

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of October 8, 2023 A.D.

People Who Know God Must Walk As Jesus Walked

Does God want us to live and act like Jesus? Let's see how the apostle John would respond to that question.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 John 2:1-2

1. Is it realistic for John or Jesus (or God the Father for that matter) to expect that any human "will not sin"? If not, then why did John even suggest that "you will not sin"? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. What does it mean for a person to "forsake all sin"? If a person does forsake all sin, will that person continue to sin? If a person does forsake all sin, will that person still continue to sin? If a person does sin, should that person be afraid to confess that sin to God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
3. Refer to verse 2. What is an "atoning sacrifice"? Can a person understand the idea of an "atoning sacrifice" if that person does not first have a basic understanding of the sacrificial system which is described in the Old Testament? Please explain your answers.

Read Hebrews 9:19-22

4. Is it right for God to require "the shedding of blood" in order for a person to be forgiven of his or her sin? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Hebrews 9:23-28

5. Do you understand what the writer of Hebrews is saying in verses 23-26? If not, what questions would you ask of a Bible teacher in an effort to understand verses 23-26? If you do understand the meaning of verses 23-26, please explain what those verses mean.
6. Refer to verse 26. Has Christ "done away with sin"? If so, how? If not, were the life and death of Christ nothing more than a failed attempt on the part of God "to do away with sin"? Please explain your answers.

7. Read verse 27. In your opinion, do all people everywhere believe that they will be judged by God after they die? Do all Christians believe that all people (including all Christians) will be judged by God after they die? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

8. Please explain the meaning of verses 27 and 28.

Read 1 John 2:1-2

9. Please explain how the verses at 1 John 2:1-2 and the verses at Hebrews 9: 26-28 are: (a) saying the same thing and/or (b) not saying the same thing? Can a person "be saved" without believing and/or understanding what is written in these two passages of scripture? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read 1 John 2:3-6

10. Refer to verse 3. In chapter 1, John repeatedly refers to "having fellowship" with Christ. Now, in verses 3-5 of Chapter 2, John repeatedly refers to "knowing Christ." How are "having fellowship with" Christ and "knowing" Christ (a) the same thing; and (b) different? Are both fellowship with Christ and knowing Christ necessary for salvation? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

11. Refer to verse 4. Can a person "be saved" (i.e. going to heaven) if (a) he does not know Christ, (b) the truth is not in him, and (c) he does not do what Jesus commands? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

12. Refer to verses 5 and 6. What does "God's love" have to do with our obedience to God's word? What does it mean to "walk as Jesus did"? Based on these verses, what does it mean "to be saved"? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Consider: Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Can a person be saved without having fellowship with Christ through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? Can a person have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and yet not walk as Jesus walked? Is there any benefit to be gained by debating how to properly answer these questions? Or, is it better to simply choose to obey God's commands and to walk as Jesus walked? "You think about that." Amen.