



Whoa, what a weird title for a Christmas time sermon! No doubt about that. But it is also the right title for this message because dealing with the ongoing problems that sin brings *into* our lives and the frustrating power that Satan has *over* our lives is exactly what the Apostle John talks to us about in **1 John 3:4-10**. In fact, as we'll learn today, two of the biggest reasons that Jesus came to earth (Hello Christmas!) was **to take away sins (v.5)** and **that He might destroy the works of the Devil (v.8)**. So, as we think about it, diminishing sin and defeating Satan actually does make this a "Joy to the World" type of teaching, especially for Christmas 2020!

TWO GIFTS YOU DEFINITELY NEED THIS CHRISTMAS

*"The differences between the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: Anyone who does not **practice** righteousness and who does not love his brother or sister in Christ is not a child of God."* (1 John 3:10)

Gift #1 = _____ .

Gift #2 = _____ .

LIVING BETTER BY SINNING LESS

1. (v.4) Face the ugly fact that sin is open rebellion ...
2. (v.5a) Realize that Jesus has ...

3. (vv.5b-6) Run from sin by continuously running to ...
4. (v.7) Don't be lulled into thinking that sin is ...
5. (v.8a) Ask yourself if you want to give the ...
6. (v.8b) Keep telling yourself that Satan is ...
7. (v.9) Respect who you are ...

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

Living better by sinning less ...

Living better by sinning less ...

Living better by sinning less ...

FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud **1 John 3:4-10** in the NASB and the NLT. Would you agree that two great gifts to receive this 2020 Christmas season would be to *live better* and *love more*? As a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to "live better?"
2. Read aloud **1 John 1:8** and **1 John 3:4-6**. How do we make sense of these verses that seem to contradict each other upon first reading? Note: The key to answering this question is in the word "**practices**."
3. **1 John 3:7** warned us against being deceived by Satan into thinking that sin is no big deal. Why would Satan want to minimize sin and how does he do that in Christians? Why does God want us to see sin for what it is?
4. In **1 John 3:9**, the Apostle John tells us that God's "**seed**" abides in those who belong to Jesus. What is this seed that he is talking about? How does having God's seed in us make living a better life possible?

*12.13.20 - 13th in a series of messages by Pastor John K. Nagle from the Book of 1 John.
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