

## I John 2:28-3:10 - Distinguishing God's Children from Satan's

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-25-19

### The Moral Test of Real Life in Christ: Righteousness - 2:28-3:10

John's concern: orthodoxy (right \_\_\_\_\_) and orthopraxy (right \_\_\_\_\_)

Grounded in: 2 comings of Christ and dual concepts of abiding/begottenness

V. 28 - future boldness is connected to our present \_\_\_\_\_

- The world cannot have (Matt. 22:12; Rev. 6:15-17)
- Those who abide in him will at his appearing (2:28) and judgement (4:17)

V. 29 - Previously the believer knows God (2:3-4, 13-14); is in Christ (2:5-6) and the light (2:9-10); remains in the Father and Son (2:24, 27-28). Now: Now: one "born of (God)."

### Righteousness Connected to Christ's Future Coming - 3:1-3

V. 1 - We are "called" children of God because we "\_\_\_\_\_" children of God

V. 2 - Based on our present sonship, we look forward to an inheritance resulting from it

- Our final state/condition in heaven will be disclosed only when Christ \_\_\_\_\_
- What we do know: "when He appears, we will be like Him". Completes the progression:
  - Rom. 8:29 → Eph 4:24 → II Cor. 3:18 → I John 3:1
  - We will be fully \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ for eternity!

V. 3 - purpose in mentioning: not theological, but \_\_\_\_\_

- Echoes of purity throughout the NT (II Cor. 7:1; I Tim. 5:22; Jas. 4:8; I Pet. 1:22; et al.)

### Righteousness Connected to Christ's Past Coming - 3:4-10

v. 4 - Sin's \_\_\_\_\_: lawlessness

- Other definitions in NT (Rom. 14:23; Jas. 4:17; I John 5:17)
- Not unintentional mistakes, but willful, intentional transgression against a known law of God.

V. 5 - the sinless one's mission: remove sin from our lives.

V. 6 = logical deduction: "no one who abides in Him sins"

- Christ and sin are irreconcilably at enmity. His nature & work are fundamentally opposed to it.

V. 7 - warning against the idea one could "\_\_\_\_\_" righteous without "\_\_\_\_\_" righteousness

- The problem with "eternal security" → I "am" something without having to "do" something

Vv. 8-10 repeat the pattern of vv. 4-6: the **seriousness of sin**, the **purpose of Christ's mission**, a **deduction about holiness**

V. 8a - Sins' \_\_\_\_\_: the devil (cf. Jn. 8:44)

V. 8b - Christ's mission: "to destroy" his works

- λύω ("lyo") - to loosen; deprive of force, render inoperative, conquer, break the power of (4:4)

V. 9 - Deduction about holiness: "No one who is born of God practices sin...and he cannot sin"

- Not constitutionally incapable of sinning (cf. 1:8, 10; 2:1)
- Wesley, Sermon 19, "The Great Privilege of Those Born of God"
  - The spiritual birth is \_\_\_\_\_ to physical birth
    - "The Spirit or breath of God is immediately breathed into the new-born soul; and the same breath which comes from God returns to God. As it is continually received by faith, so it is continually rendered back by love, by prayer, by praise, and thanksgiving...these are the breath of every soul which is truly born of God. And by this new kind of **spiritual respiration**, spiritual life is not only sustained, but *increased* day by day, together with spiritual strength/motion/sensation; all the senses of the soul being now awake, and capable of discerning spiritual good and evil."
  - How does a Christian sin? When you \_\_\_\_\_ breathing.
  - Examples of David and Peter: Moving from grace to sin:
    - "You see the unquestionable progress from grace to sin: Thus it goes on, from step to step. (1) The divine seed of loving, conquering faith, remains in him that is born of God. 'He keepeth himself,' by the grace of God, and 'cannot commit sin.' (2) A temptation arises; whether from the world, the flesh, or the devil, it matters not. (3) The Spirit of God gives him warning that sin is near, and bids him more abundantly watch unto prayer. (4) He gives way, in some degree, to the temptation, which now begins to grow pleasing to him. (5) The Holy Spirit is grieved; his faith is weakened; and his love of God grows cold. (6) The Spirit reproves him more sharply, and saith, 'This is the way; walk thou in it.' (7) He turns away from the painful voice of God, and listens to the pleasing voice of the tempter. (8) Evil desire begins and spreads in his soul, till faith and love vanish away: He is then capable of committing outward sin, the power of the Lord being departed from him."
  - Breaking fellowship always \_\_\_\_\_ sin

V. 10 - Who someone \_\_\_\_\_ to is revealed by their moral behavior

- You can judge a tree by its fruit
- You can have \_\_\_\_\_
  - Direct witness: HS' inward, subjective testimony (Romans 8:16)
  - Indirect witness: objectively observable fruits of holiness