

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

1 John 5.16

What is the matter? The reason John wrote this letter to his disciples...

John was writing to the churches to combat the false teaching of gnosticism. ...denied the body and divinity of Christ
...His pre-existence and resurrection.

They taught that matter was evil, (matter is not...hammer...hit head-still not evil)

that access to heaven was granted to those who received divine knowledge, that became self-actualized
that (like Jesus) eventually transcended the flesh and matter by works and thought
that Jesus was merely an emanation from God, (angel or divine being)

He was the first one to become self-actualized, to be released from bondage to matter.

These false teachers entered the church and taught both asceticism and hedonism

Either deny the body and all of its appetites (asceticism) or give in to all pleasure (hedonists)

Since flesh (matter) was evil, you either deny it or let it run free...

So John emphatically declares the divinity of Jesus,

He is God in the flesh, creator of the ends of the Earth, Sustainer, controller and will return in glory to make us like Him
AND most important,,the advocate for our sins and even the sins of the world.

Salvation does not come through positive thinking, or restraint of the flesh, or works, but through faith in Jesus and faith alone.

We also discovered that we all sin as believers, but John emphasizes the following:

- We do not strive to live in total rebellion every day
- "He that commits sin is of the devil" refers to the unsaved apostate, not us.
- When we mess up, we fess up and He is faithful to cleanse us.
- We can struggle with habitual sins, but He will stay with us till we are victorious.

John concludes with a simple command at the end (idols), but a rather confusing verse before that.

Sin that leads to death Sin that does not lead to death Sins that are mortal Do not pray for certain people

A mortal sin?

Almost every commentator...the unforgivable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

The unforgivable sin is when they close the casket lid and you have not accepted Christ.

No one comes to me unless the Father draws him. How? Through the Spirit, sent by Jesus. The Spirit convicts, leads, draws, etc...

*So if you continue to rebel against the Spirit until you die,
then you've just grieved the Spirit to the point of committing the unpardonable sin.*

So when do we stop praying for someone? *When they've committed the unpardonable sin and the casket lid is closed.*

I SHOULD PRAY FOR THE EXCEEDINGLY LOST

Look at the exceedingly lost in Scripture!

Consider Mary Magdalene in Luke 8, seven demons.

... Sounds pretty mortal to me, seven demons!

The thief on the cross

...We do not know his sin, pattern of sinning, depth...

...Sounds pretty last minute mortal to me!

IN ONE INSTANT he was saved

The demoniac of the Gadarenes?

...Naked, lived among the tombs, kept under guard, break his chains!

...Sounds pretty mortal to me!

Cornelius, the Roman centurion.

... Sounds pretty mortal to me, overseeing slavery and

And consider Paul!

... Definitely sounds pretty mortal to me!

I know that God wants everyone to be saved because I see it in Scripture.

God is not willing that any should perish... God so loved the world... A propitiation not only for our sins...whole world

I believe that anyone can get saved because I see it in Scripture, and I see it in life.

I see people that were hardened to the gospel but yet are sitting in church.

I see people that rebelled against the gospel their whole lives, but...serving the Lord.

So if these people could accept Christ as Savior, then who should we not pray for?

Who do you know that has more than seven demons?

Who do you know that is murdering people like Paul?

Who do you know that is ANTICHRIST and denies who Jesus is?

PRAY FOR THEM! IF IT MOVES...pray for it!

I SHOULD PRAY FOR STRUGGLING BELIEVERS

Peter: BEFORE he sinned, denied, (Who is antiX but he that denies Jesus)

BEFORE he disobeyed; fled naked into the night; turned his back...

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.
But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.
And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Jesus is praying for the strongest believer in this room; WEAKEST as well! How should that make you feel this morning?

I NEED NOT PRAY FOR APOSTATES

Talking about false teachers OF HIS DAY.. The description of false teachers in Peter/Jude.

PETER:

These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm.

Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

With lofty but empty words, they appeal to the sensual passions of the flesh

and entice those who are just escaping from others who live in error.

They are slaves to depravity.

JUDE:

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear,
serving only themselves.

They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds;

late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame;

wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

But the problem is, *I do not know who they are!*

Apostle Paul sure looked like an apostate to me! (Who is it that is an antiX, but he who denies X! That was Paul to a "T")

So what do I do? Instead of hunting down false teachers...judging doctrines...pointing finger...

I NEED TO REMOVE THE IDOLS

- So I can see my need
- So I can see the needs of my brothers and sisters
- So I can see the needs of a lost world
- Let God take care of the apostates