

John 8:30-47

Abiding in the Light

Introduction

Festina Lente is an old Latin motto which simply means:

To make haste slowly...

The idea is that **it is better** to act with due diligence and attention to detail to avoid making mistakes **and finishing a task** more quickly overall...

Doing a task **correctly the first time** is quicker than trying to cut corners and having to go back and to fix all of **your mistakes...**

One notable proponent of this was the **Roman Emperor Augustus** who used it to caution his troops **against** making rash decisions...

The men needed to go to war **quickly** – but they needed to do that **wisely!**

And so he used this theory on the battle field to make **reasonable progress slowly!**

The Militance of the Ents

One pastor has called this principle:

The militance of the Ents...

*Remember in Tolkien's Two Towers, the Ents are those **ancient tree creatures** full of the wisdom of the ages... And when they sit down they consider the best possible action & outcome – but **once they have made their decision they to go to war quickly and speedily!***

Festina Lente!

The Christian Life

Now I have always imagined that **this phrase** would make an excellent motto for **how we grow** in the entire Christian journey!

Doing a task for the Kingdom that requires **great attention to detail** but at the same time that attention **requires authentic Christian movement!**

See there are Christians in this life who **all they ever do** is make **quick & rash decisions** without ever actually thinking through the process... **never actually doing** meaningful Christian work (because they make decisions **so quickly**, **so poorly**, and **so carelessly**) – but **on the other hand** there are **those** who **all they ever do** is *contemplate things*, and *think about life*, and *profess to know Christ* to the detriment of never actually doing meaningful Christian work:

Never growing in holiness – never growing in faith – never learning to obey!

And so **at the end of the day** we need **both** attention to detail – and genuine Christian strides!

We need both progress in our faith – in a way that is real!

And I think Jesus here in John 8 gives us both the **direction** and the **motive** for how to do this!

Recap

See here in John chapter 8 Jesus is in the middle of **a great debate** with the Pharisees – He's been going back and forth, with these men over the Law – over the Sabbath – over **legal requirements** in court and they're **having a really hard time** accepting the things that He says!

And so in the **middle** of this **debate** there are people in the crowd who are **listening** in – and starting **to become persuaded** by the words of Jesus!

And apparently, they are even starting to *believe in Him...*

We see this in verse 30 of our text:

And as He was saying these things, many believed in Him...

2 Kinds of Faith

But **if we are taking** John's Gospel with a **large grain of salt** then **we are going to remember** that in the Gospel of John there are really **2 kinds** of faith:

There are those who upon receiving the words of Christ and believing His miracles – **truly** repent and **truly** receive eternal life!

They are the ones who are **truly born again** – they have the Spirit of God – they have the water of life and they have feasted on the bread from heaven!

But then there are **others in this Gospel** who upon receiving His words – and believing in His miracles **do NOT** repent and **do NOT** receive the words of eternal life!

They are **false converts** and they walk away when the sayings of Jesus **get too hard** – we saw that in back in John chapter 6!

And they are the ones who like **the soils** in Matthew 13 *receive the word with gladness* – but **after a while** the joy dries up and the cares of this world **choke out that word** – and they immediately shrivel up and die because they have **no bearings** – no **root** – no **grounding** – and no ultimate **anchor!**

More than

What all of this goes to demonstrate of course is that:

Believing in Jesus is **more than** *a simple profession of faith* – it requires **more than a basic & rash** decision to want to follow Him – but believing in Jesus **also requires:**

Genuine authentic movement!

Believing in Jesus requires **NOT JUST** that we **make haste** – but that we:

Make haste slowly!!!

In fact this is what Jesus tells us here in verse 31 of our text:

*Then Jesus said to the Jews **who had believed Him** (those who had a **profession** in Him) **If you continue in my word, then you are really my disciples...***

The measure of a true disciple **is not** what you say most loudly – but the measure of a true disciple is what you hold to **most consistently** over a long period of time!

