



Around the Word BIBLE STUDY

Trinity, 2016

1 John 5:13–21

On the New Life in Christ:

"By this grace such is the liberty they receive, that altogether as long as they live here they have to fight against the lusts of sins, and are overtaken by some sins for which they must daily pray, "Forgive us our debts," yet they no longer serve the sin which is unto death, of which the apostle John saith, "There is a sin unto death, I not say that he shall ask for that." Concerning which sin (since it is not expressed) many different opinions may be formed: but I affirm that sin to be the forsaking until death the "faith which worketh by love."

— St. Augustine

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Introduction: As we read John's closing of his first epistle, we are challenged to understand the forgiveness that God has given to us, as well as the true seriousness of sin. We are granted our freedom from sin through Christ, and we can be certain of this through the faith that we have.

Opening: Psalm 51

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my trans- | gressions.
- ²**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**
- ³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- ⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your | judgment.**
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- ⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | be
ing,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and | gladness;*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- ¹⁴**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your |
righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would |
give it;*
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not
despise.
- ¹⁸**Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;*
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;**
- ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

¹³ **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.**

Does the purpose of John's writing this letter compare to the purpose of his Gospel? Read John 20:30-31.

According to John 21:24-25, what reason is given that we should trust John's testimony?

Should we as Christians have certainty of our salvation and eternal life?

¹⁴ **And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.**

Read Luke 11:5-13. Does God give us good things or bad things? What examples does Jesus use to show the generous nature of the Father?

What reason does Paul give in Ephesians 3:11-12 for us being able to approach the Father to ask for anything?

What does Jesus do for us so that we can speak to the Father directly? Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

Do you need your pastor to pray for you in order for your prayers to be heard, or are your prayers just as effective as your pastor's?

¹⁵ **And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.**

Read James 4:2-3. Does God promise that he will give us everything that we ever ask for?

Read John 14:13-14. What does Jesus teach about asking God for things?

God does not act contrary to his nature, and so if our request is for him to do something that would not be for our benefit, it is not a good request.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

How is this command from John reflective of Job 42:7-9?

Read James 5:16-20. What is the benefit of praying for one another? Should we pray for our fellow Christians who are sinning?

What does Jesus say is the sin that is not forgiven? Does Jesus say that it is impossible for that sin to be forgiven? The reason why we would say that that is the only unforgivable sin is because if a person dies without faith, they are lost. But for one who has committed that sin, they can still repent and be saved.

Hebrews 6:4-6 should be read similarly. If one is either trying to find salvation through different means or holds Christ in contempt, there is no salvation. However, read Matthew 19:26. Can God save someone who is truly repentant? Would he?

Read Hebrews 10:26-27. Is the sin described here a continual thing or a singular event?

Read Jeremiah 7:16-17. Why does God say not to pray for certain sins?

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

Is this a verse that we should use to divide all sins up into mortal and venial sins?

According to James 2:10-13, what is the qualification for saying that one has not broken the Law?

What does John say about the connection between sin and things in our heart in 1 John 3:15?

Can we understand this verse in light of 1 John 1:9?

Based on what we've read so far in the last two verses, there are two categories of sins: the sin against the Holy Spirit and everything else.

According to Mark 2:5-12, who has the authority to forgive sins?

Read John 20:22-23. Who else has the authority to forgive sins?

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

According to John 1:12-13, who is the one who has been born of God?

What should we as Christians be doing for our fellow believers then according to this verse from 1 John?

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Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3. Does God expect us to care for one another entirely without any extra assistance?

19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Look back to 1 John 3:19-24. How do we know that we are from God?

Read John 3:5-8. What external sign do you have to know that you are from God?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What does the world look like because it lies in the power of the evil one?

According to Ephesians 6:12, who do we struggle against in this life?

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

What does Jesus say his relationship is to truth in John 14:6?

Read John 17:3. What does Jesus say eternal life is?

Look at Acts 4:11-12. Who has the Church proclaimed from the earliest days of her existence?

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Read Exodus 20:3. What is the first commandment that God gives us?

Does Paul leave any room in the Christian life to compromise with the devil in 1 Corinthians 10:20-22?

Read Galatians 1:6-7. Is it important that we hold fast to the truth of Christ?

God takes idolatry seriously and John closes his letter with a reminder of the point of his writing; stay away from false teachers because they will lead you into idolatry. Is this a message that we need to hear today?

Closing Hymn: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (LSB, 843)

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