

FOUR TRUTHS OF GOD'S GOSPEL

1 John 1:8-9

Introduction: Outlined in these two verses of scripture are four vital truths: the fact of sin, the condition of forgiveness, the ground of assurance and the promise of cleansing. A Christian who has been living his/her life away from God can find assurance that God still loves him/her through these verses and a person who has never trusted God's Son, Jesus, can see why he/she needs to entrust him/herself to the Lord Jesus Christ. Find you condition as we visit these four truths of God's Gospel.

I. SIN IS A FACT! IT IS NOT A THEORY

1. The gospel is not easy on anyone.
 - There is no way around sin.
 - There is no way under sin.
 - There is no way over sin.
 - Everyone must first of all face the fact of sin.
2. There are two ways that people try to deceive themselves about sin.
 - Some try to hold to the righteous life and speak of being "perfect," "sinless," making the claim of "absolute perfection."
 - Striving for perfection is indeed admirable but nobody but Jesus ever reached it, therefore nobody should be saying that they had reached that state of "perfection."
 - Paul called himself "the chief of sinners." Know anybody who is as good as Paul?
3. The other way people tend to deceive themselves is by trying to justify themselves.
 - By comparing ourselves with someone else, we state that "I'm not as bad as ...so and so..."
 - I don't steal.
 - I pay my debts.
 - I don't drink or mistreat my wife/husband.
 - I don't do this or that.
4. Do people actually think that they deserve a "medal" for not doing wrong things? Does anyone deserve special recognition for not doing the things nobody else would not do either?
5. Do not be deceived, God knows us all and God sees the heart.
6. Everything a person has ever done, whether in darkness or in the light, God has seen it, heard it and knows all about it and each one of us will stand before God some day and answer to Him.
7. What if it were possible to write down on a long scroll everything each of us has done and then someone proceeded to read before the church congregation what was on that scroll. How far would they be allowed to read?
8. Yet, the time is coming when EVERYTHING in each life will be revealed. NO more secrets.

9. Sin is a fact!

- Sin is what is wrong with our world today.
- Sin is what is destroying nations of the world, our very own nation especially.
- Sin is dragging people into the depths of the fires of Hell.
- Sin is what will send countless people into eternity without God.

10. The Bible says that SIN is HERE!

- The Bible says "Sin is the violation of God's Law."
- Crime is the violation of human law.
- Sin is the violation of God's law.

11. The Sin issue must be settled, there is no other way.

II. THE CONDITION OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN

1. Thankfully God has made a way out of sin, even for the most violent, vulgar sin.

- It is the way of CONFESSION.
- To a priest or a Christian? NO!
- Why go to another sinner and confess your sins to him/her?
- Sin is to be confessed directly to God.

2. What does CONFESSION mean?

- It is simply taking God's side against your own sins.
- It is when you stop justifying your sins and agree with God that you are a sinner, a lost sinner, a condemned sinner.
- It is saying "O Father, I have sinned. Here are my sins..... I love them no more, I will cherish them no more. O God, here are my sins, Forgive me." (It is confessing with all the sincerity of one's heart.)

3. THAT is confession. That is the condition for the forgiveness of sins.

III. THE GROUND OF ASSURANCE

1. It is asked, "How may I know my sins are forgiven?" "How may I know that I have been saved?"

- It is not by feelings for if it were, then one day we would feel saved and another we would feel that we were lost, unsaved again. If feelings were proof of being saved, then who among us is saved today?
- There is something far greater than feelings. It is not: FEELINGS, FACT, FAITH. But FACT, FAITH, FEELINGS.

2. What then is the grounds of Assurance of forgiven sins?

- It is the moral character of God. God cannot lie and God says if we meet His conditions, we shall be saved, forever.
- When asked if you are your father or mother's son or daughter, what is your answer? Do you have to guess? Are you the son or daughter of your parents one day but not the next?

- How, then do we know we are God's Children? Because God says so!
- We can take God's Word for all eternity. God's Words can destroy Hell, Satan and all things for God's Word is all powerful.

3. God is faithful and just.

- Why are our hearts still beating? Because God is faithful.
- The same stars that looked down on Abraham thousands of years ago look down on us today. Why? because God is faithful.
- Our souls are saved forever because God is faithful.
- When we meet God's conditions and confess our sins, God promises that we shall be saved.

IV. THE PROMISE OF CLEANSING

1. Not only do we have the fact of sin and the way to forgiveness and the ground of assurance, but we have the promise of cleansing.
 - No doubt our lives are spotted and stained with sin but when God is through with us we are as pure and white as snow.
 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive and to cleanse us..."*
 - Not a spot of sin, not a trace of iniquity. Our whole life will be cleansed by God, Himself.
2. We will be made pure so we may enter heaven for the blood of Jesus cleanses us.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, take heart for God will not cast you aside. When you entrusted your eternal keeping to God by your faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, you became one of God's children and God will never cast out a single one of His children.
 - When we become encumbered with sin, let us go to our heavenly Father, confess our sins with all our hearts and He will forgive and cleanse us.
2. For those who have never trusted God's Son Jesus, right now is the time to do so. You have passed up many other opportunities, so do not pass up this one. God invites you into His family, Jesus is ready to save you, the Holy Spirit is here to tell you how.
3. Of all the unknowable things God can do, there is one thing God cannot do and that is to see our confessed sins through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Sin is a fact. Every human being sins. Jesus is the answer for sin. Our confession of our sins makes the Gospel work.