The measure of a true disciple is perseverance!

Perseverance in His **Word** – perseverance in **holiness** – and perseverance **in His ways!**

The measure of a true disciple is one who walks in the footsteps of Jesus while ***making haste slowly!***

Main Point

And so the main point that we're gonna see as we come to John chapter 8 here **in our text this morning** – is that:

True, genuine, and authentic faith requires abiding in God's word, being free from our sin, and walking as children of God!

Abide in His Word

So, with that being said – John chapter 8 verse 31:

The benchmark of a **true and genuine** disciple is this – number 1:

That you abide in His Word

Verse 30:

*And as He (Jesus) was saying these things, many believed in Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, **If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples.** ³² **You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...***

Opening Gambit

It's **striking to note** here that Jesus **doesn't speak** these words to those who **rejected Him** – but Jesus is speaking to those **who had believed!**

Those who accepted – those who have chosen to follow in His footsteps!

And so **we might be tempted** to think that Jesus was coming on a **little bit strongly** here – coming on a **little bit harsh** – perhaps even overbearing!

At least **try to get them** into membership Jesus – at least get them to take a baptism course!

Perhaps a little *discipleship class* Jesus?!?!

And Jesus says:

I am giving a discipleship class!

And this is **point number one**:

All **true and living disciples** will hear the voice of the Shepherd and **remain in His Word** by faith!

Jesus in keeping with the theme of light **echoes the words** of the Psalmist in Psalm 119:

*Your word is a **lamp** unto my feet and a **light** unto my path...*

So Jesus has just called Himself **the Light of the world** and **the way out of darkness** – and He says that **the first way** out of that darkness and **into** His marvellous light is **through His word!**

Through abiding in His Word!

Words Vs. Word

And what's striking to note is that Jesus **doesn't say** 'words' in the plural – but He says 'word' in the **singular!**

He who remains in my Word!

This I think suggests that Jesus has in mind **the totality** of His teaching – the summation of His doctrine:

All of His commands – All of His law – and all of His teaching regarding Himself!

From Genesis to Revelation **all of God's word** is true – all of it is **relevant**, and **all of it** consistent with the word of Christ!

Cheery Pick

And so one basic **application** is that:

You & I as Christians cannot **pick and choose** which verses only apply to us!

You & I cannot pick which verses we want to **chose to obey!**

You & I **cannot pit** Jesus' words in one place of Scripture – **over and against** His other words in another place of Scripture!

The word of God is NOT divided – Jesus Himself does NOT contradict!

*But **all of it** is true, **all of it** is profitable, **all of it** is worthy for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness...*

Now **the application** of His word might change depending on circumstance and depending on New Covenant application – but **in totality** all of His word is profitable for teaching, reproof, and correction!

Abide

Now the second thing that's important is that **that word** 'abide' or 'continue' in verse 31 has **more than** just affirming its validity!

The words means:

To remain – to indwell – or to walk steadfastly in!

It has this idea that remaining in His Word **means far more** than simply affirming that His Word is true!

Now it does mean that – but it means something **much more** than that!

The Psalmist says:

Your Law is my delight and the thing to which I love...[for] If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction...

And so to **abide** in God's Law – to abide in His word – to walk in the light **is NOT simply** to accept and affirm that Jesus' words are true!

But to delight in God's Law **is also to obey everything that it says & calls for us to do!**

This is **what John tells us** in 1st John 5:3:

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome...

So this is **how we know** we love Him – if we **obey** Him!

John 14

This is what **Jesus says** in chapter John 14 of this Gospel:

If you love me you will keep my commandments!

And again verse 21:

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me!

Verse 23:

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word!

Verse 24:

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words!

So Jesus is very clear about this – John is clear – all of Scripture is clear:

The litmus test of a true and genuine disciple is **NOT simply** that we *profess* to believe in Jesus – but that we **obey and walk in a way** that is consistent with His Word!

