

1st John #25

“His Word in Us” *1st John 1:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-10*

No righteousness in man ever compares to God’s perfect righteousness.

No so called *justice* in man can compare with the justice of God; we start out with no justice and then we develop a system of self-justification until we understand and live by God’s justice.

Man’s justice and righteousness are stinking, filthy rags, unless they’re related to the integrity of God, so man can’t approach God on the basis of his own merit or integrity.

Without capacity for life from biblical truth in the soul,

no blessing is worth having and this means we must have self-discipline in daily learning and applying the Word of God under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Love of the Blessor causes the blessed to continuously enjoy and share his blessings.

Our confidence must be in the Source of our blessings to really enjoy the content of our blessings.

In His all-knowing Fatherly love, God can take blessings He gave us and make them a source of discipline to prompt us to be fruitful.

When we depend on our blessings rather than God, the further our priorities go out of balance, the more our blessings become cursings.

The issue for all mankind is greater than sin; it’s victorious Jesus Christ and His glorious gracious payment in full for man’s sin in which we are reconciled to God through Him.

In John’s day, many were teaching that they weren’t sinners and they didn’t sin because they were spiritual and their bodies were physical, so sin really didn’t count and it had no impact on their relationship with God because Jesus Christ paid for all their sins and therefore, it didn’t matter what they did.

Self-deception is self-destruction and that starts with self-focus.

Self-focus causes us to make our emotion or feelings the standard for life so we’re constantly thinking about our desires and needs above all else.

And if we are self-focused, we become occupied with self-indulgence where we say “If it feels good, do it”

So, from self-indulgence in order to cover ourselves, we must rationalize our behavior with self-justification.

The good fight is NOT defeating sin or mortifying the sin nature; it’s trusting Jesus Christ from start to finish to deliver us from the penalty of sin, recognizing that He, Himself is the only Savior of the world.

It’s not that we become dualistic Gnostics and feed our flesh with degeneracy; it’s that success in the Christian life is Christ-centeredness, not arrogant self-centeredness which includes fighting a battle that Jesus Christ won 2,000 yrs ago.

This self-deception divorces one from reality, hardening the heart against God and His Word which has become a threat to blow the cover of the arrogant self-righteous believer.