



World Christian Fellowship

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Test yourself- Are you a Christian? Part 03

5. Waiting for Christ 2nd Coming

1 John 3:2-3, *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

When you become a true Christian, you will have hope in your heart, and your hope will be focused on Christ's return. That hope will purify your life.

Do you love Christ so much that you eagerly await to see Him face-to-face at His return and be made like Him?

John gives us the sequence:

- ✓ Christ appears,
- ✓ We see Him, and
- ✓ We are instantly made like Him.

Scripture tells us that is the Christian's blessed hope and supreme joy.

Romans 8:22-23, *For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.²³ Not only that, but we also who have the Firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

Paul says that our home is heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21, *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

Are you waiting for Christ return?

We have the whole series of messages preached!

Do you despise the sin in your fallen flesh and long to be like Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:49, *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

Can you feel the thrill of Paul?

Such a hope has ethical power, for John said it purifies the one possessing it.

Titus 2:11-13, *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ*

This is a sensible hope leading to sensible living.

It is not an inordinate kind of anticipation in which you are irresponsible with your earthly responsibilities.

Being so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good can hold you. The hope of Christlikeness will compel you to act more like Christ in reaching out to others and fulfilling all that God has set out for you to do.

If you find yourself longing for the return of Jesus Christ, that's evidence of salvation.

It is an indication of a new nature within, which longs to be delivered from a body of sin while becoming like the perfect Christ.

If you have such holy longings and affections, you have passed an important test indicating the reality of your eternal salvation.

The church in Thessaloniki was one of the church was always looking for Christ return.

1 Thessalonians 1:10, *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19, *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23, *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,* ¹⁴ *to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

As the bride waits for the bridegroom, are you waiting for His return?

2 Corinthians 11:2, *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

6. Decreasing Pattern of Sin in Your Life

1 John 3:4-10, *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* ⁵ *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.* ⁶ *Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.*

⁷ *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.* ⁸ *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* ⁹ *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.* ¹⁰ *In this the children of God*

and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

Unbroken patterns of sin are characteristic of the unregenerate.

No matter what a person claims about being a Christian, if he or she continues in sin, it is only a claim and not a reality.

When you became a Christian, the pattern of sin was broken and a new pattern came into existence. Holy affections took over.

Does that mean there's no sin in your life?

No!

Because your unredeemed flesh is still there. But the more you pursue those religious affections, the less you will sin.

Sin as a life pattern is incompatible with salvation.

Because when you are saved from sin salvation that shows that you have been saved from sin.

Matthew 1:21, *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

If a person could continue in sin after being saved from sin, that would mean salvation is ineffective.

John therefore discussed the work of Christ to demonstrate just how effective it is.

V 4, There are people who practice sin and lawlessness.

V 5, Christ appeared in order to take away sins.

To say someone had the work of Christ applied to him or her, yet continues in the same pattern of sin is to deny the very purpose Christ came for, which was to take away sins.

Continuing in sin is not consistent with Christ's work on the cross.

If a saved person could keep on sinning, that would mean Christ's death is in fact useless in time.

Christ's death served the very useful purpose of taking away not only the penalty of sin, but also the pattern of sin in the believer's life.

John went on to talk about Christ's work through the believer's union with Him.

V 6 *"No one who abides in Him sins"*.

That cannot mean true Christians never sin because John just said, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (**1 John1:8**).

1 John 3:7-8, *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

John's first epistle is consistent in warning against a pattern of sin.

Now let me clarify something here.

We frequently receive letters from anguished Christians who doubt their salvation because they can't seem to break a sinful or unwise habit.

They most often write about

- smoking,
- overeating, and
- masturbation.

They fear their struggle with such things means they are locked into a pattern of sin. But John is not saying that the frequent occurrence of one particular sin in a person's life means that person is lost. Rather, he clarifies his meaning in saying that a true believer cannot practice lawlessness (**1 John 3:4**).

The Greek term used there (***anomia***) literally means living as if there were no law.

A person who rejects God's authority doesn't care what God thinks about his habits, and is obviously not a Christian.

A Christian, however, has a drastically different way of relating to God. He or she is no longer a slave to sin, but has offered himself or herself as a servant to the Lord.

Romans 6:14, *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

Romans 6:17-18, *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

A true Christian can still sin, and may even do so frequently, but sinning frequently is not the same as practicing sin.

In 1 John we see that a true believer can do the first, but not the second.

Why is that the case?

Because the true believer "abides in Him" (1 John 3:6).

Not only does Christ's death take away our sin, but also His ongoing life in us breaks the sin pattern.

No longer are we perpetual sinners in thought, word, and deed—as we were before we were saved.

We now have the option to do good.

If we find ourselves sinning, contrary to the good we desire to do inside, we are much like the apostle Paul in Romans 7.

Paul is a great person to be associated with! Yet because of the abiding presence of Christ, our struggle will decrease as time goes on.

We will always be acutely sensitive to sin, but sin will be less of a pattern in our lives. Christ lives in union with us to provide a new pattern of righteousness.

A pattern of sin, however, signals a union with the devil!

V8, *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

The devil is a sinner.

Everyone who is associated with the devil is a sinner.

Christ came to destroy the works of the devil by rescuing people who are in bondage to sin. That means those who have really been rescued will not continue in the state they have been rescued from.

A habitual pattern of sin indicates that a rescue has never taken place. To claim otherwise is to denigrate Christ by implying His death didn't accomplish what He set out to do—destroy the works of the devil by rescuing people from sin.

V 9-10, *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

The believer has been born anew by the Holy Spirit.

The seed He plants is a new nature, a new life principle, a new disposition. just as a seed planted in the ground produces a distinct kind of life, God's seed produces a righteous life in us that breaks the pattern of sin.

No need to worry since that seed cannot die, for the Word of God tells us it's imperishable.

1 Peter 1:23, *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides orever,*

Born of the Spirit of God, the believer cannot continually sin.

John just provided us with four viewpoints in analyzing the sin in our life.

- ✓ The work Christ accomplished in His death,
- ✓ His ongoing life in the believer,
- ✓ His destruction of the devil's works, and
- ✓ The regenerating work of the Spirit.

Every way you look at it, the pattern of habitual sin is broken.

What does that mean to you personally?

If you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life, that's evidence of holy affections.

The difference between the children of God and the children of the devil is, as John said, "obvious" (v. 10).

If you practice righteousness, you are of God.

If you don't then you are not.

Plain and simple.

If you see victory over sin in your life,
if you see righteous motives, righteous desires, righteous words, righteous deeds, and
if you're not all you ought to be but certainly not what you used to be, then you have eternal life, so enjoy it.