If there is no **true and genuine obedience** when it comes to God's Law – then Jesus says there is **no true and genuine faith!**

If you **do NOT delight** in living for Jesus Christ – then you **cannot consider yourself** a true and genuine disciple!

Now of course there are times when the joy of the LORD **ebbs and flows** in our lives – and sometimes **it's harder to obey than others** – and we can never **fully obey** perfectly:

We **never** obey perfectly!

But **on the whole** (in the grand-scheme of things) the Christian mentality of the law and of His commands is that:

The Law of God is sweet – it is good – and it is a joy to obey!

Sweeter than Honey Candy

The Psalmist says in Psalm 19:

*Your Law is **sweeter than honey** and the drippings from the honeycomb!*

Obedience to Jesus is NOT only necessary but fun!

For the Christian:

Obedience to Jesus is like chocolate cake, caramel fudge, & sugared donuts!

When God gave the 10 Commandments, He prefaced them with:

I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt...

This means of course is that when God gives His perfect law to His imperfect people – **the idea that we are to have is:**

We get to follow Jesus – we get to obey Jesus – we get to worship Jesus!

This is a grace – this is relief – this is a gift **that we get to enjoy!**

And because it is **grounded & rooted** in the grace of God who fully paid and obeyed the law **in our place!**

The only thing we are to do now is **walk in gratitude** and thankfulness for what He has done!

Because:

God's standards are the standards of freedom!

J.C Ryle likes to say that:

Where the Holy Spirit is there will always be a holy life. A jealous watchfulness over tempers, words, and deeds – and a constant endeavour to live by the rule of the Sermon on the Mount – and this [he says] is the best proof that we love Jesus Christ...

The first and glorious mark of a **true and genuine** disciple is that:

You abide in His word!

Not a slave

The second evidence that you are a **true** and **living** disciple is this:

Not being enslaved to our sin

The Christian is one who although **NOT being** sinless or perfect in this life – is **ever seeking** to become more like Jesus **by the end of their life!**

We see this in verse 32 of our text:

[So Jesus said to them] that **as a result of** disciples **abiding in His word** *you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...*

But the Jews responded to Jesus ‘We are descendants of Abraham, and we have never been enslaved to anyone. So how can you say, ‘You will become free’?’

So Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son remains forever. So, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. I know you are descendants of Abraham (physically), but you are trying to kill me because my word has no place among you...”

Pride Hideout

Jesus begins to **ramp up the heat** by drawing these men into **an area of discussion** deeply related to their notion *freedom, heritage, and pride!*

*Jesus, master teacher, immediately finds their pride hideout, and seeks to draw **them into the light** of their foolish, sinful, and darkened minds!*

And as a result, gets them to say some **very strange** things – verse 33 the Jews said to Jesus:

*We are descendants of Abraham; **we’ve never been enslaved** to anyone.*

Sin is irrational

Now this right here **is the perfect example** of what I was trying to say **last week** when we allow sin to rule our hearts, in order that we live *foolish, silly, and irrational lives!*

This is the perfect example we have **right here** – because these men are looking at Jesus with a **dead straight face** and they say to Him:

*We're the descendants of Abraham – and we've **never been enslaved** to anyone!*

Now I think it must have taken **everything in Jesus** at that point to **reign in His wit** – and to **NOT** say to them in a **condescending way:**

You've never been enslaved to anybody...Egypt...?!?!

Something about a guy named Pharaoh, the Red Sea crossing, the Exodus, Passover!

Ummm Babylon?!?! Destruction of a temple... rebuilding the walls?!?!

The Assyrians – the Medo-Persians?!?!

Or what about this:

*How about the fact that as we're having this conversation **you're currently under the boot of Rome!!!***

How about the fact that if a Romans soldier comes by **right now** and says to you to “*carry my back-pack!*”

Your **only response** to him is:

Sir yes Sir!

