

K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012-2013/Year V)

K.E.Y Bible Study is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

Purpose: To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:
Keep the Faith We Have Received
Be Equipped to Serve the Body of Christ
Become Yoked in Ministry with Other Believers

Session 34 May 1, 2013 "The Two-Dimensional Promise"

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)**

Why Is 1 John 1:9 a K.E.Y. verse in the Bible?

All people experience guilt and chose a way to cope with it. The only permanent antidote to guilt is divine forgiveness. This verse not only explains how we can be forgiven but also promises victory over the sinful action or habits that create guilt.

General Background: Who, When, and Where?

Nearing the age of 80, John, the apostle, wrote a letter to the Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). This letter, written between 85 A.D. and 90 A.D., was sent to many of the same Christians who received Paul's letter to the Ephesians. John was concerned that two forms of Gnostic heresy had infiltrated the church. The first was the idea that Jesus was divine but not human, and the second was the idea that theology and morality are not related.

John wrote on both an emotional level and a doctrinal level. Emotionally, John wanted them to experience joy and to live the encouraged and encouraging life. Doctrinally, John desired his readers to know that Jesus is both divine and human and that being in relationship with God through Jesus has moral and fellowship implications.

John's writing is very much focused on Jesus. Even though he wrote to people who were well acquainted with the philosophical argument, he wrote in a very simple yet profound style. He did not attempt to do a counterpoint to all false teaching. Instead, he wanted them to be Jesus-centered.

John was the brother of James, the apostle, and the son of Zebedee and Salome. Many assume that his mother was a sister of Jesus' mother, Mary. From the Gospel of Mark we learn that he had servants suggesting modest wealth. It is evident from his gospel

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account that he had access to the home of the High Priest. From the way he wrote and from his connections, John appears to have had excellent relationship skills and a creative personality. He was a Renaissance man long before the Renaissance

Context

I John 1 opens with verses that are reminiscent of both Genesis 1 and John 1 with full attention given to who Jesus is. Then in I John 1:5, John focuses on the message of Jesus and what His life meant. The message of Jesus is always more than just what He said but who He is. The message of Jesus brings light to every area of our life – to our mind, our conduct, and our relationships. John specifically says in I John 1:6 and I John 1:8 that if we claim to have fellowship God and do not walk in the light, we lie; and, if we deny we sin, we lie. In I John 1:9, he taught how we deal with sin.

Word Study

- **“if”** – marks the beginning of a Greek third class conditional sentence, which means this is not just a possibility but in all likelihood will universally occur.
- **“confess”** – meaning to agree with or literally “to speak the same.” It is in the present tense suggesting that confession for the believer is an on-going process.
- **“sins”** – plural – specific acts that violate the will of God.
- **“he is faithful”** – refers to God’s keeping the promise of the covenant. God has promised to both forgive and restore, and God’s keeps His promise.
- **“just”** – is an unexpected word in this usage but very helpful in our understanding of God’s character. A righteous God will take sin seriously and provide a means for forgiveness. An unrighteous god would either ignore sin or destroy everyone who sinned. God’s righteousness is revealed both in the cross and in our experiencing forgiveness.
- **“forgive”** – means cancellation of debt or dismissal of charges.
- **“purify”** – is a word to describe removing the impurities. It is the root for the English word “catharsis.” God’s action not only removes the guilt but also helps us break the habit of sin. It is important go back to I John 1:7 and see the source of the cleansing: “...the blood of Jesus his Son, purifies us from all sin.” Confession is good for the soul, but confession is not what makes us whole. The death and resurrection of Jesus make us whole. Confession is always good; but without Jesus, it is not redemptive.

K.E.Y. Truth

When we confess our sins, God forgives us and helps us overcome the desires that lead to sinful behavior.

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