

April 15, 2018

3rd Week of Easter

1 John 3:1-11

Sin can seem like the stickiest, most difficult problem to shed. Simply saying, “we will no longer sin” is a recipe for do-it-yourself Christianity, and it’s as impossible to live as it sounds. The magnificent gift of Jesus is His victory over sin. We are children of God and Jesus’ victory over sin ensures our victory over sin as we live in Christ!

The following play on words may be oversimplified, but can help us remember the work of “spiritually parenting” is God’s work, not ours.

ACCESS - Giving the Lord our very lives, and not withholding any good or bad thing is a lot like adoption.

AXES - We invite God’s deliberate action to remove the dead parts or lethal practices from our lives.

AXIS - Jesus is our “Hub”. The central focus of our hearts. John liked to say “abide”. It’s a good word for walking with God as our Father. As we abide in Christ, we take on His attributes. He truly is our Axis!

Abiding in Jesus means a transformed character. What John is talking about here is the regular mode in which we live. We should be doing our best to avoid all kinds of sin, all the time, though we shall surely fail; but the failures must take place within a settled habit of life in which sin is no longer setting the tone. We’re playing a different piece of music now, and even if our fingers slip and we sometimes play the notes of old songs we used to play... it doesn’t mean we’re going back to play that old music once more (N.T. Wright, 2011).

Next week: *1 John 3:16-24*

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 121* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *Acts 13:44-52*

Tuesday: *Acts 18:5-11*

Wednesday: *Romans 8:1-11*

Thursday: *Galatians 2:11-20*

Friday: *Leviticus 26:1-13*

Saturday: *Acts 4:23-37*

Dear LORD, You have promised to meet those who seek Your face. Come now and reveal Your presence to us as we make ourselves present to You.
In the Name of Jesus Christ our LORD, Amen.

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