How far sir!

How many miles sir!

Like the arrogance to think that they've **never been enslaved** to anyone when **the entire history of Israel** was born in the **confines of slavery**!

This is what their entire heritage is!

This is what it's all about!

Noetic Effects

This is the foolish and irrational effects of sin – **and specifically** this is what happens when sin **penetrates** the effects of our **minds**!

This is what theologians will refer to as:

The noetic effects of sin

That sin has darkened **every aspect of the human person** but **in particular** sin has affected the way that we **think** – the way that we **reason** – the way that we **see & understand** the world!

And by the way – **this is why** when we indulge in sin we **believe the lie** that sin will **ultimately satisfy us** – and then once we are awakened to that **we come away** realising that:

Sin **doesn't** satisfy – sin **doesn't** feel good – and we really aren't satisfied like we thought!

Because our minds **were darkened** at that point and we believed the lie of sin!

Now there are many places in Scripture that **repeats this theme** but in particular Paul in Romans chapter 1 – Paul **reading His Jesus** says it like this:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**!*

Suppression of the truth is something that is done **through the mind**!

*¹⁹For what can be **known** about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have **clearly been perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.²¹ For although they **knew** God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks to Him, but became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were **darkened...***

And then down in verse 28 – he says:

*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to **a debased mind***

Friends among one of the greatest effects that sin has upon the human person is the **reality & thinking** of the mind!

Sin enslaves our **thoughts**, our **hearts**, our **actions** & attitudes and **every part** of our darkened soul!

This is why Paul says in **Romans chapter 12** commands us that:

*In light of the mercies of God do not be conformed to this world but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind!***

Ephesians 4

In Ephesians chapter 4 says:

*The Gentiles walk about in the **futility of their minds**, and being **darkened** in their **understanding**, they became alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their hardness of their hearts...*

So sin begins in the heart – manifests **in the mind** – and results in our actions!

And so they say to Jesus: we've **never been enslaved to anyone...**

Jewish Pride

But Jesus is undeterred by this bold-faced lie – He is **undeterred & unaffected** because He knows that **this factual lie** is **NOT** really the issue!

He knows the issue goes **much deeper** & **much further** than just simply lying...

The issue is their sin and their enslavement to their sin manifest in their lies!

Their lies are **the fruit** of something **much deeper** and much more enslaving than just their physical slavery!

And so Jesus says to them in verse 34:

Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

*And a slave **does not remain** in the household forever, but a son remains. So if **the Son** sets you free, you really will be free...*

Hagar & Ishmael

Now it's a bit tricky to know where Jesus is going with this – but basically because their pride was **at the centre** of these lies – (and it's a pride **deeply connected** to their Jewishness) – Jesus **takes that pride** and that religion and shoves it **into the light** – to expose a **fundamental reality** that they seem to be missing:

Abraham, you remember **had 2 sons!**

He **didn't just have** Isaac – he also had **Ishmael!**

And Ishmael was **NOT** a free son!

Ishmael was the son of **the slave woman Hagar!!!**

Whereas Isaac was born to Sarah – and he was **the son of the promise!**

And so Ishmael's time in Abraham's house was limited!

And eventually the time came for Abraham to cast out the slave woman **with her son** because her son was NOT the heir of the promise – that's Genesis 21:10!

Salves of sin

And so by pointing these Jews to that **Scripture** – Jesus was in fact calling them slaves of the woman!

That they were in fact **slaves in God's house** – who needed to be set free by **THE SON** of the promise:

Jesus Christ; the true Son of Abraham!

All People

And by the way did you notice that word *everyone* in verse 34 – that ***everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin!***

This is NOT just about the Jews in Jesus' day – but Gentiles – Asians – Africans – Americans – Australians – South Africans – **all people everywhere** by virtue of their union with their federal head Adam are **all enslaved** to their sin!

