

## JULY 21, 2021 BIBLE STUDY

### 1 JOHN 2:28-3:23

#### 2: 28-29

- The visible proof of being a Christian is \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3:1-3

- We are \_\_\_\_\_ - "children of God"
- It is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_
- We are becoming \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- We can \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ God
- It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith and trust in God and the basis for our \_\_\_\_\_ by the Father
- The Christian life is a process of \_\_\_\_\_ more and more \_\_\_\_\_
- The process will not be \_\_\_\_\_ until we \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ our ultimate destiny should motivate us to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves
- To "purify" means to \_\_\_\_\_, free from the corruption of sin
- God also purifies; however, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to remain morally fit

#### 3:4-7

- A believer who commits a sin can \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ it, and find \_\_\_\_\_
- A person who continues to sin, does not show \_\_\_\_\_ for what he or she is doing
- John is saying that no one who is \_\_\_\_\_ has seen (and continues to see) him, nor has he known (and continues to know) him.
- This applies to those who \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ or to \_\_\_\_\_ (renouncers) who knew God in the past but have not continued knowing him in the present
- John is warning us not to be deceived about the \_\_\_\_\_ (v7)

#### 3:8-10

- We all have areas of \_\_\_\_\_
- We need to deal with vulnerable areas, otherwise those \_\_\_\_\_ give the \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_
- Here, John is talking to those who \_\_\_\_\_ and look for ways to justify it
- There are 3 steps that help us find victory over sin:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ from tempting situations
  3. Seek the help of the \_\_\_\_\_ and be open to \_\_\_\_\_
- The verb "to sin" in Greek is *hamartano*; is a present active infinitive, implying continued action. John emphasizes that those \_\_\_\_\_ of God cannot make sin their way of life, because God's life cannot exist in those who \_\_\_\_\_ or habit of sinning

- It is a false teaching that we can:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with God (1:3)
  - continue to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ (3:8)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the world (2:15)
  - do harm to \_\_\_\_\_ (3:14-8)
 ... and still be a \_\_\_\_\_ who is saved and destined for heaven
- If those who habitually practice sin claim to have eternal life and be God's children, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_

### 3:11-14

- Cain killed his brother, Abel, when God \_\_\_\_\_ Abel's offering and \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 4:1-16)
- Abel's offering showed that Cain was not giving his \_\_\_\_\_
- Cain's \_\_\_\_\_ drove him to murder

### 3:15-17

- John emphasizes that there are certain sins that \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ believers will not commit because of the eternal life of Christ abiding in them. These sins, because of their gravity and their origin in the very centre of one's spirit \_\_\_\_\_ against God, a severing from Christ, a falling from grace and a separation from Christ
- Examples of sins that give conclusive evidence that one is still in bondage to wickedness or has fallen from grace and eternal life are:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (2:29; 4:6)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15; 2:11)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (Ro1:21-27; Eph 5:5; Rev 21:8)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of one's family (1 Ti 3:1-5; Heb 3:7-19)
- Such sins reveal \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ toward God and lack of loving care for others
- Believers must keep in mind that \_\_\_\_\_ sin, even the "less serious" ones, can lead to a \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual life, to rejection of the Holy Spirit's leading and eventually spiritual death (Ro 6:15-23; 8:5-13)

### 3:18-23

- An effective \_\_\_\_\_ is related to our devotion to God
- \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God are essential conditions in order to receive what we ask for in prayer

**Tony Evans- The Books of John (Right Now Media)**

**SESSION 3: 1 John 2:28-3:23**

1. How should our expectation of God's return in the future affect our behavior in the present?
2. 1 John 3:1–3. What does John remind his readers about their status before God?
3. What impact could the knowledge that one day you will see God have on your attitude?
4. Why is it easy to fall into a lifestyle that doesn't expect to answer to God?
5. What can you do today to modify your expectations regarding the return of our God?
6. How would that impact your life today? Tomorrow? This week?
7. In your life, how does abiding in Jesus—focusing on your relationship with Him through prayer, Bible study, and quiet listening to the Holy Spirit—affect you?
8. What will happen to your expectations (and, therefore, your actions) if you focus your attention on abiding in Jesus?
9. What do you stand to gain? According to 1 John 3, what do you stand to lose if you don't?
10. 1 John 3:11–15. What does John challenge his readers to do?
11. Why is it crucial that we love our fellow believers? What does it say about our attitude toward God?
12. Describe a time when you were on the receiving end of love from a fellow believer. How did it impact you? What did you learn about God through the experience?
13. What difference did it make in your life to be loved rather than hated? What obstacles might stand in the way for you, personally, to love your fellow believers?
14. 1 John 3:19–24. What kind of hope does it give you to know that God transcends even our guilt and shame?
15. What can you do this week to continue to build your relationship—your fellowship—with the God who calls you His child?

