

Keys to Prophecy



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#2 - Global Solution: A Vital Truth

The greatest KEY to Bible prophecy is an understanding of the Gospel

If Jesus truly is coming soon - as the prophecies make clear - how can I know I am ready?

How can I face the coming of the Stone of Daniel 2 - the end of this world and the setting up of God's kingdom with confidence - with assurance - with anticipation - with peace and joy?

Let's begin by asking you a couple of questions...

Have you come to the place in your experience with God that you know for certain that you have eternal life?

Let me put it another way?

If you were to face death right now - with no opportunity for last minute confession or a few more good works - could you look death in the face with quiet assurance knowing your eternity WILL be spent with Jesus?

If Jesus were to come right now - the roof splits open and the 2nd coming is in progress - can you look up with humble confidence and say, "I know Jesus has come for me, and I will go with Him"?

Can you say a definite YES to these questions? - Or is your answer "Maybe" - or "I hope so"?

Think about it - Anything other than a YES is really a NO

"Maybe" - means "I don't really know for sure" - "I hope so" - means "I am not really certain"

Did you know you can know for sure? - Let me show you what has become my very favorite text to teach on

- 1 John 5:11-13 (1171) *¹¹And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

For now just notice v.13 - These things I have written...that you may KNOW that you have eternal life
God intends for us to live our lives under the assurance of our eternal salvation -
Not under the fear of condemnation

Let me ask you another questions?

If you were standing in line at the pearly gates, and God were to ask you, why should I let you into My heaven, what would your answer be?

Is that an important questions? - What if your entrance into heaven depended on your having the right answer?

Let me share with you how you can know you are ready for the coming of Jesus - for the Stone of Daniel 2
How you can face the end of the world or the end of your life with the assurance and confidence

Let's spend some time in this verse - 1 John 5:11-13

v.11 - *This is the TESTIMONY*

Where do we use the word "testimony" in our world today? - In court - and in church
To testify in court is to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth"- So help me God!
The word literally means - a "witness"

- To be a witness you must be able to give a FIRST PERSON account -
What YOU have seen and experienced - Not just what someone else told you about
John says - I was with Jesus - I saw, I heard, I touched, I tasted - I was there in person (1 John 1:1-3)
I saw Jesus teach - heal - die - I saw Jesus after he was raised - I saw Him ascend into heaven

- Here are the FACTS - As I close this letter, let me cut to the heart of the matter

that God has given us ETERNAL LIFE

When you hear the words, "eternal life" - what comes to mind? - What do you think of?

Adam lived to be 930 years old - Genesis 5:5 (4)

If I could promise you today that you would live to be as old as Adam, how would you feel?

Can you imagine living over nine centuries on this earth?

How many wars, depressions, epidemics, catastrophes, funerals would you have to endure?

And you could not retire until you were 865 - Makes me tired just to think about it!

I remember Clara Muldner - The matriarch of this church - She died just one week short of 106

A dear, sweet lady - Always pleasant to be around - But she lived to bury five of her eight children

And during the last years of her life - She was READY TO GO - She had seen enough of life on this earth

She was neither morose nor suicidal - But she had no desire to extend her stay on this earth

To live forever in this world of sin and misery would be hell

So when the Bible talks of eternal life - It is not just about living on and on forever - and never dying

But it includes living live worth living forever - in a place worth living in forever

- Eternal life includes both QUANTITY and QUALITY of life
Any understanding of eternal life that is GOOD NEWS must include some concept of "heaven" - a better place

God HAS GIVEN us eternal life

- First - If something is "given" to you, then it is a GIFT - God has a gift for you

Second - God "has given" us that gift - That is in the PAST tense - God has ALREADY given it

It does not say He will give it to us some day - by and by - when He comes again

- If eternal life is already given - Then it is AVAILABLE NOW - You can have it now - And know you have it
The benefits of eternal life invade this present world - Effect our quality of life on earth and also for eternity

Look at it this way - If I gave you a million dollars - I put it in an account in your name down at the bank

Have I given it? - YES - It has left my account and gone into yours - I can deposit, but I cannot withdraw

Do you have it yet? - NO - It is down at the bank - You could die of starvation if you never go draw it out

In the same way - God has given eternal life to everyone - It is in the bank

And the bank is only a prayer away

But God will not force you to receive the benefits of what He has already given

You are free to die poor, even though He made you rich

- So we see in this verse that - God has a GIFT for you - This gift is called ETERNAL LIFE
That life includes both quality and quantity - And it is available to you now

SO - How do we get this Gift

And this life is IN HIS SON

Eternal life comes “in His Son” - Who is the Son? - Jesus Christ

- Please notice - This eternal life comes PACKAGED IN A PERSON - In the person of Jesus Christ
 It does not come through knowing all the right Bible facts, truths or doctrines
 It does not come through figuring out all the prophecies
 It does not come by joining the right church - living the right lifestyle - or even ceasing all the wrong sins
 Eternal life comes packaged in Jesus - The Son of God

- v.12 - *He who HAS THE SON has life; he who does not HAVE THE SON of God does not have life*
 If you have Jesus, then you have eternal life - If you don't, you don't! - Could it be more simple?

