

1 John
(Lesson 3)

Introduction:

1. In our study of 1 John we have covered the information presented in ch.1.
 - a. John first showed in 1:1-3 that Jesus came in the flesh as the Son of God so we can have fellowship with Him and the Father.
 - b. This is good news -- John wrote this message so our "*joy may be full*" (vs.4).
 - c. According to vs.5-10, we must fulfill our responsibilities to have fellowship with God.
 - 1) We must walk in the light as God is in the light (vs.5-7).
 - 2) We must confess our sins (vs.8-10).
2. On the basis of this information, John dealt with additional matters relating to sin in 2:1-2:
 - a. (vs.1a) "the prevention of sin"
 - b. (vs.1b-2) "the cure for sin."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1a) JOHN FIRST DEALT WITH THE PREVENTION OF SIN
 - A. Let us examine 3 phrases in this statement:
 1. "*My little children*"
 - a. John was an older man when he wrote this letter.
 - b. He considered his readers to be his "*little children.*"
 - c. This was a kind and loving way for a teacher to address his students.
 - d. John used this expression 9 times in this letter.
 2. "*these things write I unto you*"
 - a. John also used this phrase or a similar one several times (ex: 1:4).
 - b. When he used this phrase, John:
 - 1) revealed his purposes for writing
 - 2) revealed the results he desired.
 3. "*that ye sin not.*"
 - a. John showed why he had written the information presented in 1:5-10.
 - b. His purpose was to get his readers to abstain from sin [prevention].
 - B. To prevent sin,:
 1. we must understand what it is (3:4; 5:17)
 2. we must be familiar with this letter as well as the rest of Scripture (Psalm 119:11).
 - C. John wrote his message so that we might not sin; however, we do sin.
- II. (vs.1b-2) JOHN CONTINUED BY REVEALING THE CURE FOR SIN
 - A. "*If any man sin . . .*"
 1. Christians do not have a license to sin (Romans 6:12).
 2. We are to strive to live above sin, but, being human, we do sin (1:8, 10).
 - B. Jesus is the cure for our sins.
 1. John described Jesus as:
 - a. our "*advocate*" [lawyer, one who pleads our case] "*with the Father*"
 - b. "*the righteous*"
 - c. "*the propitiation*" [atonement, means of appeasing] "*for our sins.*"
 2. Jesus is described in a similar way in Isaiah 53:10-12.

Conclusion:

1. God's Word will prevent us from sinning if:
 - a. we read, study, and meditate upon it
 - b. hide it in our hearts
 - c. apply it to the temptations we face.
2. It is a serious matter when God's children deliberately walk in sin (Hebrews 10:26-31).
3. The good news is that the Lord's blood will continue to cleanse us from our sins if:
 - a. "*we walk in the light, as He is in the light*" (1:7)
 - b. "*we confess our sins*" (1:9).