

1 John - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Forgiven (1:7)

1JO 1:7

The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

A woman was recently saved. Before she became a Christian, however, she had led a very immoral life. She is now married to a good Christian man, but she worries that God will still punish her for her past. If you are troubled in a similar way, remember one thing: If you know Jesus as your Savior, you may still have to suffer the consequences for your wrong actions, but Christ has already born the punishment and paid the price for them. God will not punish you too.

CareLines: Volume 2, Pretenders: 2 (1:6)

1JO 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

1 John 1:6

A boy in the street was selling mince pies, and was crying out: "Hot mince pies - get your hot mince pies while they last!" A man bought one but found that it was not hot. He said to the boy: "Why do you call these 'hot' mince pies?" "Because that is the name they go by, sir." And so with many who call themselves Christians: that's only the name they go by. In fact they are very cold!

CareLines: Volume 2, Eternal Son (1:2)

1JO 1:2

We have seen, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.

1 John 1:2

Jesus always was and always will be the Son of God. He didn't become the Son when He was born here in Bethlehem. He became a human being, yes. But He was always God's Son. John knew Jesus as the eternal Son, and he wrote this part of Scripture as a first hand witness of being with, and seeing, the eternal Son of God - as a Man.

CareLines: Volume 7, Cleansing (1:9)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Even though we are Christians, we sometimes sin. When we do, we are to confess it to the Lord, own to Him that we did wrong, and He will forgive us. Notice that it doesn't say that we are to ask forgiveness. He will forgive us when we confess. But more importantly, our broken communion with the Lord (broken because of our sinning) will be restored by our confession of sin. Let's be sure to keep short accounts with God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Young Men: 1 John 4:14 (2:14)

1JO 2:14

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:14

How do you measure up, young brother? Are you strong? (Maybe physically, but how about spiritually?) Does God's Word abide in you? Have you overcome Satan? This is a tremendous challenge and I want to challenge you today. If I were John the apostle writing a letter to your assembly, would I be able to pen the same words as John? - I have written unto you, young men, because . . . Strength, Communion, Overcoming. Strength requires communion. Communion requires overcoming. Overcoming requires strength. A full circle. AND YOU CAN DO IT - through Him who gave Himself for you.

CareLines: Volume 3, Fruit (2:29)

1JO 2:29

If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 2:29

I had been anxiously waiting for the first sign of fruit from my young apple tree. One day - there it was. A large round green thing in my tree. I called my wife to share in the joy of the first fruit, but I soon became the laughing stock of my family. My apple turned out to be a pumpkin growing on a vine that had climbed the tree and begun bearing fruit. It has proved true so many times: if you meet someone who is a real Christian, he will act like one. If you meet someone who tries to act like a Christian but really is not one, he is like my "pumpkin tree" - the fruit is from below, not from above.

CareLines: Volume 3, God's Word (2:5)

AUGUST 22

Whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.

1 John 2:5

Yesterday we talked about keeping in God's love. Our verse today is another way of putting yesterday's verse into effect. You see, it is all a matter of personal choice and dedication. How much I want to keep in His love determines how much I want to keep His Word. And our verse says that God's love is perfected in any who keep His Word.

CareLines: Volume 2, Purity (3:3)

1JO 3:3

Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

1 John 3:3

What hope? The hope of the Lord's return! This should make us want to stay pure. The Lord is going to take us to a place of absolute purity. The Lord is pleased when He sees His own seeking to live a pure life while they are waiting for Him to come. Make a special effort to clean up your thoughts, your actions, your words, your relationships so that you will be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is pure through and through. Our desire should be to be that way too.

CareLines: Volume 2, Hate (3:15)

1JO 3:15

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer.

1 John 3:15

I've heard the case of a young sister who said, "I hate Uncle Joe." And they were both in fellowship at the same place. Something is wrong when one Christian "hates" another Christian. In fact our verse calls them a "murderer." In another Scripture it says that no murderer can inherit the kingdom of God (see Galatians 5:19-21). To hate is anti-Christian. Examine your own heart today and if you have feelings of hate towards someone else, confess it to the Lord and ask Him to help you overcome.

CareLines: Volume 2, Compassion: 1 (3:17)

1JO 3:17

Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1 John 3:17 N. K. J. V

We can question a person's Christianity by their lack of kindness to others. Turning your back on someone in need indicates the lack of the love of God in your heart - especially if you have plenty and the other has nothing. Our society seems to breed an attitude that I should only have friends who are socially on my level. King David went out of his way to show the kindness of God to crippled Mephibosheth - one who could do nothing for himself. We should do the same.

CareLines: Volume 2, Love: 4 (3:14)

1JO 3:14

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

1 John 3:14

Love is from God. God is love. That's His nature. He can't help but love. And His Spirit is in each of His children. We can now love unconditionally, just as God loves. That means we can love without expecting anything in return even when the object of our love is actually unlovable, in a natural way. That's something that is hard to understand but it's part of the fruit of the Spirit that will be seen in a person who becomes a Christian. Love covers up, or rather replaces, the hate that used to be there. Love is from God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Conscience (3:21)

1JO 3:21

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

1 John 3:21

It is a great thing to have a clear conscience before God. Keep it that way! Confess anything that comes between you and the Lord and keep a good conscience. Have confidence toward God. This means that we are never afraid to come to the Lord, and we know that He will hear us when we call and will answer our prayer. Got a bad conscience? Only you can take the steps to clear it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Persecution: 2 (3:13)

1JO 3:13

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

1 John 3:13

The "world" is Satan's realm. He is the god of it and is trying to get all people in it to worship him rather than the Lord Jesus. Don't be surprised then, if your devotion to the Lord causes those who are unsaved to hate you. They really can't help it. Satan hates Christ and got the world to crucify Him. Now the world hates a Christ-follower. Marvel not, young believer, if the world hate you.

CareLines: Volume 2, Carefulness (5:18)

1JO 5:18

He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 John 5:18

Be careful, young believer! You can't live your life carelessly and assume that the Lord will protect you from "getting caught." No! You need to keep yourself. Watch what you do, where you go, who you hang around with. When you prayerfully keep yourself, then the Lord will

protect you from Satan's attacks.

CareLines: Volume 2, Idolatry (5:21)

1JO 5:21

Children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:21

But we live in a "Christian" country! Why would we need a warning like this? Christian country or not, we live in a society of people that encourages idol worship. And probably the biggest idols that will occupy your time and energy are education, money and sports - not necessarily in that order. Music is another one. Anything that comes between you and the Lord is an idol. In God's eyes you will be an idolatrous person - very hateful to God. Watch out!

CareLines: Volume 2, Overcoming (5:4)

1JO 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.

1 John 5:4

A hard thing that a young Christian has to face is to be able to reject the world and seek the company of believers instead. Satan makes the world as attractive as he can. And millions embrace it. To follow the crowd is easy. To overcome and resist is hard. But the power to do it is there. God's power through the Spirit is in you. You can overcome!

CareLines: Volume 3, Victory (5:4)

AUGUST 1

This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:4

There is only one way to overcome and that is through faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. With faith we can remove mountains. God expects us to use faith and He rewards us for using it. Are you finding that the world's attraction is too strong? Try putting your faith into action and overcome.

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