Now Jesus is a person! - So how do you “have” a person?

I “have” a car - AND - I “have” a wife - I use the word “have” for both my car and my wife

But do I mean the same thing by the word “have” in both instances?

How do I “have” my car? - By OWNERSHIP - Don't laugh, it's paid for!!!

How do I “have” my wife? - She is quick to let me know it is NOT by ownership

We are not allowed to “own” a person - That is called slavery

- How do I “have” my wife? - By RELATIONSHIP - That is how you “have” a person - Relationship

So I believe it is accurate to say of this passage

God has *already* given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son - *Packaged in a person*

He who has *a relationship with* the Son has life

He who does not have *a relationship with* the Son of God does not have life

That is fairly clear - Not a bit ambiguous - Eternal life is all about a relationship with Jesus

If you have Jesus - You are IN

If you don't have Jesus - You are OUT

Now look at v.13.

- v.13 - *These things I have written to you who BELIEVE in the name of the Son of God*
 Whenever you come across the words “belief,” “faith” or “trust” in the New Testament
 All three of those words are translated from just ONE original Greek word
 So “belief,” “faith” and “trust” are interchangeable - Synonyms - You can use whichever one you like
- So this is written to those who believe - have faith - or TRUST in the name of Jesus

What is the deepest foundation upon which a relationship is built? Is it LOVE? or TRUST?

We all know someone we love dearly - with whom our relationship is limited - Because we can't trust them

Without trust, there can be no real relationship - Trust is the deepest foundation of relationship

Love is built on the foundation of trust

- So this backs up our previous conclusions - Eternal life is based on a TRUST relationship in Jesus Christ

That you may KNOW that you have eternal life

Can you KNOW you are in a relationship? - Can you KNOW you are married? - Of course

If you were to ask me, “Pastor Gary, are you married?” - And I answered “I think so” or “I hope so”

You would assume something is wrong - And so would my wife

And what is the essence of a marriage - A ceremony? - A piece of paper? - A ring? - No - A relationship

A marriage without relationship is miserable bondage - not matrimonial bliss

So just like you can know you are married because you know you have a spouse

So you can know you are saved because you know you have a relationship with Jesus

So this verse makes it clear that...

- God has a GIFT for you - That gift is ETERNAL LIFE

- It comes IN THE SON - and you can KNOW you have it - And it is all about a relationship with Jesus

Let's look at another verse

Ephesians 2:8-9 (1125) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

- This verse also says that God has a GIFT for you
- What is that gift called - in this verse? - GRACE
- And how do you get this grace - according to this verse? - Thru FAITH
- And when through faith you have acquired this grace - you are SAVED

Now - If you were drowning in a lake and I pulled you out - Would you know you had been saved?
YES - Being saved is a knowable thing

GRACE is like a Bus - If you are standing at the bus stop and you see the bus coming...

- Do you own the bus? - NO
- Did you build the bus? - NO
- Do you maintain the bus? - Do you fuel bus? - Do you drive the bus? - NO
- Do you decide where the bus is going? - NO
- And the bus is going to go where it is going whether you get on board or not!

The bus exists totally independent from you - If you did not exist, the bus would still exist
The only connection you can ever have with the bus is to... Get on board - Which is FAITH
And if you get on the bus - if you TRUST the bus - you cannot help but end up where the bus is going

GRACE is like the bus - Someone else manufactured this thing called GRACE - God built GRACE
He maintains it, fuels it, drives it, and decides where it is going - And it is going to Eternal Life
You cannot add to Grace, or take anything away from Grace -
And Grace exists whether you like it or not
But you can get on board - If you believe - have faith - trust
And if you get on board - You will end up where Grace is going - And that is Eternal Life

Let's look at one more verse that supports this same truth

Romans 6:23 (1089) *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Once again - God has a GIFT for you
- Here it is called - ETERNAL LIFE
- And how do you get it? - IN JESUS

So all three of these verses say essentially the same thing

- God has a GIFT for you - It is called GRACE or ETERNAL LIFE
- It comes through TRUSTING in JESUS the SON of God
- And when you have it you can KNOW you are SAVED

Now - How free does a gift have to be in order to be a gift?

If I bought my wife a dozen roses - She would be delighted - I would be broke
So I say to her - Dear, I bought these roses to tell you how much I love you
However, to pay for them, I had to spend some of next week's food money
Can you work a little over time next week?
Would that be a gift? - NO

Suppose I bought my wife a new car - All she has to do is get a job and make the payments
Would that be a gift? - NO

Suppose I had a new car - And I offered to "give" it to you for \$50 - Would that be a gift? - NO
What would we call that? - A bargain

So a GIFT is not...

- Not a WAGE - something you earn
- Not a DOWN PAYMENT - on something you now have to make payments on
No matter how large that down payment might be
- Not a BARGAIN - where you pay a little but receive a lot
- A gift - to be a gift - has to be TOTALLY FREE - Before and after - From beginning to end - Top to bottom
The only way to get GRACE or ETERNAL LIFE - is to receive it as a gift

You can never earn a gift

But there is something you can earn - What is that? - Take another look at the first half of...

- Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death...*

- There is a WAGE we can earn
- And what is that wage? - DEATH
- And how do we earn it? - Through SIN

So - How many of have sinned? - How many of us have earned that wage - whether we like it or not?

- Romans 3:23 (1087) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

- How many of us have sinned? - ALL - Is that "everyone"? - YES - Even you and me? - YES

When I read this verse - I always think of my very first trip to Disneyland

Disneyland and I are about the same age - We both entered the world back in 1955

Disneyland opened July 17 - I didn't open until November 4 (I want you to remember that!)

On my first visit to Disneyland - I was seven years old - My sister was nine

We first went to what was then the back of the park - where "It's a Small World" is now

Yes - "It's a Small World" was not always there

We turned right - and rode the Submarines (in their old location)

That was exciting - Actually being under water - Looking at fake fish and mock mermaids

Then we went a little further - to the "Tomorrowland Autopia" - where they had these cool cars

Little cars with a real steering wheel, gas pedal and brake -

And a miniature freeway with overpasses and underpasses

There was a ridge down the middle of the road - So you could not run off the road

But it was so close to really driving - Especially for a little kid

My sister and I got into line - And just before the turn-style there was a sign - with a line on it

It said - "If you are this tall you can go on this ride"

Instantly - I knew I was in trouble - I was too short - And there was nothing I could do about it

My sister - being two years older - was tall enough - And got to go on the ride

She is very gregarious - She drove around shouting and waving - Having a wonderful time

While I got to go on a little carnival type substitute ride close by

Little plastic car shaped things on the end of an arm going slowly in a circle

I have never forgotten that - I was too short - I was not eligible - I could not go

When it comes to the heavenly ride - We are all too short - Disqualified - Sin has stunted our growth

What is Sin?

- 1 John 3:4 (1169) *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*

- Sin is LAWLESSNESS - Literally it says - Sin is "un-law"

The word here for "lawlessness" is the Greek word for LAW with a little prefix added which means "un"

Sin is "un-law"

- For instance - If I am driving down the road and come to an eight-sided red sign - What am I supposed to do?
 STOP - How much of a stop? - All the way - How often? - Every time I come to the sign
 The law of stop signs is very simple - Stop every time - all the way
 Now suppose I do a slow and go -and the policeman pulls me over - And I am ready for him
 I say - "Sir, good news! You don't need to give me a ticket today - because I am perfect.
 Check my record. No tickets - No accidents - I am perfect!"
 What is he going to say - "You are not perfect anymore - You just ran the stop sign."
 "But," I say, "I have stopped at this stop sign dozens of times before. Doesn't that count for anything?"
 NO
 "Well, let me back up and do it again - and stop all the way"
 NO - That doesn't work either - Because that is "next time"
 All my previous law-keeping does not cover any future offence
 And all subsequent law keeping does not make up for a past offence
 You can never un-run a stop sign - You can never un-say a word - You can never un-sin a sin!

- So we see that LAW DEMANDS 100% perfect OBEDIENCE
 Just stop all the way at every stop sign every time - and you are fine
 But run even one stop sign once - And you discover that...
- Law Demands a PENALTY - And that penalty applies EVEN IF you are SORRY
 Just try telling the policeman you are sorry for running the stop sign - See how that works!

So the demands of law are very simple - Perfection or Penalty

- Supposed I take a gun and shoot somebody - and kill them - And my plea is court is...
 "Judge, I am 99% righteous - I am overwhelmingly good - I only kill people 1% of the time"
 No - I am a murderer
 "But I am sorry" - Will that get me off the hook? - NO - And I have a penalty coming
- Suppose I go to the top of a tall building and say to myself...
 "All my life I have faithfully kept the law of gravity. I think I will break it today - just once - just a little"
 I decide to step off the edge just an inch - and just for a second - What is going to happen?
 I will discover that law - the law of gravity - demands perfect obedience
 And I can yell, "I'm sorry," all the way down - and I will hit just as hard

It is the same way with God's law - But I want to explain this very carefully - I believe that...

- God's laws are simply the laws of life - They simply describe how life works - on an eternally sustainable level
 When you live according to the way life works - You will keep on living
- What happens when you step outside the laws of life - outside of the way life works?
- You step into where life doesn't work - which is "un-life" - which is DEATH
- To explain this - I want to consider two words - IMPOSED and INTRINSIC
 If you run a stop sign - is the penalty INTRINSIC or IMPOSED?
 Running a stop sign does not automatically remove \$200 from your wallet - A judge IMPOSES the fine
 But if you step off the tall building - Does any judge have to sentence you to fall to your death? - NO
 The penalty for breaking the law of gravity is INTRINSIC - a natural result - automatic

I believe God's laws are the "natural" laws of the universe

- They simply describe the way life works within the universe God created
 And therefore the consequences are INTRINSIC - not imposed
 Romans 6:23 says "*The wages of SIN is death*" - Not the wage imposed by GOD against sinners is death

