



“Dear Children, If Anyone Does Sin...”

1 John (1:5-2:2)

Sunday | November 5th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 1:5-2:2

(See also 1 John 5:19, Gen. 6:5, Rom. 3:10-18, 23, 6:23, James 1:22, Col. 1:9-14)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Martyn Lloyd-Jones] *“The moment sin is mentioned in the New Testament, immediately He [Jesus. Matt 1:21] is mentioned. So I put it like that as doctrine: there is no forgiveness of sin apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. John puts it like this: ‘If any man sin’—well, what happens, do we just ask God to forgive us? Not at all! ‘We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.’ Immediately He comes in.*

And that, in a sense, is the doctrine of the whole of the Bible; everything in the Old Testament looks forward to this person. Take all that you can read in the books like Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, and in other books, about what God told the nation of Israel in that old dispensation—burnt offerings, peace offerings, and various meal offerings and all these things. Go through all the great ceremonials and rituals and everything connected with the Tabernacle and the Temple, all these minute instructions—they were all but types and shadows of that which was to happen fully and finally in the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹

¹Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p. 173.

DISCUSS

1. If you are a Christian, why are you a Christian? And if you are not a Christian, why are you not?

2. By way of recap, read 1 John 1:5 to re-establish what Pastor Patrick referred to “our starting place.” He claims that if we start anywhere else the wheels fall off. What is that starting place and why is it important?
3. There are several “if clauses” in 1 John 1:6-2:2 (i.e. “*If this is true, then that is true.*”); there are six of them altogether. John pairs them together with one negative “if clause” with a positive immediately following. First, identify all six “if clauses,” and then discuss them each in succession. What do notice with all the negative “if clauses?” And then, what do you notice with all the positive ones?
4. Can you identify with the negative “if clauses?” How might you resemble them?
5. Why are we to “confess our sins?” What benefits are there is that practice? What fruit?
6. What does it mean that God is both “faithful and just to forgive us our sins...?” (Use Scripture to answer; see Prov. 17:15, Rom. 3:23-26, 6:23) Pastor Patrick said that it is impossible for God to forgive sins without Jesus. What does that mean?
7. “*But if anyone does sin...*” What is the assumption in that verse? And what is the answer for the one who sins? Read 1 John 2:1, 2 and discuss.
8. Rejoice in the good news of Jesus Christ!
9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?