*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

*“Christ did not come as a baby in a manger to remain a baby in a manger. Rather, quite the opposite, He came as a baby so that He might grow up to be a man and eventually suffer and die on a cruel cross to take away our sins. Those who repent of their sins and turn to Him, committing their life to His Lordship, behave very differently from those who do not. John contrasts the two in our text and explains the reasons why Christ came---and it wasn’t to remain in the manger” (pg.151)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 11– “The Children of God Contrasted with the Children of Satan: Part 1” – 1 John 3:4-8 (pg. 163-164)

We have seen: *“The Reasons Christ Came” (vv5, 8b):* to take away our sins and to destroy the works of the devil.

*“The Results for Those Who are His” (vv 6a, 7):* they do not practice sin and they do practice righteousness.

 *“The Results for Those Who are Not His” (vv 4, 6b, 8a):* they are sinners (they are lawbreakers), they practice sin and they are of the devil

As we close this chapter, the question that is foremost on my mind is this:

**Are you a child of God or a child of the devil?** The question really is not a hard one to answer.

Is your life characterized by doing what is right, by fighting hard against sin?

Have you seen change and growth in your walk since you first believed in Christ?

If you hate sin, and are convicted when you sin, if you confess your sin, and determine to turn away from it, then more likely, you are a child of the King; you have been born of God.

However, if you continually practice sin, if you have no conviction when you break God’s holy law, if you can easily behave as if there is no law, if you have not seen change in your life since you became a Christian, then I would say, as John would say, you have not come to know Him.

But ladies, it does not end here. You can come to know Him. There is no time like today to come to know Him. Today could be the day of your salvation. Paul gives us a very simple plan of how to come to know Him in *Romans 10:9-10, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

You must believe that Jesus is the Christ, that God raised Him from the dead. You must confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus. **To confess Him as Lord means that He is now the owner, the master of your life; He is in charge of your life.** This means that you turn away from your sin, you repent, and you now determine to follow what His Word says. If you have not done this, will you today?

It is my deepest desire and prayer that all of you will know the blessing of why Christ came—to take away your sins and to destroy the works of the devil. It is a wonderful thing to know Him, to no longer be of the devil and enslaved to sin. Instead, you can become one who knows God, who does not practice sin, but practices righteousness. Will you, if you have not already, come to know Him?”