God does not kill sinners - Sin is killing us - God is trying to save us from what sin is doing to us
 Salvation is not about Jesus saving us from what God is going to do to us because we sinned
 Sin is lethal - Salvation is about God, in Jesus, saving us from what sin is doing to us
 God does not say, "Serve me or die" - God says, "You are dying. Serve me and live"

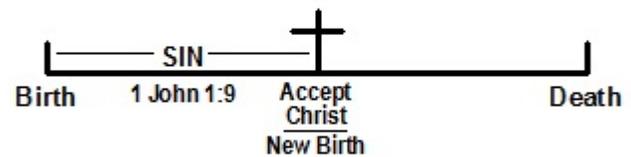
- So the BAD NEWS is this - We are all doomed to die as a result of sin - We are all dying
- The GOOD NEWS is - God has made a way for us to survive the “fall” of sin - and LIVE
And that is called GRACE - The bus God built to take us from death back into life

I want to illustrate GRACE with a diagram



- This line represents your life -
- On the left end is your BIRTH -
The right end is your DEATH
And in the middle - at the cross -
- is the point where you ACCEPT CHRIST - also known as the NEW BIRTH

- Now, looking at your past life - before the cross -
is it fair to say that our past life has been filled with sin?
- According to Romans 3:23 - We have all sinned
And according to Romans 6:23 -
The result of that sin will be our death
So we have a problem that needs a solution -
For that solution let's look at...



- 1 John 1:9 (1168) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- What does it mean to “CONFESS”?
If you ran the stop sign, and in court the judge reads the charges and asks you how you plead
- You can either confess or deny - To confess would be to PLEAD GUILTY

Now notice what this verse says - If you Plead Guilty, two things will happen
First - You will be forgiven - the penalty will be waved
Second - Your record will be expunged - wiped clean - All charges will be dropped

Let's put this into a courtroom setting

You ran the stop sign and you appear for your day in court
Up above the Judge's bench is a banner which says - “Today's special: Plead Guilty - Go Free”
Your name is called - And you decide to test the truth of the banner - You plead guilty
The judge bangs his gavel and declares - “Case dismissed - All charges dropped - You are free to go”
WOW - What do you think of the judge? - “This is my lucky day - I love this guy”
So you hang around the court room to see how it goes for others - They all plead guilty - And go free
Everyone loves this judge - These is great rejoicing in the courtroom
UNTIL - A skuzzy looking guy is called - And the charges read are rape and murder
He pleads guilty - And the judge lets him to, too

Now what do you think of the judge? - “Wait a minute - This guy is really dangerous - He needs to go to jail”
All of a sudden your attitude towards the judge changes
You would like him to tear down that banner - And start the day over
You would be glad to pay the maximum fine for running the stop sign
To be sure that rapist and murderer does the maximum time for his crimes
If he is let go - The streets are not safe for you or your family
The nice-guy judge has become a curse on the community - He is dangerous
He is shredding the law - and unleashing LAWLESSNESS on the streets

Now this verse makes it sound like God is like this “nice-guy” judge

If you just admit your mistake - and feel sorry - He will overlook what you have done - and let you go
But in so doing - God would be unleashing lawlessness on the universe
Do you want to live forever in a “lawless” universe? - In a place like this lawless world? - No way!

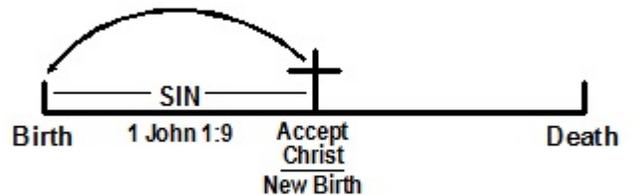
- ❑ So - Let's read this verse a little more carefully - *If we confess our sins, He is FAITHFUL...*
What does it mean to be faithful? -
If I am faithful to my wife, except... - I just go out on her just once a year - Am I faithful? - NO
- ❑ "Faithful" is either all or nothing - 100% or zero - "Faithful" is a sure thing - a GUARANTEE

So God guarantees that if we simply plead guilty, we will go free - Still sounds like the nice-guy judge
- ❑ Let's read on - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and JUST*
What does "just" mean? - It is the root of words like justice, justify, and justification - It is a legal word
At the "Hall of Justice" - a "Court of Justice" is presided over by a "Justice of the Peace"
To be "just" means to be "fair" - But "fair" by what standard? - The LAW
The Law defines what is just and fair - And the Justice Court is to apply that law fairly to all

If you stole a candy bar - and I committed mass murder
And the judge sentenced you to death - but gave me a \$100 fine - What would you say?
"That is not fair" - The punishment fits neither the crime nor the law
- ❑ The statute of Lady Justice is blindfolded and holding a scales
The blindfold represents - Applying the law impartially regardless of someone's status or influence
The scales represent - Weighing out the evidence and letting the facts speak for themselves
- ❑ So to be "just" is to do what is "LEGALLY RIGHT" or correct

So this verse says that if we plead guilty we will definitely go free - God guarantees that
But in the process he will do exactly and fairly what the law demands
He will not let us off like the "nice-guy" judge by just ignoring the law
He will get us off - but in the process he will completely fulfill the law

