Jesus spoke. They are often then given understanding of those words.

John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John 12:16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and *that* they had done these things unto him.

The Spirit will again be given to them, as is made plain in

1 John 2:20 ¶ But ye have **an unction from the Holy One**, and ye know all things.

1 John 2:27 But **the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you**, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Why don't they need to be taught anything? Because the Spirit will help them to remember the words of God in the scripture, just as the disciples were made to remember after Jesus was glorified.

What was Christ's prayer on the night he was betrayed?

John 17:17-19 ¶ Sanctify **them through thy truth: thy word is truth.** **18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

The Spirit within them, unlike today, will help them to remember the words of scripture to keep them from being deceived. Those who have the Spirit will confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

So the commandments to be displayed by those teachers' lives in the last days to the believing remnant of Israel are:

1. Jesus Christ walked by faith in the Father. They will walk by faith in the Father through the Son and the Spirit.
2. They will believe on the name of Jesus Christ – He is the Messiah and God.
3. They will love the saints.
4. They will have the Spirit of God and will confess that Jesus is the Christ

1 John 2:3 ¶ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Walk by faith, believe on the name of Jesus Christ, love your brethren, and abide in him through the Spirit. Those are the commandments.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Those who falter on any of the above are not of God and you should not even bid them Godspeed.

2 John 10-11 ¶ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: **11** For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

1 John 2:5-6 But whoso keepeth **his word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. **6** He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

If you are going to keep his word – what is his word? The scriptures. Then you are going to walk as he walked. How did he walk? By faith. And you are going to love the brethren. That is what we'll look at next week. After that, we will see why those who are born of God cannot sin, and what seed remains in them that keeps them from that sin.