



5 MINUTES / 5 DAYS

*Forgiven! – 1 John 1:8-10***MONDAY** No Hiding*1 John 1:8-10*

Three Bible verses for this week: 1 John 1:8-10. Read them each day. Memorize verse 9 if you have not already. All of us will need it many times in our lives. It is a wonderful promise from God about forgiveness of our sins.

Today let's look at verses 8 and 10 and notice that hiding from sin is not an option. Is there anybody who really thinks they have no sin? You know better, don't you? Don't deceive yourself. Ignoring or dismissing sin only blocks the path to forgiveness. Verse 8 teaches us that we have a sin nature (you don't have to teach a child to lie). Verse 10 reminds us that we have actually done wrong. God knows; the people around you know; you know. You have sinned. I have sinned. But God forgives.

*Memorize 1 John 1:9***TUESDAY** No Excuses*1 John 1:9*

*If we confess...* Hmm... What's confess? Is it saying words? Is it **doing** something? Mostly, it is an attitude. Rather than an action of the lips or the body, confession is an assent in the mind. To confess is to see our sin like God does: wrong, without excuse, and separating us from Him.

We tend to excuse ourselves for wrongdoing. God does not. We cite circumstances, other people, inherent weaknesses... all kinds of things make our sin seem less, well... sinful. Confession and excuses are mutually exclusive. The words, "God, please forgive me," cannot be effective if our attitude is saying, "It's not my fault." The first step in confession is admission: "I did wrong and I can't blame anyone or anything else."

*Confess your sin without excuse.***WEDNESDAY** No Doubts*1 John 1:9*

Promises are only as good as the people who make them. A former US President made famous the phrase "trust, but verify." He was talking about nuclear disarmament, of course, but it's pretty sound advice for many aspects of life. It's good to trust and to believe in others. But whether it be among nations or people, promises tend to get broken.

Well, with God, no promise is ever in doubt. His nature and character provide His verification. To know that God's promise of forgiveness is accompanied by His faithfulness is an amazing thought. Is it ever possible that you will confess and God will **not** forgive? No! He will always keep His promise. He has done it in every moment of history, will do it today, and will do so every instant of the future... forever!

*Trust God to forgive you.***THURSDAY** No Myths*1 John 1:9*

Among the subtle popular myths about God, here is one: "God can forgive us because His love is stronger than His justice." Not true. God is holy and just and loving and compassionate all at the same time and in a perfectly balanced nature. Our verse says that God is *just* to forgive us our sins. How so?

Simple. Jesus died for us. Forgiveness is possible, not because God ignored our sins and pretended they didn't exist as some human perception of love might suggest. Rather, God can forgive us because Jesus **paid** for our sins. And just as God's justice demanded that payment for sin be made, God's justice now requires that forgiveness be offered. A perfect, holy God can now do no less. The songwriter stated it so beautifully: *Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin has lost it's crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.*

*Thank God for His promise.***FRIDAY** No Worries*1 John 1:9*

I've always enjoyed washing and cleaning a car. From vacuuming the inside to washing away the grime to putting the shine on the tires, there is something satisfying about the process. Occasionally, I'll take time to apply a coat of wax as well. Now that's the real deal... not only is the dirt gone, but you're actually improving and protecting the car as well.

Our verse says that when we confess, God not only forgives, but *cleanses us from all unrighteousness*. That's the final step. He washes our sins away (*as far as the east is from the west*, the Bible says), and then shines us up. He protects and improves us. The cleansing is an "inside job" working on our desires and intents for the future.

What a promise! If we confess, our faithful, unchanging God will always forgive and cleanse.

*Confess your sin so God can forgive and cleanse.*