## LIVE IT OUT

**Write:** Write out the phrase “Live like Jesus is coming today” on a sticky note or a card, and put it somewhere you’ll see it regularly—a mirror, your desk, on your dashboard. Use it as a reminder to live in the expectation of Jesus’s return.

**Connect:** Identify a fellow believer who’s in need—even if it’s something as simple as raking leaves in their yard or visiting them in the hospital. Take the opportunity to act out your love, and serve that believer.

**Pray:** Spend ten minutes in prayer this week asking God to instill in you the deep confidence that comes from knowing that you are His child.

**Memorize:** Write out 1 John 3:16, and work on memorizing it this week. Use the verse to remind you what active love looks like.

**Read:** Spend fifteen minutes this week re-reading the words of Jesus in Matthew 24–25. Take the time to reflect on Jesus’s challenge to His followers to live in light of His return.

## ***JULY 21, 2021 BIBLE STUDY***

### **ANSWERS 1 JOHN 2:28-3:23**

#### **2: 28-29**

- The visible proof of being a Christian is **right behaviour**

#### **3:1-3**

- We are **members of God's family**- "children of God"
- It is a **privilege** of our **salvation**.
- We are becoming **reflections** of God
- We can **grow** to **resemble** God
- It is the **basis** of our faith and trust in God and the basis for our **discipline** by the Father
- The Christian life is a process of **becoming** more and more **like Christ**
- The process will not be **complete** until we **see Christ face-to-face**
- **Knowing** our ultimate destiny should motivate us to **purify** ourselves
- To "purify" means to **keep morally straight**, free from the corruption of sin
- God also purifies; however, we must **take action** to remain morally fit

#### **3:4-7**

- A believer who commits a sin can **repent, confess** it, and find **forgiveness**
- A person who continues to sin, does not show **sorrow** for what he or she is doing
- John is saying that no one who is **living in sin** has seen (and continues to see) him, nor has he known (and continues to know) him.
- This applies to those who **never had real faith** in Christ or to **apostates** (renouncers) who knew God in the past but have not continued knowing him in the present
- John is warning us not to be deceived about the **nature of salvation** (v7)

#### **3:8-10**

- We all have areas of **temptation**
- We need to deal with vulnerable areas, otherwise those **weaknesses** give the **devil** a **foothold**
- Here, John is talking to those who **keep on sinning** and look for ways to justify it
- There are 3 steps that help us find victory over sin:
  1. **Seek** the power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word
  2. **Stay away** from tempting situations
  3. Seek the help of the **body of Christ** and be open to **accountability**
- The verb "to sin" in Greek is *hamartano*; is a present active infinitive, implying continued action. John emphasizes that those **truly born** of God cannot make sin their way of life, because God's life cannot exist in those who **make a practice** or habit of sinning

- It is a false teaching that we can:
  - **be out of** fellowship with God (1:3)
  - continue to sin and **do the work of the devil** (3:8)
  - **love** the world (2:15)
  - do harm to **others** (3:14-8)
 ... and still be a child of God who is saved and destined for heaven
- If those who habitually practice sin claim to have eternal life and be God's children, they are **deceived** and are **liars**.

### 3:11-14

- Cain killed his brother, Abel, when God **accepted** Abel's offering and **not his** (Gen 4:1-16)
- Abel's offering showed that Cain was not giving his **best to God**
- Cain's **jealous anger** drove him to murder

### 3:15-17

- John emphasizes that there are certain sins that **true born-again** believers will not commit because of the eternal life of Christ abiding in them. These sins, because of their gravity and their origin in the very centre of one's spirit **indicate rebellion** against God, a severing from Christ, a falling from grace and a separation from Christ
- Examples of sins that give conclusive evidence that one is still in bondage to wickedness or has fallen from grace and eternal life are:
  - **Apostasy** (2:29; 4:6)
  - **Murder** (3:15; 2:11)
  - **Sexual impurity** or **immorality** (Ro1:21-27; Eph 5:5; Rev 21:8)
  - **Abandonment** of one's family (1 Ti 3:1-5; Heb 3:7-19)
- Such sins reveal **rejection** of **honour** toward God and lack of loving care for others
- Believers must keep in mind that ALL sin, even the "less serious" ones, can lead to a **weakening** of spiritual life, to rejection of the Holy Spirit's leading and eventually spiritual death (Ro 6:15-23; 8:5-13)

### 3:18-23

- An effective **prayer life** is related to our devotion to God
- **Obeying, loving** and **pleasing** God are essential conditions in order to receive what we ask for in prayer

#### SOURCES:

1. Life Application Study Bible: NIV. (2005). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
2. Life in the Spirit Study Bible: NIV. (2003). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.