

Tidings From Timothy

D O You? Some people are considered “young people.” Do you consider yourself one? Sometimes the designation applies to someone who is new to something, although they may be up in years. This morning’s sermon has to do with what young people think about. However, it is also designed to get people of all ages to focus on their life – so this morning consider yourself a “young-un” and listen up.

www.mtgileadchurch.net By next Sunday we should have much better connection to the church website in the auditorium. In the meantime I find that you can still get connection if you hold your device up over the pew or logon before sitting down

In Need of Prayer: JD Key is in Cookeville hospital and has had to have a lot of blood. He is feeling pretty weak with heart problems. Cass T. Froedge is back at home after a heart attack. They are looking to do a by-pass surgery in about a month. Connie Carter’s test showed instead of blockage a problem with arterial pressure of some such. They will use meds to deal with this. We are saddened at the passing of Darlene Hall, cousin to Steve Carter. Funeral is today at 2pm at Strodes.

Pantry: We could still use some crackers.

Advertisements for our Ladies Day and Gospel

Meeting should be out today.

The Christian and Sin (I John 3:4-9)

In the first three verses of I John 2, we learn that the true “sons of God” purify themselves because of the marvelous hope of seeing Jesus and being like Him. When you start discussing purity and how the Christian should live, the subject often turns to sin. Perhaps this is the reason that John moves right into a discussion of sin and the Christian. It also fits into

John’s overall theme of teaching against gnosticism, which was teaching that when one sins it does not affect his relationship with God.

How should sin be regarded by a Christian? Is it something to be taken seriously? Should one only look at it as being of little consequence? John doesn’t think so. In this article, let us begin with I John 3:4-9 and see what John has to say about sin.

First, let us look at the definition of sin. John writes: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (v. 4). The Greek word translated “sin” literally means “to miss the mark.” As used by John here, it means “to veer away from what is right.” This happens when someone misses the target he is aiming at (Phil. 3:14). Thus, sin is some kind of action (or lack of it) in which one fails to meet the goal intended by God. Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” So John defines sin as “transgression of the law” or “lawlessness” (NKJV). “Lawlessness” or “transgression” means “illegality” or “violation of the law.” Thus sin is to violate a law, such as the law of God. When one steals when the law says, “steal no more,” it is sin (Eph. 4:28). Therefore sin occurs when you do what is forbidden; this is commonly called “a sin of commission.”

In James 4:17, James describes another type of sin. “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” Thus, sin is also committed when one fails to do what is good or what is commanded; we often refer to this as “a sin of omission.” When one fails to love his fellow Christians and treat them right, he is committing this sin, even though he may not be doing him any harm; he is not doing “good” as demanded in God’s word.

In these two definitions of sin, one fails to meet a certain standard, and they have “missed the mark.” The standard is God’s Word; we will be judged by it (John 12:48; Col. 3:17).

The awfulness of sin is seen even more as John discusses its origin. In verse 9 he declares, “He that committeth sin is of the devil...” This reminds me of what Jesus had said in John 8:44: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” This means that when one misses the mark by doing what is forbidden or by failing to do what is commanded, we are showing the world the influence the devil has in our lives. Just this one fact, that sin makes us a child of the devil, should be enough for us to realize just how bad sin really is.

Another thing which demonstrates the terribleness of sin is what was required to defeat it. John next considers this. “And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins” (v. 5a) and “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (v. 8b). The purpose of Jesus’ coming into our world was to defeat satan and sin. John announced, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). If we remain in sin, we are making void the purpose

of His coming (so far as we personally are concerned.) Thus, when we correctly understand what sin is and how terrible it really is, then for the Christian there can be but one goal, and that is to refrain from sin.

John writes, "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him" (v. 6). John has already confirmed that Christians do sin (I John 1:8-10). So John is talking about one who does not continually practice sin. Such is true of one who abides in Him. Those who abide in Jesus do not continuously engage in sin. This is true because they "let that they have heard from the beginning abide in them" (I John 2:24). It is also true because they are trying to "walk as He walked" (I John 2:6); they are "walking in the light" (I John 1:7). "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (v. 9a). Again, John is not suggesting that one who is "born of God" never sins, but that he does not continuously practice sin! The context clearly indicates this! And why is that so? Because "His seed remaineth in Him." The seed is the life-giving principle that makes one a child of God (James 1:18; I Pet. 1:22-23). As long as one allows the "seed" (the Word of God) to remain in him, he is born of God and does not continually practice sin. He cannot as long as the "seed" is in him because the "seed" and the "practice" are not compatible (Psalm 119:11). Instead of practicing sin, he will practice "righteousness" (v. 7).

It is helpful to remember that John is dealing with the false teaching of gnosticism, and the idea that one can claim to be a "son of God" and not be concerned about sin in his/her life. But when we consider the definition of sin, its origin, what it took to defeat it and that we can refrain from it, our attitude toward sin will be quite different from those with whom John was having to do battle.

—Paul Wilmoth

Birthdays:	Ella
Massingille	03/11
Frances	McPherson
	03/11
Boyd Copas	
	03/12
Cameron	Hagan
	03/12
Jeanette	Harlan
	03/14
Nancy Parsley	
	03/14
Cecilee Harlan	
	03/17
Lucille Abney	
	03/18

What must I do?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16 (cont. on p.4)**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**
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PO Box 266, 1189 Mt. Gilead Rd., Tompkinsville, KY 42167 • 270-487-5342 • <http://mtgileadchurch.net>

Verses for the Lord's Supper: Matthew 16:24-27 ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works

Elders:

- Keith Dyer.....427-4105
- Veachel Harlan.....487-5727
- Roger Deckard.....487-8544

Steve Carter.....487-8746

Deacons: Larry Copas, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Kevin Deckard, Jimmy High, Ray C. Lyon, Michael McPherson, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494
12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN

38575

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

- 9:30am Bible Study...
- 10:05am Morning Worship...
- 6pm Evening Worship...

Wednesday:

- 7pm Bible Study...

Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news.