All people everywhere – in **all places** – at **all times** are born in a state of guilt!

This is the doctrine of **Total Depravity**:

That apart **from God's free, sovereign & powerful grace** to rescue & redeem sinners – human beings **are totally unable & unwilling to come to Jesus Christ** to be set-free from their sin!

Because to be a slave of something means that our **wills**, our **minds**, our **affections**, our **hearts** are **systematically bound** to our masters!

That we belong to the **sway of our sin** – and we need to be set free in order to have life!

And until the son sets you free – you will NEVER BE FREE!

And so Jesus says that these men **needed to be** set free from their sin in order to become true seeds of Abraham – true seeds of the promise – and true seeds of the Son!

But see **in order to do that** – in order for God to sovereignly bring us into the light – He **first** needs to **show us** what our true nature and **covenantal status** is in Adam!

And so they first needed to be **seen NOT** in terms of their covenantal heritage (their **physical descendancy**) to Abraham – but they **needed to be seen** in their covenantal status **connected to a different father!**

Their true Father – their spiritual father Lucifer!

God as your Father

And so this leads us into **the third and final mark** of a true and genuine disciple:

A **true and genuine disciple** is seen in their covenantal status as:

Children of God

Or children of the Light!

This is what Jesus goes on to say in verse 39:

[So Jesus said to them]: If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰ But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this, But You're doing what your father does...

"We weren't born of sexual immorality," they said. "We have one Father—God." ⁴² So Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I

am here. For I didn't come on my own, but He sent me. ⁴³ So why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word...

Serpent Seed

So, if the Jews were **NOT already offended** by Jesus in verses 31 to 39 – they are **certainly going to be offended** by Him now!

Because **NOT only** (Jesus says) are they **NOT connected** to the offspring of Abraham – but now they are being **connected** to an **entirely different lineage!**

They are being connected to a seed and lineage that goes **all the way back** to Genesis chapter 3 with:

1. The seed of the woman!
2. And the seed of the Serpent!

And Jesus says that **if these men** were descendants of Abraham, they would be doing the works that he did!

*Abraham **believed God**, he believed **His word**, he believed **the promise**, and He walked in **the truth** as He acted by faith!*

Abraham was willing to believe God **in such a way** that he was willing to kill his **very own son** – whereas these men had **no faith** that they wanted to kill **God's own** son...

And as a result, they're **NOT doing** the works that Abraham did but doing the works of their father – their father who is described in verse 44:

You are of your father the devil – you're of the seed of the serpent – the seed of Satan – the seed that wars against God!

And all you ever want to do is carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. And so because I tell the truth, you do not believe me...

So this explains **what is at the root** of their unbelief – this explains why they are NOT abiding in Jesus – it explains why they are slaves to their sin!

The reason these Jews **do not** believe and do NOT **walk** in the light is **ultimately due** to the fact that they have another father!

They are of their father the Devil and all they want to do is what comes naturally to their **darkened ignorant** minds!

But then **also notice** that Jesus **says the same** about the children of God!

That both sets of children want to do **what naturally comes to them** as a result of being a child of a **particular father**:

Both **fathers** produce **offspring** – and **both offspring** produce **works**!

Fruit of their father

The question is what fruit are they bearing?!?!

What is the fruit that each child produces?!?!

Well thankfully Jesus gives us **the fruit of both sets of children** in order that we would know **who we are**!

Children

So notice firstly the fruit of the children of God!

Those who are the **children of God** – will **ultimately** produce **2 main things**:

1. A love for God's Son – verse 42!

And

2. And a love for God's Word – verse 47!

So verse 42:

*Jesus says if God were your Father, **you would love me**, because I came from God and I am here...*

And then again in verse 47:

*The one who is **from God** listens to God's words...*

So to be a child of God – to be a child of the Father means:

To love God's Son and to listen to His word in a way that obeys!

