

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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“Confidence In Christ”

By Kyle Pope

A look at **1 John 2:28-3:10**.



A prominent theme in religious teaching is confidence. In an uncertain world religious teachers offer their listeners confidence. What does the future hold? Will God shield us from hardship? Are we confident in our salvation? How may we be certain in the face of uncertainty? The Bible has much to say about confidence, but does it match what the religious world teaches about confidence?

John's first epistle is an affirmation of confidence. John writes, *"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming"* (1 John 2:28, NKJV).

One day Christ will appear when He comes again for judgment. The Hebrew writer, after speaking of the inevitability that all must *"die once, but after this the judgment"* (Heb. 9:27) promises, *"To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation"* (Heb. 9:28b).

John is talking about Jesus' appearing for judgment. He promises a way we need not *"be ashamed before Him"* but confident. How? Three words: *"abide in Him."* John devotes the words that follow this promise to an explanation of what this means. Part of what it means to *"abide in Him"* means acting like Jesus. Since *"He is righteous"* the one who is truly *"born of Him"* is one who *"practices righteousness"* (1 John 2:29).

Here is where the world's view of confidence misses it. The world says even if we sin, even if we don't do right, even if we don't live like Christ in God's grace we may be confident. Clearly *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23), and victory over sin rests in Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, not any good deeds we can do. John explains, *"He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin"* (1 John 3:5). But John offers no confidence to the soul who continues in sin. Instead, *"Whoever abides in Him does not sin"* (1 John 3:7a). In fact, *"Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him"* (1 John 3:7b).

To some this doesn't seem like much of a reason for confidence! Is John teaching that we can only have confidence if we are flawless? No! At the beginning of this chapter John explained, *"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* (1 John 2:1). John acknowledges that Christians may sin, but he is urging them to live in such a way that they *"may not sin."* When the Christian sins John teaches, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"* (1 John 1:9).

John is setting down definitions. *"Whoever has been born of God does not sin"* (1 John 3:9a)-*"He who sins is of the devil"* (1 John 3:8a). By definition a child of God does not sin. Not because it is impossible for him to sin (as we have already seen), nor because he never stumbles into sin, He does not sin because so long as *"His seed [that is Christ's word] remains in him"* it will influence his life in such a way that *"he cannot sin."* So long as we allow the word of God to abide in us we will not sin.

John is teaching confidence but he also wants the reader to avoid deception. There is a danger of self-deception. John writes, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8). We must acknowledge our weakness and confess sin when it comes into our lives. But we must also avoid deception from those who would offer a false confidence. He writes, *"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous"* (1 John 3:7).

It is a deception to imagine that we *"abide in Him"* while we abide in sin. The child of God will never attain flawlessness, but he must give a lifelong effort to live like our Savior-*"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."* (1 John 2:6).

Being counted as *"children of God"* is an immeasurable *"manner of love"* that God has *"bestowed on us"* (1 John 3:1a). But being a child of God means some things. First, it means that, *"the world does not know us, because it did not know Him"* (1 John 3:1b). How foolish to imagine that we can live like those of the world and think we are children of God! But it also means when He comes in judgment *"we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is"* (1 John 3:2b).

That doesn't mean we will be gods, but what a blessed promise that in the age to come we shall share more of His likeness than we now enjoy. But if we hope to be *"like Him"* in the age to come it must start here. It is this choice made in the present age that determines our true kinship to Him. John explains, *"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest"* (1 John 3:10a).

There is confidence that comes as we imitate our Master, trusting in His mercy and relying on His sacrifice on our behalf. There is no confidence that rests in sin - *"Whosoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother"* (1 John 3:10b).

"REVERENCE IN WORSHIP" (by R.J. Evans)

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those who are around Him" (Psalm 89:7).

One of the most vitally important lessons to be learned in the church today is that of reverence. "Reverence" means "profound respect, affection, veneration" (Webster). Worship is not an accidental, hit or miss exercise. It is a holy privilege involving preparation, concentration, consecration, and meditation.

God required reverence during Old Testament times (Ex. 3:5). Likewise, He requires fear and reverence of New Testament Christians today. *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, For our God is a consuming fire"* (Hebrews 12:28-29). How can we *"serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear"* in our worship services?

1. By entering into the worship with joy and gladness. *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'"* (Psalm 122:1). We, too, should come to the worship services with joy and gladness of heart! The song leader is ready and prepared to sing, the preacher is ready and prepared to preach, and all the worshippers are ready and prepared to worship. Let all worship God joyfully together with reverence and Godly fear.

2. By being silent. *"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him"* (Hab. 2:20). Silence is an excellent way of showing respect. Most of us have been in a stadium when, out of respect for people who had lost their lives, "a moment of silence" was observed in their memory as a means of showing respect. Silence in the presence of the dead at a funeral indicates respect for the the occasion and for the deceased person and his family. It seems to help by having a few moments of silence just before our worship begins. It is good to form the habit of being seated a few moments before it is time to start the service, being silent and preparing our minds and hearts to be ready for reverent worship. It is important for parents to teach their children so that they learn to be silent during worship.

3. By being orderly. Christians are commanded to *"Let all things be done decently and in order"* (1 Cor. 14:40). This applies to worship. While worship should not be so ritualized as to destroy the very simplicity and spirit of our worship (Jn. 4:24), there should be enough orderliness to maintain reverence. That is why we have assignments given ahead of time to eliminate any confusion as to what men are taking part in leading the worship. Our overall demeanor in worship should manifest respect. Why do we stand when a bride walks down the isle or when a judge enters the courtroom? To show respect!

