

Sermon Handout

Forgiveness of Sins

I John 2:1-6

I. Self-examination is Essential to the Christian Life

- a. John calls us to an honest assessment of God and ourselves 1:5-10
- b. This includes three segments:
 - i. The divide between God & sin; between light & darkness vv. 5-7
 - ii. Guarding ourselves against self-deception vv. 8-9
 - iii. Assessing the Truth about ourselves in God's Word v. 10
- c. Consistent with St. Paul's summary in Rom 3:23 (All have sinned)

II. Dealing with the Reality of Life vv. 1-2

- a. The goal in two parts:
 - i. That we may walk in the light as he is in the light 1:7a
 - ii. That we may enjoy fellowship and Jesus' cleansing blood 1:7b
- b. "I write you that you may not sin"
 - i. The meaning is that you *may learn to abstain* from sin
 - ii. This is linked to the necessity of confession *cf.* 1:9
- c. **But** if you should *still be committing sins*, there is a solution
 - i. There is constant pressure on us to succumb to sins
 - ii. Sins are against the true tenor of our lives in Christ
- d. Consider what sin is: WSC #14; I Jn 3:4; 2:7-9;
Mt 5:18-19; 21-22; 27-28 - not merely outward actions
- e. Falling into sin is easy: it slips up on us and we slip into it.
- f. **The solution**, according to John - Jesus, our Advocate & Propitiation
 - i. Our Advocate Jn 14:16; Eph 2:5-6; Ps 46:1; 91:14-16; Heb 4:14-16
 - ii. Our Propitiation Rom 4:24-26; Ex 25:21-22; Lev 16:2; Num 7 :89f.
 - iii. We are to trust in Jesus, who is our propitiation Heb 7:27

III. Motivation for faithful Christian Living vv. 3-6

- a. We are to strive to walk as he walked v. 6 *cf.* 1:7
- b. We follow him, trusting in his forgiveness & meditating on the Truth
 - i. Know his Word Ps 119:9-11; Josh 1:7-9
 - ii. Internalize his Commandments Mt 5:13-16, 20