

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The Book of First John

An Overview

First John reveals unrest in the early church. False teachers were leading many saints astray from the truth (see 1 John 2:26; 3:7). The erring caused such stirs in the churches of Christ that splits occurred and they eventually left the faithful (see 1 John 2:18-19). Whether these erring brethren were Gnostics, opinion driven people, or those who invented religious ideas that became their personal convicted truths matters not. What mattered to John, as he wrote by divine inspiration, was that the true child of God let the anointing from the Holy One abide in their hearts (i.e., absolute divine revelation or truth) (see 1 John 2:20). John wrote, "*And as for you, the anointing which ye received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any one teach you; but as his anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, ye abide in him*" (1 John 2:27). Eternal life with the heavenly Father would only be possible through Christ's forgiving blood and man's faithful obedience to truth (see 1 John 1:1-4; 2:1-2, 25; 5:11, 13). No Christian needed to be taught a new gospel!

There were two things standing in the way of the saints eternal life with the heavenly Father. First, John explains the position sin places one in. Sin, in any form, is not ok no matter what others may say. John writes, "*My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*" (1 John 2:1). John discusses two areas of sin in this short epistle. First, there is the sin of worldliness; i.e., the lust of the flesh, eyes, and vainglory of life (see 1 John 2:15-17). Secondly, there is the sin of false teaching (see 1 John 2:18-23; 4:1-3). The other thing that stood in the way of the saints spending eternity with God was a lack of love for their fellow brethren (1 John 2:9-11; 3:16-18; 4:7-11, 20-21). As it was not ok for Cain to kill

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our worship service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Keep **Clint Chancellor** in your prayers. Clint had his appendix removed this past Thursday and went home on Friday.

Report on our Shut-ins:

Stella Davidson fell and broke her femur bone last Monday. She had surgery and is rehabilitating at the Texoma Christian Care Center. Stella request that no one visit at this time.

Calvin York continues to do about the same. Darlene fights keeping his blood sugar right and his dementia seems to be slowly getting worse but at a slow pace. Darlene has lost a lot of weight and is trying to eat more.

Last Sunday of the Month Singing:

If you have a song that you would like to sing get with one of the song leaders today. Shane Robertson will be doing the preaching tonight.

Able it is not ok for one brother not to love another brother (see 1 John 3:11-12). To love your brother is to care about their spiritual and physical well being (1 John 3:16-17; see 3 John 1:2). To love your brother is to be kind, patient, selfless, and 11 other traits that Paul reveals at 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.

The solution to the problem of sin and a lack of love was that the saints let the word of God abide in their hearts (1 John 2:24-28; 4:12-13, 16). When the word of God dwells within one fellowship with the Father occurs. All that such a one does is dictated by the word of God. The word of God becomes one with the mind of the saint so that keeping the commandments of God becomes second nature rather than a grievous matter (see 1 John 5:3). When such a one sins they are bothered so badly that they cannot function till they go to God in prayer asking for forgiveness (see 1 John 1:8-10). Such an approach to life sets the true saint of God apart from the sinful world and opinionated personally convicted brethren (see 1 John 3:10). The world recognizes this difference as they see our conscience bothered by sin (see 1 John 3:13; 4:5). The saint of God also notices this difference (1 John 5:19).

John, by divine inspiration, sets a high standard for all Christians to follow. Each of the children of God must become as God in holiness, love, and righteousness (see 1 John 1:6; 2:6; 3:3, 5, 7; 4:17). We may all experience victory over Satan and sin yet it will take a mind that is saturated with truth (1 John 4:4; 5:4-5).

Brethren, cast the shackles of Satan off of you (1 John 5:21). Many have been taught a gospel of some preacher's personal convictions rather than truth as revealed in God's word. You have let these early principles become a tradition that supersedes the word of God (see Matthew 15:1-9). Some have held on to childhood convictions at the expense of actual truth. The apostle John tells us that if you hold to these personal convictions or opinions rather than truth you are of the devil and antichrist (1 John 3:8; 4:3). You will eventually separate yourselves from the true faithful but such a separation will only give you temporary peace (see 1 John 2:18-19). It will be, and always has been, the distinctive preaching of truth that drives the erring from the flock of the faithful (Matthew 15:12-14; John 6:60-66).

John E Robertson

The Grace of God

Bible Correspondence Lesson # 4

Introduction:

We continue our series of lessons for the Bible correspondence course this morning. Lesson number four is over the Grace of God. We have studied a lesson on how we got our Bible. We examined internal and external evidences of the Bible's authenticity. We have also studied Bible authority. When one opens a Bible to study it they must know that the entire objective of the book is to save man from the consequences of their sins. Justification from sins committed involves God's grace. Grace is a Bible subject that is sorely misunderstood by many. This lesson shall examine this Bible topic and simplify its meaning by simply looking to the word of God.

I. What is Grace?

A. Greek lexicons define the word grace as "favor."

B. The Bible defines Grace as "forgiveness" of sins (Ephesians 1:7), God's "mercy" (Ephesians 2:4-5), "redemption" (Colossians 1:13-14), "justification" (Romans 3:24; 5:1-2), God's "promise" (Acts 13:23, 38; 1 John 2:25), God's gracious "gift" (Ephesians 2:8), "revelation" (Ephesians 3:2-6), "sanctification" and "obedience" (Romans 6:16-23).

II. Why do we need Grace?

A. All men violate the law of God and are subject to punishment (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8).

B. Without God's grace man would be hopeless.

III. Is God's Grace Conditional or Unconditional?

A. Consider characters in Bible that received God's favor after they had complied with God's commandments.

B. Free gift in the sense of no requirements to receive or free gift when one complies with instructions ("order now for your free gift")? See {Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 5:11} compared to {1 Corinthians 6:9ff; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 John 9; Revelation 2:10}

Conclusion:

God has given man the ability to resist evil (James 4:7-8). He has also given man the ability to choose between good and evil (James 1:13-14). However, all the good deeds one may do, according to law, will never save one (Galatians 3:10-12). All men sin at one point or another and ruin their perfection and are due God's wrath (Romans 6:23). Therefore, man is in desperate need of God's grace. God's grace is offered today to all those who will submit to His will. Those who exercise an obedient faith shall have their hope realized, not because they did the works, but because they recognized that obedience is a part of faith in God.