- ❑ So - What gives GOD the legal right to forgive me
of my past sins, drop all the charges
and set me free?
Many people say - "He is God."
He can do whatever he wants"
True - But in so doing - God would be
institutionalizing "lawlessness"
in the universe - Which is sin
And we would end up being "saved" eternally into a lawless mess like this earth
That would be kind of like God suspending the law of gravity to keep you from hitting the ground
Which would cause complete upheaval and untold destruction and death for everyone else
NO THANK YOU - I am not interested in that - Heaven would become Hell



So then - What gives GOD the legal right to forgive me of my sins, drop the charges, and set me free?
Let's take one more trip back to the court room
You ran the stop sign - The judge is about to sentence you with the maximum fine for running stop signs
Suddenly I burst into the courtroom and say - "Your Honor, stop the proceedings. I set the defendant free"
What would the judge say to me? - "Who are you? - You have no such right in my courtroom"
O, but I say - "She is my friend" - That doesn't matter - "I am her pastor" - That means nothing

What could give me the legal right to set you free?
If I have in my hand a receipt for just paid the clerk the maximum fine for running stop signs
AND I am not guilty of any infraction - AND I am willing to give it away - to you
All three aspects are important: 1) I have paid, 2) I am not guilty, and 3) I am willing to give it away
THEN I have the right to set you free - I can legally pay your fine
But there is still one step between you and freedom - What is it? - You have to plead guilty
If you stand there and say, "But I didn't do it" - I can do nothing to help you
Until you plead guilty, your account is not open - And my payment cannot be applied
To accept my gift - my payment for you - is to admit guilt - That is the only way

So you see - "Confess" - does not mean somehow convincing God I am sorry and getting him to have mercy
Confession is simply my power of choice - In accepting what He has already done for me

Here is how it works - Look at these verses...

- ☐ 1 Peter 2:22-24 (1163) ²² "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth";
²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree...by whose stripes you were healed.

This verse quotes from Isaiah 53 where it also says...

- ☐ Isaiah 53:6 (710) ...the LORD has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.
☐ 2 Corinthians 5:21 (1114) For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us,
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

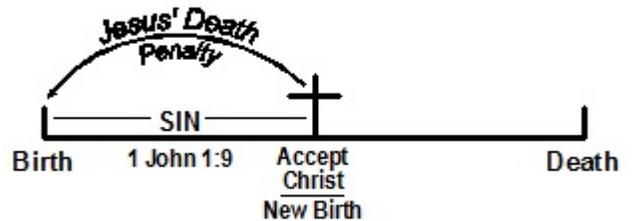
These verses tell us that Jesus never sinned - He knew no sin - He lived a perfect life

Then the God - who can create with a word - Who speaks and His word becomes a physical reality
Who can say "Rock" and a rock appears - or "Tree" and suddenly a tree comes into existence
God - by His creative power - gathered up all sin - From the first sin in Eden to the last sin before the End
And He put them into Jesus "body" - He made Jesus to be sin - Laid all our iniquity on Him
Notice the wording is physical - A physical reality - Not just some sort of a spiritual metaphor
And Jesus became ALL sin for ALL time - He bore the hit of sin for everyone who ever lived or will live
Sin is lethal - And Jesus took that lethal blow for everyone - And it killed Him
Crucifixion usually took 3-4 days to kill a man - Jesus died in six hours - Our sins killed Him

And when did Jesus do this? - 2000 years ago

Every sin you have committed He bore - Every sin you will yet commit He "foreknew" and bore
All sin for all time was nailed to the cross at one time - 2000 years ago - Gone - Forever

- ☐☐ So JESUS' DEATH on Calvary paid the
maximum PENALTY for all sin -
He fulfilled completely the 2nd demand
of the Law - for everyone
He has the legal right before the laws of life
in the universe to set me free
I am saved from sin's lethal consequences -
Into a "lawful" universe - not a "lawless" one



Now - One more point before we move on - Look again at...

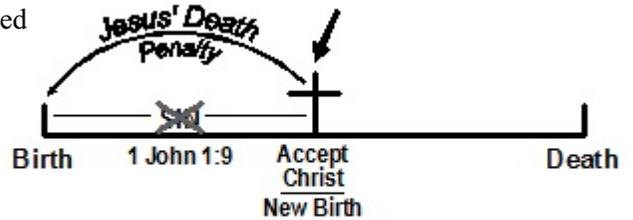
- ☐ 1 John 1:9 (1168) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

I am going to read it out loud - and you tell me which word I skip

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

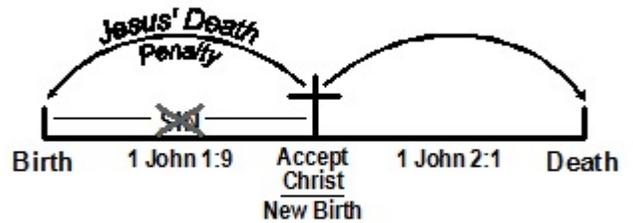
- ☐ Which word did I skip? - "Us" - Notice - This verse does not say that God forgives our sins
In fact, I do not believe that God forgives sins - Technically speaking, no sin is ever forgiven
Rather - God paid in full for every sin at the cross - No sin was ever overlooked or let go
Every sin of every person for all time was laid on Jesus - And paid in full - Why?
So that God can forgive US - So God can forgive the sinner
Forgiveness is about people - Not about deeds - The deeds were paid for - So we are forgiven