We would go a long way if we simply sung that old hymn some more *Trust & Obey!*

This is what Peter speaks of in 1st Peter chapter 1 when he says this:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Who according to His great mercy, has caused us **to be born again** to a new and living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead...*

So he's talking about the new birth, and the new life found **through** the redeeming power of the Gospel – and he says to them in **verse 8** that one of the **first effects** of the new birth and **being born again** as a child of God is that:

Although you have not seen Him, you love Him!

Friends love for Jesus and love for His word are among one of the **chief affections** that the new birth produces!

And the reason for that is because love for God is **the preeminent mark** among all true believers – 1st Corinthians 13 says it is the **noblest** of all human affections:

It is **the chief** among faith, hope, & love!

In fact, if you are a Christian then **NOT only** have you seen God **by faith** but you now see Him **in such a way** that your love for Him will **only increase & improve** until the day you die!

That's what the gospel says – you will NOT only love Him but **love Him more** by the end of your life!

Because our love **grows** – it **increases** – & **strengthens** in proportion to the object of its (faith) affections!

Mumma-Bear Love

I heard a story this week of a lady by the name of Lidia Angyiou (An-gee-you) – she was a mother – 41 years old who lived up in **Canada's Far North** right near the border of Alaska & Quebec – and one day in 2006 her **7-year-old son** was playing hockey on this lake with **2 of his other friends** on the ice...

When all of a sudden this 700-pound Polar bear (317Kg) walks onto the ice and **sees these boys!**

And so the story goes that Lidia (the mum) **runs out** into the middle of this lake and stands between **the bear and the boys** – and all of a sudden begins charging this bear and begins to **fight this bear** with her **bare** hands!

Lidia **kicks, and swats, and wrestles** the bear to the ground – she gets **swatted** in the face – one black eye – one bloodied body and begins rolling with this bear until the boys notify a near-by neighbour who gets his rifle and shoots the bear 4 times **until it's dead!**

They pull Lidia out from under the bear; she sustains **minor injuries** and the Sheriff **later describes** this woman as:

5 foot nothing – 90 pounds on a wet day – fighting a 2.4 metre high 700-pound Polar bear!

And we wonder why our mothers were **so hung up** on kissing us every night **as children** before bed!

Because a mother's love is scary dear friends!

It's powerful!

This is the power of a mother's love!

That she would risk her life **in proportion to** the object of her affections!

Love grows – love protects – and **love increases** in proportion to the object of its faith!

Samuel Bolton (the 17th century puritan) once said:

*There is **nothing more powerful** than love! Things impossible to others are easy to them that love. Love knows no difficulties...Love is an affection that refuses to be put off by other **duties or difficulties** which come between it and the person loved!*

Love's Fruit

You see Christianity **isn't just** a system of doctrine with **quick and rash** decisions based upon **whimsical** moments! – it **isn't** based upon a simple profession of faith that **withers and dies** away – but **at its core** Christianity is **most powerfully** described as:

Making haste slowly!

It is **an enduring love** for the object of its affections Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 6:24:

*Grace be with all who have an **undying love** for Jesus!*

An undying love!

An unfading love – an abiding love – a love that endures till the end!

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might!

Love for God and love for His word **always go together!**

From our **minds** to our **hearts**, to our **heads**, to our **hands** – although you have NOT seen Him –
you love Him!

Friends these are the marks **of genuine children of God:**

Love for Jesus!

And Love for His word!

Fruit of the Devil

But then notice **the other marks** that Jesus gives about the other set of children – notice that there are children of the Devil – children of darkness – unbelievers who produce fruit for their father!

This is the scary thing we see in verse 44:

*You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out **your father's desires:***

And what desires are those?

Verse 44:

*He was **a murderer** from the beginning and **does not stand** in the truth...*

The **2 marks** of the Devil and **of his children** are the **opposite** of the children of God:

If the children of God **love God's son** and love His word – then the children of the Devil:

Hate God's Son!

