

Intro:

III. Tests of Salvation - Part 1 - Faith in God, the Certainty of Sin

A. The Nature of God - vs 5

1. This is the message - obviously referring back to vs 2-3
 - a. which we have heard from Him (Jesus)
 - b. and declare to you,
 - i. the Gospel
 - ii. That God in human flesh - Jo 1:1-4,14,18, is the perfect revelation of the nature and character of God
 - iii. The necessity of this - Jo 4:24 - God is Spirit
2. that God is light
 - a. describes His nature and is the focus of the epistle
 - b. unlike, God is Spirit meaning immaterial; this is more complex
 - c. In the OT, God is often described in terms of light
 - i. Moses in the wilderness lead by the pillar of fire - Ex 13:21-22
 - ii. The reflection of God's light on Moses' face when he came down from the Mount - Ex 34:29-35
 - d. In the NT, Jesus showed a portion of His glory with the transfiguration - Mt 17
 - i. Jesus' claim - I am the light of the world - Jo 8:12
 - ii. Jo 12:45-46 "And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.
 - iii. He is also the source of the believer's light - Ps 27:1; Jo 1:9; 8:12; 12:36
 - e. Light is equated with
 - i. life - Ps 36:9 For with You is the fountain of **life**; In Your light we see light. - Jo 1:4
 - ii. The truth of God as embodied in His word - Ps 119:105, 130; Pro 6:23
 - iii. Virtue and moral conduct - Eph 5:8-9 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),
 - if one has the light of life, they will live differently
 - if truth and righteousness are absent from one's life, one may conclude that they do not have eternal life

3. and in Him is no darkness at all.

- a. the above example (2eiii-) cannot belong to God
- b. God is absolutely perfect in truth and holiness, though believers are not perfect, but God's nature is in the new believer - Eph 5:24; 1 Jo 3:9

B. The Certainty of Sin - vs 6,8,10

1. The reality of the depravity of sin is evident even though man denies it - Ro 2:14-16
 - a. we minimize and redefine sin
 - i. failures, mistakes, victim mentality
 - ii. disorders, isms, addictions
 - iii. We use shock therapy, drugs to cure
 - b. we believe that man is basically good instead of seeing that the main problem is his heart - Mk 7:20-23
 - c. even believers think that we have the ability to live a life pleasing to God

2. Those in Darkness - vs 6 - the 1st category of deniers
 - a. Claim fellowship
 - i. If we say that - professors
 - ii. we have fellowship with Him, - to share common aspect of life - Jo 17:3
 - b. and walk in darkness, - ignored their sin
 - i. walk - refers to manner of life or conduct - Ro 8:4
 - ii. Where genuine faith is demonstrated
 - c. to profess one thing and live in contradiction
 - i. we lie and
 - ii. do not practice the truth.
 - iii. Mt 6:22-23 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
 - d. Believers possess God's life, are new creatures, made for good works, have the indwelling Holy Spirit; thus they cannot ignore personal iniquity and walk in darkness - 1 Jo 5:20; Ro 6:11-17; 8:1-2; 12:5; 1 Co 1:2; 2 Co 1:21; 5:17; Ga 3:28; Eph 2:10; Phil 1:1; Col 1:27-28;
3. Those in Deception - vs 8 - the 2nd category of deniers
 - a. Claim sinless sanctified perfection
 - i. If we say that
 - ii. we have no sin,
 - they said they reached a higher spiritual plane where sin no longer exists in their lives
 - they misunderstand their condition and the Spirit's work of progressive sanctification
 - b. we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 - i. Human depravity - Ro 3:10-23
 - ii. 1Ki 8:46; 2Ch 6:36; Job 9:2; 15:14; 25:4; Pr 20:9; Ec 7:20;
 - iii. Only Jesus Christ could ever claim to be w/o sin - Heb 4:15
 - iv. Only glorification makes the sanctification process complete in a believer - Ro 8:19-23
4. Those Who Defame God - vs 10 - the 3rd category of deniers
 - a. Claim they are without sin
 - i. If we say that
 - ii. we have not sinned, - ever, w/o sin nature, a ridiculous assertion
 - b. we make Him a liar,
 - i. blasphemy in the highest order
 - ii. Tit 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,
 - explicitly denying what God says about us - Ro 3:23
 - implicitly denying the need for a savior - Is 53:10-11; Zec 9:9; Mt 1:21; Lk 2:11; 19:10; Ac 5:31; 13:38-39; Ro 6:23; 1Ti 1:15; Heb 5:9
 - c. and His word is not in us.
 - i. The word is the instrument by which both come
 - Faith - Ro 10:17
 - salvation - Jas 1:18,21;
 - ii. Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax collector prove
 - denial of sin prevents justification
 - agreement with God about sin brings justification