- So - Looking at the cross - At the point where you have confessed your sin and received God's forgiveness
How many sins are against you now? - Any? - No
- You have been forgiven and cleansed from ALL unrighteousness



If Jesus were to come at this point -
Or if you were to face death at this moment
Is there any reason you would be ineligible for eternal life? - NO - Good News? - YES

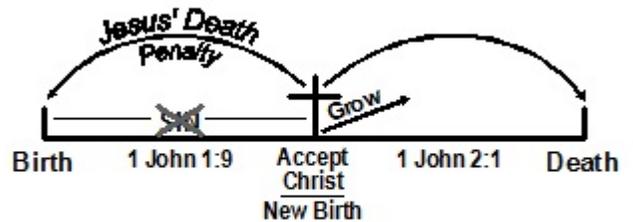
- Now - All you have to do is live the rest of your life without sinning and you are home free!
How can you KNOW you going to make it -
when you are the weak link in the chain?
I think we have another problem here
that needs a solution



- 1 John 2:1 (1168) *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.*

- Who is he talking to here when he says, "My LITTLE CHILDREN"? - Is he talking to small people? - No
- He's talking to those who have been BORN AGAIN - Who are now new-born children in Christ
He has something to say about the future of those who accept Jesus at the cross

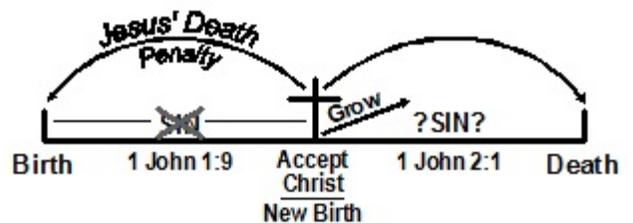
- And what does he say? - Literally: *I write these things to you in order that you MIGHT NOT SIN*
He says - You don't have to sin anymore -
Is that good news? - YES
Now that you are born again - you don't have to be
the same old person anymore
You are not stuck down on the old level
of sinning anymore



- You have the possibility to GROW UP
and live on a whole new level -
To be a new person in Christ

So - In Christ - The past no longer condemns you - AND - You are no longer condemned to repeat the past
That is GOOD NEWS

BUT - What if you do sin in the future?
Have you ever seen a baby grow up and learn
to walk without ever falling down?
Have you seen a baby learn to drink its milk
without ever spilling it?
In the same way - what are the chances that you
will think at least one bad thought
between now and eternity?



So if being good from now on is the basis by which you are going to make it - Your chances are pretty slim

So let's read the rest of this verse...

- Literally: *And if anyone might sin* - Just in case you do mess up in the future - fail to be perfect
- We have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*
What is an advocate? - Someone on MY side - to handle my case
Like a defense attorney - And the best one in the universe

The Greek word here for “Advocate” - is para-kletos
 para - is the basis for our English word “parallel”
 kletos - comes from the verb “to call”

- ☐ Literally - One called to be beside me - On my side - To hold me up and walk me through
- ☐ This is the same word translated “Helper” in John 14:16 (1043) - Referring to the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17 (1043) ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper (para-kletos),
 that He many abide with you forever – ¹⁷the Spirit of truth...

Jesus is the original “para-kletos” - He came to earth to be on our side - To stand with us
 But when he went away - Ascended to heaven - He promised a replacement - The Holy Spirit
 And Jesus is now standing in for us in the heavenly courtroom - Our Advocate with the Father

- ☐ And what are His credentials? - He is “the RIGHTEOUS”
- ☐ That word “righteous” is built on the same root word as “just” in 1 John 1:9
- ☐ The one who has the “legal right” to forgive me of all my past sin - because He bore the penalty
- ☐ Also has the “legal right” to guarantee that even if I sin in the future - He already has me covered

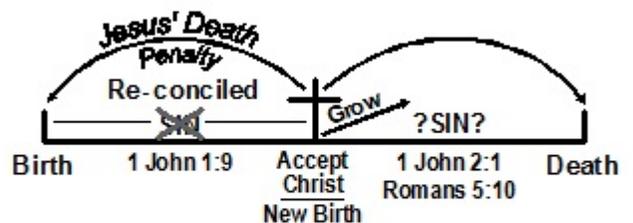
GOOD NEWS: *The past no longer condemns me -
 I am not condemned to repeat the past
 And the future cannot knock me out*

So 1 John 2:1 tells me that even if I do sin in the future - Jesus already has me covered
 Jesus has credentials necessary to cover the future “if I might sin” problem
 Just as we have seen He has the credentials to cover the past “all have sinned” problem
 This verse tells me “that” He has me covered - but it does not tell me “how”
 To learn “how” - let’s look at...