And

Hate His Word!

1. The children of the Devil hate Jesus Christ (manifested in their murder)!

And

2. Hate the truth of His word (manifested in their lies)!

And this is why lying and murder (always) go together

Lies are **verbal murder** – lies are **verbal hatred** – lies are **verbal violence** and come from **the same place** that murder, sin, and death originate!

Lying is a form of verbal murder that tries to **steal, kill, and destroy** like the Devil!

And so I **don't** think His **only** talking about **literal murder** and **literal lying** – though they are **certainly in view...**

But He's talking about **all forms** of:

Lying – murder – gossip – idolatry – slander – and **hatred** for the truth!

They all come from **the same place** that **lying & murder** come from!

Unconfessed sin

Unconfessed sin is a form of lying!

It's living **an un-truth** about God!

It's saying that **God isn't really** that holy – He isn't really that good!

It's saying that you can live in a state of **unconfessed sin** and be okay with God and with your neighbour!

That's lying – that's wicked!

It's saying that God **isn't that good** – and He doesn't care about sin – and that you can live in that state of darkness and **still profess** to know Christ:

No you can't!

1st John 1:6:

*If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in the darkness, **we lie** and do not practice the truth...*

So if you have unconfessed sin – and you are **claiming to love God** while walking in the darkness – you lie and do not practice the truth!

And you are being like your father the Devil!

1st John 3:8:

*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is **of the devil**...*

Unconfessed sin – ongoing sin – habitual sin – being enslaved to your sin evidences an **unregenerate heart!**

It evidences that you are **NOT really warring** against your sin – and seeking to fight your sin – and you are really captive to your sin – and have no victory over your sin!

Hatred

Hatred!

Being angry with your brother – being angry with your sister!

And letting that sin fester in your soul is murder!

You are murdering in your heart!

And you're allowing unconfessed sin to fester and dwell where the truth should be dwelling!

Gossip

Gossip!

Slander!

Indulging in information about another person **even if that information is true** is still gossip!

It's still slander! It's still evil!

Enjoying to hear of **other people's sin or information** when you are NOT invited to hear it – is lying – it's murder – it's evil!

Idolatry

Idolatry (false worship)!

Paul describes that in Romans chapter 1 as *exchanging the truth for a lie*!

When you are valuing other people – other things – other objects that God has created above God Himself – then you are lying about the nature of God and engaging in a lie!

You are saying that there is something **more valuable and more precious** than the Creator – it's lying – it's murder and it's wrong!

Conspiracy theories

And don't even get me started on conspiracy theories – conspiracy theories are the worst!

Propagating half-truths as **full truths** is a lie!

Conspiracy theories when founded upon **untrue data** (or sketchy data) is a lie!

You're just guessing!

You're just gambling!

It's a theory **not a fact!**

Nothing wrong with enjoying **people's theories** – but when you propagate **that guess** as a **factual truth** and you press that upon other people's conscience then you engage in the nature of lying!

Stop wasting your time with stupid theories and get back to the bible!

You want truth – go to God's word!

Cosmic Treason

Because God created the heavens and the earth by speaking – and because He upholds all things by the word of His power – Hebrews 1:3!

All forms of lying are always an attempt to **unmake the world** as it actually is!

If God says light and light came to be – then every time we lie we attempt to fight against **that light** and that truth!

Every time we lie we are seeking to unmake the world **as it actually is** which is a form of lying –
pride – idolatry and war!

To tell a lie is **to be at war** with the world that **God actually made it!**

And therefore every time we lie we are being like our **first Father Adam** in the garden who upheld the lie in exchange for the truth!

Genesis 3

In **keeping with this theme** of Genesis chapter 3 – Jesus says that:

Satan was a liar and the father of lies from the very beginning!

Satan was the one who deceived Adam and Eve into partaking of the fruit **through the lie** to doubt God's word!

