

## 1<sup>st</sup> John Lesson 8 - The Purpose Of The Gospel

**1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. KJV**

This verse really threw me for a long time. It sounds like John is saying we Christians are still under the law of Moses. I decided to look at the Greek word translated "law" in this verse to see if it is the same word translated as the law of Moses elsewhere in the New Testament. To my amazement ... I found out the Greek word for "law" is not in this verse at all. I love the King James Bible, but this verse is a very poor translation from the original Greek. I know Alan is always reading from the New King James version of the Bible so ... Alan ... take a bow ... this time I acknowledge that your version did a better job of translating the Greek than the King James version of the Bible. Here is the same verse in the New King James Version:

**1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. NKJV**

The Greek word translated "law" in the King James, and "lawlessness" in the New King James Version is:

G458 anomia *an-om-ee'-ah* – illegality, violation of the law (any law), wickedness, iniquity, unrighteousness.

That word is used fifteen times in thirteen verses in the King James New Testament. Twelve times it is translated "iniquity/iniquities", once it is translated "unrighteousness," and then twice in the verse above it is translated "transgression of the law." Jesus only used the word four times. Every time He used it the word is translated **iniquity**. It is the same word Jesus used in,

(Mat 7:23) And<sup>G2532</sup> then<sup>G5119</sup> will I profess<sup>G3670</sup> unto them, <sup>G846</sup> I never<sup>G3763</sup> knew<sup>G1097</sup> you: <sup>G5209</sup> depart<sup>G672</sup> from<sup>G575</sup> me, <sup>G1700</sup> ye that work<sup>G2038</sup> iniquity. <sup>G458</sup> [Lawlessness]

Staying in context in 1<sup>st</sup> John, in the previous chapter John described the people who could no longer walk in fellowship with John and the true disciples. Why couldn't they?

1. Because they refused to do the commandments of Jesus.
2. Because they wanted to have God and love the world at the same time.

They were departing from John because ... they were departing from the teachings of

Jesus. They said they were still Christians, but in truth they were not only separating themselves from the fellowship of John, they were also separating themselves from the fellowship of the Father and the Son.

In chapter three, John has been teaching about the true sons of God, who are doing their best to know Jesus and love Jesus by keeping His commandments. They are purifying themselves by yielding their minds to the mind of Christ, because they have the hope of being like Jesus, more and more, until that wonderful day that they shall see Him as He is and be completely like Him.

**Christians are not lawless, but they are not under the law of Moses. Paul wrote,**

**Gal 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

Paul uses the proper Greek word to refer to the law of Moses. We are not under the law of Moses ... IF ... we are led of the spirit. The Lord is that spirit. The new nature you received when you were born again is the very Spirit of Christ. It is Christ within, by His nature and by His teachings, that you are following now. **THAT IS WHAT THE WORD "LORD" MEANS.** You follow Jesus by doing His commandments, both those that come by the new nature and those He taught the apostles. The apostles taught the new Christians directly during their lifetime in the first century. The apostles continue to teach us today through their gospels and epistles in the Bible.

Jesus Christ is your Lord now. **You acknowledge He is your Lord by doing His commandments.** To "say" He is your Lord without "doing" His commandments simply makes you a liar. Those antichrist men were departing from the commandments of Jesus. That means they were entering into "lawlessness." They were not "following" the teachings of Christ anymore. They were going the opposite direction of the sons of God who were purifying themselves to become more and more like Jesus through the yielding of their renewed minds to His teachings.

**1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.**  
**NKJV**

The word "committeth" or "commits" is in the present tense voice, meaning "habitually." Verse four should read, **"Whosoever habitually commits sin also habitually commits lawlessness (iniquity), and habitual sin is lawlessness (iniquity)."** Never forget what Jesus said, "Depart from me, ye that work **iniquity**."

**1Jn 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.**

John is saying ... this is why the Son of God was manifested ... to take away our sins. You could say, this was the purpose of God, to make a way for man to be free from sin. John again is repeating what Jesus said,

**Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.***

**Joh 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, **then** are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

The apostle Paul wrote,

**Rom 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

**Jesus Was Manifested To = The Purpose Of The Gospel Is = To Take Away Our Sins**

Most Christians believe that Jesus came in order to save sinners from hell. That is true, but it is not the whole truth. God did not send Jesus in order to save a fallen species from hell while leaving them as sinners by nature who could not live above sin. God sent Jesus in order to save a fallen species from sin by rebirthing them again as sons born of His Spirit, having the nature of their Father once more.

Jesus came to populate the earth with sons of God. That was the original plan of God.

**Luk 3:38 Which was *the son* of Enos, which was *the son* of Seth, which was *the son* of Adam, which was *the son* of God.**

That was the original plan of God in Genesis chapter one. It is still the plan of God. When the restoration of all things is complete and there is a new heaven and a new earth, the new earth will be populated with the sons of God.