- ☐ Romans 5:10 (1088) *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

- ☐ The first half of this verse is in the past tense - *When we WERE enemies* - Before Christ - Before the cross
- ☐ What made us ENEMIES towards God - SIN
- ☐ Remember God is not an enemy towards us - He is a Friend and Savior
- ☐ The moment Adam and Eve sinned - God promised to stick with us and win it all back for us
- ☐ We are the ones who act as an enemy toward God
- ☐ Sin is telling God to leave me alone -
- ☐ Go away - Get lost - I’ll do it myself

- ☐ So when we WERE enemies toward God -
*we were RECONCILED to God
 through the death of His Son*
 Back before we were saved -
 While still acting as enemies -
 God reconciled us to Himself
 God initiated our salvation before we even knew we were lost



- ☐ What does it mean to be “reconciled”? - To be RE-CONCILED
- ☐ When two people are in harmony and unity - They are “conciled”
- ☐ If they have a fight - And angry words or actions get between them - They become “de-conciled”
- ☐ But if they say, “I’m sorry” - and remove that which is separating them - They can be “re-conciled”
- ☐ To be re-conciled - is to get back together - because what was separating you has been removed
- ☐ Jesus’ death on calvary nailed our sins to the cross
- ☐ Every sin of every person who ever lived or will live - Once - for all - 2000 years ago
- ☐ They are gone - blotted out - thrown in the depths of the sea - evaporated

There is really nothing between any human being and God - except a decision to accept that reality
 God has come as close to use as He can in reconciliation - short of violating our space
 God has done it all - But he won't force us to accept it -
 We have to choose to enter the relationship that God as fully facilitated - and wants with us

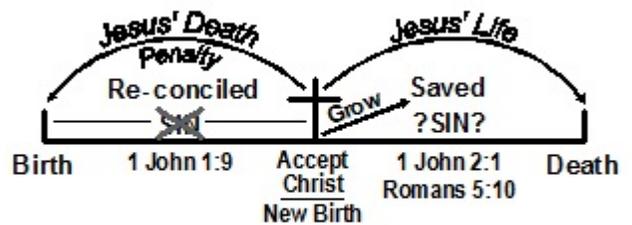
So the first half of this verse is review - The death penalty paid by Jesus on the cross
 has removed everything that could separate us from a relationship with God
 Our sins have been fully taken care of - and we are fully forgiven

- ❑ What are the next two words in the verse? - "MUCH MORE" - What does "much more" mean?
 Even more than - better than - greater than

If I gave you \$1000 - and then said, "And 'much more' I want to give you..." - and handed you a dime
 Would that be "much more"? - No - That would be "much less"
 So - If being fully forgiven of all our sins is the Gospel - It is only half - and the small half
 If having all our sins wiped out - and getting a brand new start - is GOOD NEWS
 Then the rest of this verse is even better news

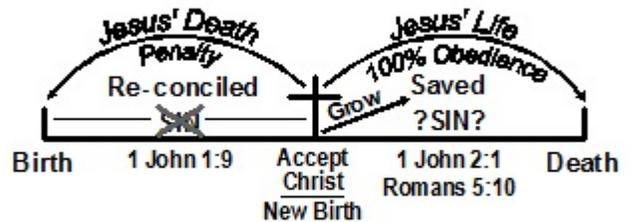
- ❑ Next phrase - "HAVING BEEN RECONCILED" - What does that mean?
 We have to accept the first half (Part A) - before we can experience the second half (Part B)
 We have to start with forgiveness for our past - Before we can experience what the rest of the verse says

- ❑ And the rest of the verse says -
 "WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE"
 We "shall be saved" -
 That guarantees that we shall end up saved -
 We are going to make it - Good news!
- ❑ And what guarantees we are going to make it" -
 JESUS' LIFE



I thought Jesus "died" to save me -
 But this verse says he died to "reconcile" me - And He "lived" to save me
 Just as Jesus' DEATH reconciles us - So Jesus' LIFE saves us - How does that work?

- ❑ What kind of a life did Jesus live? - Remember 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:22 - Jesus never sinned
 Jesus lived a perfect life here on earth -
 100% obedience - He never sinned
 What is first demand of the law? -
 100% perfect obedience -
 Jesus fulfilled it FOR me



If all Jesus had to do was to DIE to save us -
 He could have come to earth on a Friday -
 Died - Risen - and returned to heaven on Sunday
 And made a weekend out of it - It would have been a lot easier
 Why, then, did Jesus come and LIVE a life on this earth BEFORE He died the death for all sin?