He killed Adam and Eve and brought about death to the entire human race **through his lying!**

Conclusion

And so you can **summarise this entire chapter** as simply asking this:

Choose this day whom you will serve!

There are only 2 options – only 2 teams:

Light or dark!

Life or death!

Christ or chaos!

Choose this day whom you will serve!

Will you be a child of Satan and a **slave** to your sin – or will you be a child of God and walk in the light!

Satan has come to **kill steal and destroy** your soul – but Jesus has come to set it free!

The Gospel

Jesus came as **the second Adam** 2,000 years ago in the form a servant in order that He would take **your sin** – and take **your guilt** – and take **your shame** as His own!

And He has set His affection on you **and despite you** – and chosen to take those lies – and take those sins – and take that murder upon Himself in order that you would be set free!

And He has chosen to set His love upon you – **NOT because** of anything in you – but everything in Him!

And so God looks at you **in** Christ, and **by** Christ, and **because of** Christ and He says to the world that **you are righteous**, you are **perfect**, you are **free**, you are **forgiven**:

By my grace!

By my grace and because of my love I have chosen to die for your sin!

And so **the only response** that we are to have is to take this Christ and behold Him **by faith** – believing that He has **fully, finally, and forever** died in our place and **for our sin!**

And therefore, we respond **in gratitude** by putting to death the deeds of the flesh and walking in the light!

And **as you walk** in the **fullness of His grace** – you begin to have victory **over sin** – victory **over lies** – victory **over hatred** – and victory over **murder** – and victory over **every form of sin** that the Devil throws your way!

Jesus Christ has **crushed the head** of the serpent – and you no longer **need to walk** in the confines of your sin!

Friends you have been set free from your sin through the enslaving power of the Gospel!

Which means (hear this) **you can say no** to your sin!

YOU CAN!

YOU REALLY CAN!

Jesus Christ has really come – He really died – and you are really free!

And the joy of the Gospel friends is that **we get** to worship Him!

We get to obey Him!

We get to abide in His word!

And worship and know the truth and walk in the light!

John Calvin said many years ago:

*God is the one who impresses His word on our hearts by His spirit, and it is He who you **daily chases away** from our minds the clouds of ignorance which obscure the brightness of the gospel [in order that we would walk in the fullness of life]...*

Friends True, genuine, and authentic faith abides in God's word, is not enslaved to our sins, and walks according to the gospel!

Let's Pray

John 8:30-47

Discussion Questions

[Read John 8:30-47]

Main Point: *True, genuine, and authentic faith requires abiding in God's word, being free from our sin, and walking as children of God.*

Q1. [Read verse 30-31]. Do you think these are genuine believers, why or why not? – What does Jesus say is the first mark of a genuine believer? – What does it mean to *abide* in His word? – How should we respond when we see something in the bible we don't like or understand?

Q2. [Read verse 31-32]. What or who is *the truth* that will set you free? **[See also John 17:17].** In what ways does this verse encourage you? – In what ways does it challenge you? – **[Read 1 John 5:3].** How have you found your personal obedience to God's laws this week? – In what ways has God's law been a blessing to you? – In what ways has it challenged you? – What do we need to remember about Christ & the cross when seeking to obey God's law?

Q3. What does it mean that Jesus is the Light of the world? – In what ways does His word guide us out of darkness? **[See Psalm 119:11].** – How does 1 John 1:7-9 help us when we sin?

Q4. [Read verses 34-36]. What does it mean to be enslaved to something? – What was Jesus here about the human condition? – What does He say is the only solution?

Q5. [Read verses 42-27]. What 2 fruits will the children of God bear as a result of having God as our Father? – What 2 fruits will the children of the Devil bear as a result of having Satan as their father? – In what ways have you manifested God's fruit this? – In what ways have you manifested Satan's fruit this week? – Where do we need to run when we do sin and fall short of God's law?

Q6. Why is the gospel such good news to people like us?