

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Pastor Perry Kallis

Big Idea: Believers should daily be aiming to do the same thing Jesus did; glorifying God with the gospel message and living a life of service for Him.

What do we need to know about how God deals with sin?

1) God debunks self-righteousness. (1 John 3:4 / 1 Timothy 1:9-10 / Matthew 23:27-28)

2) God declares sin's only solution. (1 John 3:5-7)

"Aim at heaven and you will get an earthly purpose for life thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither." ~ C. S. Lewis

3) God warns us of sin's role-model. (1 John 3:8)

4) Practice makes perseverance.

(1 John 3:9-10 / Ephesians 4:22-24 / 1 Peter 2:21 / Jeremiah 3:22)

How to aim at righteousness this week?

1) Make every target about Christ.

2) When I miss the target, agree to realign quickly.

3) Aim to keep going.

Perseverance is the hard work a believer does for Christ, even after getting tired of doing the hard work they already did – because they believe in the harvest.

Study/ discussion questions for: I John 3:4-10

• Name a time when you achieved a set goal but then found it to be disappointing. What determines whether a reached target is fulfilling or disappointing?

• Why is it important for believers to remember that our sinfulness will always take us to a place of physical and spiritual lawlessness?

• John uses the word "abide" to describe a consistent walk with God. How can abiding become a delight rather than feeling obligatory?

• John connects sin to giving in to Satan's plan. How does knowing this truth prevent us from minimizing the seriousness of sin and motivate us to live pure?

• Read Ephesians 4:22-24 and give some practical examples of both: "putting off" sins and "putting on" our new self, created in Christ. List one goal this week that could help you happily abide in Christ.