Many say - Jesus lived a perfect life as an EXAMPLE - To show me how to live
 True - But does His perfect "example" life in any way guarantee that I can therefore live a perfect life?
 Just because someone runs a four-minute mile in your presence does not mean that you could ever do it
 No matter how hard you tried - or how long you trained
 In the same way - Jesus did show us a lot about how to live and relate to God - But that guarantees nothing

Jesus did not just live to show me how - He lived FOR me - He lived a perfect life "in my place"
 In the same way that he died the death of sin "in my place"

No matter how much good living I ever do - It will never be perfect - I have already sinned
 Only a perfect life is eligible for eternal life -
 So Jesus came and lived that perfect life FOR ME
 Then he took all my sins and died the full penalty of sin FOR ME
 Jesus has fulfilled both of the demands of the law -
 There is nothing the law can demand that Jesus has not already fully completed
 He has done it all - It is finished - It cannot be undone

And when Jesus rose from the grave and returned to heaven -

- He took his perfect life and sinners death with Him - And put them on account up in the bank of heaven
 So that when I accept Jesus - When I enter a relationship with Jesus
- When I am "in the Son" - "have the Son" - Remember our first verse - 1 John 5:11-13
 Our accounts join - Kind of like community property in a marriage
 All of Jesus' assets become mine - And all of mine become His

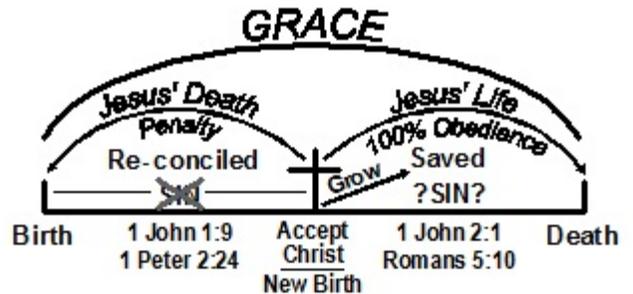
Jesus does not give me a credit card to swipe and pay my debts every time I sin
 Jesus gives me Himself - When I give myself to Him - We become one
 My debt of sin is completely wiped out by His penalty paid
 And left behind on our "joint" account is perfect righteousness

Now let me ask you a question -

- If I am covered by all that Jesus is - Is there any way in the universe I can be lost? - NO
 The past no longer condemns me - Jesus DIED - for me - It is done - In the bank
 The future cannot knock me out - Jesus LIVED - for me - It is done - In the bank
 And I am not condemned to repeat the past - Jesus LIVES - To enable new life to begin now

I get to start living eternal quality life right now -
 right here
 Not in order to get saved - or stay saved -
 But because I am saved - Saved from "sin"
 New life now - is part of the gift -
 Not in order to get the gift - or keep the gift

Jesus lived and died to get me into His Kingdom
 Jesus lives now to get the Kingdom into me



- This is GRACE - The best way I know to explain God's free gift of salvation
- This is the BUS - If you get on this bus -
 You will end up in heaven - Living in the eternal kingdom of God
 The ride begins today - The destination is guaranteed - The fare is free
 The bus has arrived at your stop - The door is open - Wouldn't you like to just "get on board"?

God's grace is available for everyone - A global solution - A vital truth for all people -
 Especially in the last days of earth's history

By God's grace anyone who chooses can survive the coming global transition
 from the kingdoms of this world - to the eternal Kingdom of God

The stone will grind to powder all the kingdoms of this world

But you can transfer from the kingdom of this world to the Kingdom of God via the bus of Grace
 and already be part of that Stone Kingdom that fills the whole world - when it comes

By God's grace we can face the end with joy, anticipation and assurance - And live forever

1Jn 5:11-13 Gift = Eternal Life → In the Son – KNOW
 Eph 2:8-9 Gift = Grace → Thru Faith – SAVED
 Rom 6:23 Gift = Eternal Life → In Jesus
 Wage = Death → Thru Sin

Rom 3:23 ALL have sinned
 1 Jn 3:4 Sin is Lawlessness

LAW DEMANDS:
 1. 100% Obedience
 2. Penalty – Even if sorry

LIFE → Death
 Intrinsic Imposed
 GRACE

Bad News
 Good News

GRACE

Jesus' Death Penalty Jesus' Life 100% Obedience

Re-conciled Grow Saved
~~SIN~~ ? SIN?

Birth 1 John 1:9 Accept Christ 1 John 2:1 Death
 1 Peter 2:24 New Birth Romans 5:10

Confess = Plead Guilty
 Faithful = Guarantee
 Just = Legally Right

Children = Born again
 Advocate = John 14:16
 Righteous = Just

1Jn 5:11-13 Don = Vida Eterna → En el Hijo – SABER
 Efes 2:8-9 Don = Gracia → Por Fe – SALVOS
 Rom 6:23 Don = Vida Eterna → En Jesús
 Paga = Muerte → Por el Pecado

Rom 3:23 Todos Pecaron
 1 Jn 3:4 Infracción de la Ley

LA LEY DEMANDA:
 1. 100% Obediencia
 2. Penalidad - Aunque lo sientas

VIDA → Muerte
 Intrínseca Impuesta
 GRACIA

Mala Noticia
 Buena Noticia

GRACIA

La muerte de Jesús Penalidad La vida de Jesús 100% Obediencia

Re-conciliados Crecer Salvos
~~PECADO~~ ? PECADO?

Nacimiento 1 Juan 1:9 Aceptar a Cristo 1 Juan 2:1 Muerte
 1 Pedro 2:24 Nuevo Nacimiento Romanos 5:10

Confesar = Declarar culpa
 Fiel = Garantía
 Justo = Derecho Legal

Hijos = Nace de nuevo
 Abogado = Juan 14:16
 El justo = Justicia