The purpose of the gospel is not to forgive sinners to save them from hell while leaving them as sinners by nature. The gospel is to rebirth sinners to save them from being slaves to sin. Being saved from sin, they will be saved from hell.

Forgiveness of all your sins as an offspring of Adam is for the purpose of starting you off as a son of God with no past. No history of sin. Being born again by God's Spirit, we are empowered by the new nature to live as sons of God who are no longer slaves to sin.

In the beginning of creation God said, "The sinner must die." God provided the option that the sinner can die in Christ and then be reborn to newness of life as a son of God. Jesus told the Pharisees that if they did not believe on Him, they would die in their sins. It is foolish to die in your sins and perish when God has provided the option to die in Christ instead, and then be reborn to newness of life as a son of God.

### **The Gospel Saves From Sin**

by Charles Finney

The impression of many seems to be, that grace will pardon what it cannot prevent; in other words, that if the grace of the Gospel fails to save people from the commission of sin in this life; it will nevertheless pardon them and save them in sin, if it cannot save them from sin. Now, really, I understand the Gospel as teaching that men are saved from sin first, and as a consequence, from hell; and not that they are saved from hell while they are not saved from sin. Christ sanctifies when he saves. And this is the very first element or idea of salvation, saving from sin. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus," said the angel, "for he shall save his people from their sins." "Having raised up his Son Jesus," says the apostle, "he hath sent him to bless you in turning every one of you from his iniquities." Let no one expect to be saved from hell, unless the grace of the Gospel saves him first from sin. -- **Charles Finney**

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**Tit 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

**Mat 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

**2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

**1Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. NKJV**

**1Jn 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.**

Remember how again and again in this epistle John reminds us of Jesus teaching the necessity of "abiding in Him and His words abiding in us." Why? So we could stay CONNECTED to the vine. If you are connected to the vine as your life source, then the life of the vine is your life also. There is no sin in the life of the vine. There is no sin in our LIFE SOURCE. If you abide in Him and His words abide in you, there will be no sin flowing into you either. Remember, every man that has this hope in him ... purifies himself even as He is pure! Your sins have been forgiven by His blood. You began this new life without guilt of sin. This new LIFE SOURCE from the vine has freed you from being a slave to sin. In Him there is no sin ... and HE is your VINE ... HE is your LIFE SOURCE ... there is no sin in Him and if you are led by Him, there will be no sin in you. That truth is why John says in the next verse,

**1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him [habitually] sinneth not: whosoever [habitually] sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**

If you are living a lifestyle of habitual sin, your life source is not the VINE of Jesus Christ. Your life source is from a different plant, a bad vine. You can say you are a Christian all you want, but if you are living in habitual sin, you have not seen Him, you don't know Him, and you are not abiding in Him. Here is a "Jane, see the ball" moment,

**1Jn 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**

John just keeps bringing us back to that pesky word ... "doeth." Never be deceived by what people "say." "**Jane, see the ball.**" **People are what they do!** If your life source is the VINE of Christ, then righteousness will flow through you like it flows through Him. The life in you is the life in Him. It is the same life in the vine and the branches.

**Luk 6:43-44 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (44) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.**

**1Jn 3:8-10 He that [habitually] committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil [habitually] sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. (9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (10) By this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**

John is teaching what Jesus taught ... look at the fruit of the tree ... if you find habitual sin as a lifestyle ... it is a bad tree. No matter what the man "says" about being a Christian, if the fruit of his life is habitual sin ... he is of the devil. Reminder: The devil did not commit a sin, repent, and then stop sinning. No, the devil continued to sin without repentance and continues to sin until this very day. Sin is the nature of the devil and if sin is the fruit habitually on your limbs, you are still of the devil also.

If you underline ... **FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED** ... that He might destroy the works of the devil. What work of the devil? SIN! The very name JESUS means "He shall save His people from their sins." Not "in" their sins ... "from" their sins. You will become a different tree, tapped into a different life source, a life source that has no sin in it, and the habitual fruit on your limbs will be righteousness! Isaiah the prophet had proclaimed centuries before, "that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." You are a tree of righteousness. You are the planting of the Lord. You are a good tree with righteous fruit. Would you like to know what passage it is where Isaiah spoke that?

**Isa 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the**

brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; (2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; (3) To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

**GLORY TO GOD! THIS IS THE VERY PROCLAMATION GIVEN BY JESUS AS TO WHY HE WAS SENT. "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME" BECAUSE ... THIS IS THE DAY OF VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD ... TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL! TO FREE MANKIND FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN! TO BIRTH US AGAIN AS THE VERY SONS OF GOD. WE ARE TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE PLANTING OF THE LORD! THE FRUIT ON OUR LIMBS IS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**