

The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #4

We Confess Our Sin Because Christ's Work Forgives It!

I John 1:8-2:2

I. The Need For Confession VS 8-10

- A.** The light exposes our sin
 - You can't deny it like the false teachers
 - Deception
 - It's a lie
- B.** They say, "We have no sin that breaks our fellowship with God"
 - Sin has nothing to do with God
 - It has to do with behavior, and that's irrelevant
 - The truth is not in them
- C.** When sin (imperfection) is exposed our response is to confess
 - Agree with God
 - Admit we are sinners
- D.** Then, we will be forgiven based on God's character
 - Faithful, just
 - His faithfulness to us has prompted Him to make a way for our purification and thus, satisfy His righteousness
 - We are forgiven
 - And cleansed – empowered to overcome because the sin and guilt are gone
- E.** Some were saying, "Well we have never committed any sin."
 - Makes God a liar
 - Romans 3:21-24
 - The whole story of the Bible
 - His Word has no place in their life

II. Christ's Present Work Keeps Us Clean! 2:1-2

- A.** Change of tone
- B.** Pastoral
- C.** Don't sin

- D.** Don't use forgiveness and confession as a license to sin – on and on
- E.** But, when we do sin (light)
- F.** Christ is our advocate – arguing our case for forgiveness before the Father – His present work
- G.** Atonement
 - The work of Christ on the cross
 - His sacrifice – Old Testament
 - Paid the penalty for me – substitute
 - He supplies what is needed to affect our pardon – advocacy and sacrifice
 - He comes along side so we can move forward

III. Thoughts

- A.** How seriously do we take the comprehensive nature of sin?
 - Our culture of exceptions to responsibility
 - It's not my fault – parents, background, culture
 - It's just a problem
 - Psychology of therapy that cures everything
- B.** We can try to make the world better by all our wonderful programs and strategies, but we can't because of sin
 - Our culture believes we can find solutions
 - Spirituality is being cultivated apart from a moral framework, i.e. disconnected from life – out of body experiences
 - Denies the clear teaching of God's Word
- C.** Comprehensive sin includes Christians
 - We develop spiritual systems that deny sin
 - 1.** Legalism
 - 2.** Fullness of Spirit
 - 3.** Outrageous spiritual authority
 - So we don't need to confess
- D.** The need for confession
 - John teaches it
 - Psalm 32:1-5
 - Private and corporate
 - Based on the present work of Christ our advocate
 - It's how we grow