Truly, it is to be a special, serious, reflective, respectful, reverent period when we come to worship God Almighty.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble., Sandra Oliver, and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law).

Janis Johnson (Sherry's sister) is the hospital in Florence, Al. (some improved).
The Family of Janis Johnson (Savannah) who passed away last week.
May God comfort and keep them.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Value And Sanctity Of Life"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Ephesians (Chris Reeves)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #28, Question #1*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Romans 12:17-21
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Overcoming Evil With Good"*
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 13th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #40, Question #12*
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

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“The Value And Sanctity Of Life”

Lesson Text: **Jonah 4:10-11.**

I. God And His Word Holds Great Value On Human Life.

- **Exodus 20:13.** Why the Command to abstain from murder.
Murder defined: The unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another.
- **Genesis 4:1-13; Deuteronomy 18:10-13; 2 Kings 16:2-3.**
- God Set Up A Deterrence To Murder- **Genesis 4:14-15; Genesis 9:6-7 (Gen. 1:26).**
- The Difference Between Punishment For Sin And Murder- **1 Chronicles 2:3.**
Just Like the Flood in **Genesis 6**; Sodom and Gomorrah in **Genesis 19**....
- The Difference Between Unintentional Killing And Murder- **Numbers 35:1-16.**
- God Seeks To Protect Life- **Exodus 21:22-25; Revelation 21:8.**

II. What About Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, Or Genocide?

- These Are Not Political Issues— But Moral Issues!
- What Source One Uses To Answer The Question Means Everything!
The Bible? Man’s Viewpoint? Situation Ethics? **Isaiah 10:23; Proverbs 3:3-7.**
- Joseph Fletcher- “The fetus is not a personal being because it lacks freedom, it lacks self-determination, it lacks rationality, it lacks ability to choose either means or ends, nor does it have knowledge of its circumstances.”
- How Was Hitler Able To Commit The Genocide of 6 Million Jews?
 1. He made Jews and Other Races Out To Be Less Than Human. Inferior!
 2. It Was How Slavery In This Nation Was Justified— That Blacks Were Less...
 3. It Is How, With Hatred, Men Look At Policemen As “Pigs.”
- What Makes Your Life Valuable To You? A Subjective Perspective?
- Are Some Lives More Or Less Valuable Because: Wealth, Fame, Productivity To Society?
- Do The Sickly, The Old, The Young, The Unborn, The Healthy, Black Lives, White Lives, Indian Lives, Asian Lives Matter?!? (ALL). Do They Have The Same Value? Why?
- We Are All Made In God’s Image- **Genesis 1:26.**
- What Makes A 20 Dollar Bill Worth \$20? It’s Who Made It! U.S. Treasury Or You?
- God Alone Is The Giver Of All Life (**Acts 17:24-28**).
- Abortionist Tell Their Clients, “*It’s Not A Person Until It Draws Its First Breath.*”
- Terri Schiavo Case (2005).
- What Is To Prevent A Mandatory Euthanasia Law In This Country?

III. Abortion And What God Says About When Life Begins:

- **Psalms 139:13-16.**
- **Isaiah 44:2.**
- **Jeremiah 1:4-5.**
- **Luke 1:39-45.**
- 4-5: Heartbeat; 5-8: Facial Feature; 9-12: Arms, Hands, Fingers, Feet, and Toes;
13-16: Fingers and Toes Are Well Defined; Eyelids, Eyebrows, Eyelashes, Nails, and Hair Are Formed; And Can Yawn, Stretch, Suck Thumb, And Make Faces.
- There Are More Protections For Bald Eagle and Sea Turtle Eggs Than For Babies!

“Overcoming Evil With Good”

Lesson Text: **Romans 12:17-21.**

I. The Nature Of Good Behavior Overcomes Evil Behavior.

1. Just As Light Dispels Darkness- Good Will Win Over Evil:
Love Overcomes Hate; Courage Overcomes Fear; Forgiveness Overcomes Bitterness; Gentleness Overcomes Harshness; Peace Overcomes Strife; Self Control Overcomes Uncontrolled Passions- **Proverbs 16:32**; Truth Overcomes Error....
2. Why Is It That Good Overcomes? Because It Is Rooted In God’s Character.
3. Is It The Easiest Way? No! Why? Because We Are Tempted To Pay Back Evil.
4. Paul Is Reminding Us Who We Are And What We Are About— Goodness.
5. Don’t Make The Wrong Decision That Leads To Being Overcome By Evil.
6. The Results Of Our Good Behavior Causes Shame To Evil Actions.

II. Some Examples That Illustrate This Principle.

- Joseph In **Genesis 37-45.**
- David in **1 Samuel 25:1-40; 1 Samuel 26:1-25; 2 Samuel 16:5-14.**
- Jesus in **Matthew 23:31-39; Matthew 26:53.**
- Paul in **2 Timothy 4:14-18.**

III. The Results Of Being Overcome By Evil.

- We Lose Our Goodness. How? By Fighting Evil With Evil.
- We Never Win! The Evil Just Escalates From Bad To Worse- **2 Timothy 3:13.**
- We Have To Repent Of Such Behavior- **Acts 8:22.**
- We Lose Our Example Of Good Behavior- **Matthew 5:13.**
- We May Never Win The Lost To Jesus That Way- Opposite of **Matthew 5:16.**

Conclusion: Why Good Will Ultimately Overcome All Evil:

Evil Is Punished—While Good Is Rewarded! **Romans 2:5-11.**