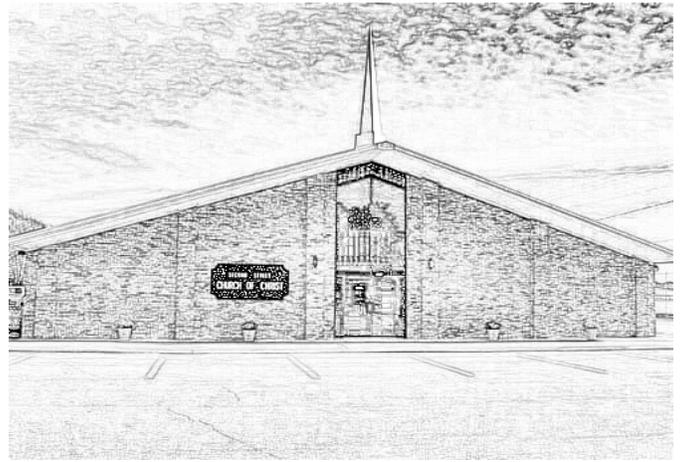


# Second Street Church of Christ



May 15, 2016

## Understanding the Gospel of John

### MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

### Office

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### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am  
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3*

The Gospel of John is a treasure for students of the New Testament. It can fill our days and sustain us for many years. Yet, we must develop an appreciation for what the author is trying to accomplish.

Matthew, Mark and Luke were edifying their readers and bringing souls to Jesus. However, false doctrines about Christ were arising and needed to be addressed.

Who better to do so than the man who was probably the closest to Jesus among all those on earth? (John 13:23-25).

God, through the Holy Spirit and the Apostle John, opens the remarkable fourth gospel with the most shocking introduction in history. The first five verses of John present challenges so lofty that only one man could live up to them.

The eternal Word was with God while actually being God at the same time (John 1:1-5), and he came to earth to walk among men (John 1:14). In this brief introduction, John touches on many common themes in his gospel, such as the eternal and authoritative Word, light, darkness and glory.

John spends the remainder of the book proving his initial premise. John is less biographical and more apologetic to prove Jesus is the Son of God and that he came in the flesh. Every item was selected to prove his points, chiefly the Seven Great I Am's (John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9,11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1).

John's premise is proven when Thomas doubts the resurrection of Christ. He demands to see the wounds of Jesus and is granted the privilege (John 20:24-27). Then Thomas exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28, NKJV).

Jesus follows Thomas' affirmation with, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). He then closes the section with the statement that these words should be sufficient for everyone to prove the deity of Christ (John 20:30-31).

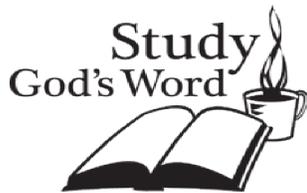
The Gospel of John is extraordinary and provides the perfect destination to introduce someone to Christ. Become an avid student of the book and bask in its blessings.

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## Announcements

**Welcome Visitors!!** You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

**The sign-up sheet** to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.



Trays for May

Michelle Holcomb



### **Absence is a Symptom**

Fever is a symptom of a disorder somewhere in the body. The primary problem may be a hidden infection that would not otherwise be noticeable until it is in an advanced stage. High body temperature tells us something is wrong in the body, somewhere. It tells us a reliable cure needs to be found and applied.

Unnecessary absence from worship and Bible study is a fever-like symptom. Mere absence, however, is not the only factor for diagnosing spiritual illness. There are times when it may be necessary to be absent from worship and Bible study. On the other hand, habitual absence is a spiritual malady that needs to be cured.

As a fever may possess a man who does not know what causes it, even so a Christian can neglect worship without being aware of the problems that cause one to do so. We can easily camouflage our lack of concern for worship by involving ourselves in personal interests. This is easy to do when other interests seem to be more important than they really are. Select wisely the things that are important in life (Mt. 6:33)..

We should recognize the difference in one who would rather attend worship but can't and those who attend but had just as soon be elsewhere. My mere presence in a meeting house every time the doors open should not be taken as a sign of "good spiritual health." Attending just to have a good record of attendance, without a positive desire to please the Lord and learn how to serve him better, is worthless.

Deliberately missing a worship service or Bible study is always spiritually significant. It is significant because it reveals the presence of a wound, an infection, a depression, or some other spiritual disorder. The fact that a person "feels well" about their spiritual life is no guarantee of sound spiritual health.

We need be more interested in causes than symptoms. We cannot avoid the implications of continued absence from worship services. This would be like a parent ignoring a high fever in a child. The fever is a symptom; the cause may take the child's life if the fever is ignored. Deliberate absence from worship and Bible study may take a spiritual life if it is ignored. — *Borrowed, author unknown Bulletin Fodder*

# THE CHRISTIAN AND SIN

Examining the relationship from 1 John 3 & 5

## INTRODUCTION

- ◆ John spends a great deal of time considering the Christian and sin in 1 John.
- ◆ However, some of the passages seem confusing and have caused problems for people trying to understand his statements.
- ◆ Let's examine what John said in some of these confusing texts and understand his purpose behind them.

**1 John 3:9** - "Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." - NKJV

- ◆ While the NKJV translation is ambiguous at best, an analysis of the words used and the context brings a great deal of clarity to this passage.
- ◆ First, consider the context. (Vs. 4-10)
- ◆ Next, consider the terms used.
  - ◆ Terms like "abides," "commits," "sins," are, in the Greek, *present active participles*.
  - ◆ This means they are not singular actions, but continuous in nature.
- ◆ 2 other translations
  - ◆ "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." (KJV)
  - ◆ "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." (ESV)
- ◆ This verse is not talking about the commission of a single sin, but the willingness to live a lifestyle of sin. The true child of God cannot do this.

**1 John 5:16-17** - "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." - NKJV

- ◆ Some say this passage means there are sins that do not separate from God – is that what John means?
- ◆ First, consider the context. (Vs. 13-18)
- ◆ Next, consider the terms used.
  - ◆ These things are in reference to a brother/Christian.
  - ◆ The only sin not unto death is a repentant sin. (James 1:15; Romans 6:23)
  - ◆ The emphasis is on the power of prayer.
  - ◆ The Christian can sin, repent, and not face death.
- ◆ This passage is not saying God doesn't care if the Christian sins. He is saying that the character of the child of God (Vs. 18), combined with the power of prayer (vs. 14-15), will save the Christian from death through sin because of his continued walk with God. (1 John 1:7)

## CONCLUSION

- ◆ These 2 passages are generally considered the most difficult in all of John's writings.
- ◆ However, much of the confusion comes because of a lack of clarity in translation, not because of the ambiguity of the writer.
- ◆ These verses communicate the character and confidence the child of God can have if he keeps himself focused on serving Him. Sin will not reign and forgiveness is constantly before us.

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**            **9:00am**  
**Worship**                **10:00am**  
**Evening**                **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**            **7:00pm**

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Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Psalms 133:1**

The process for becoming a Christian  
is the same as it was over 2000 years  
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a  
Christian. These commands are from  
God and must be obeyed from the  
heart to become a Christian.

### Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Troy Yarbrough	Phillip Pharr
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Jeanie Ivy	Marie Azzinaro
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
John Tate	Lou Dodson
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Dana Clayton	Carol Ivey
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Tim Denson	



### May Birthdays

*Rada Malone 5/4*

*Caleigh Tidwell 5/9*

*Stephanie Harris 5/16*

*Stelle Higginbottom 5/17*

*Debra Wren 5/18*

*Mallory Cleveland 5/27*

*Shea Cozort 5/29*

### May Anniversaries

*Doris & Wendell 5/25*

### Sympathy