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

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, November 13th, 2018

*Susan lovingly confronts our thoughts and attitudes about sin in this chapter. She writes, “Sin. We don’t like to talk much about it, do we? Perhaps some of us would like it re-labeled as an error or mistake…But, as children of God, what should be our attitude toward sin?” (pg.31)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 3– “What is Your Attitude toward Sin?” – 1 John 1:8:2:2 (pg.’s 42-43)

“In this chapter, we have seen *“The Wrong Attitude toward Sin”* (1:8 and 10): What is the wrong attitude toward sin? It is to deny the fact that we have a sin nature and to deny personal acts of sin.

“Though many of us would say we do sin, many of us are also pretty good about justifying our sin or blaming someone else for our sin. We add excuses like, “If only *they* hadn’t done…” or “I was tired,” or “I was lonely,” or “I was hungry,” or “I was fearful,” “I was menopausal,” “It was that time of the month,” or “I’m pregnant.” And when we do so, we still are not coming clean with ourselves or with God by admitting we have sinned.” (pg. 38)

And we have seen *“The Right Attitude toward Sin”* (1:9 and 2:1-2): What is the right attitude toward sin? It is to admit it, confess it, hate it, run from it and avoid it.

…“So, how is it that Christians are cleansed from sin, if they still sin?...The answer is that we are saved from the power and influence of sin. Sin has no more mastery over us or power over us, as Paul says in Romans 6:6,7; “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.” (pg.’s 36-37)

“How can we continue to live in sin when Jesus Christ the righteous has sacrificed so much to atone for our sins?” (pg.42)

What is your attitude toward sin this day? Do you deny sin is a part of your nature? Do you deny specific acts of sin? Do you say that you have no sin? Do you justify your sin or minimize it? Do you call your sin a mistake? If so, then, my friend, you have deceived yourself, the truth is not in you, you have made God a liar, and His Word is not in you. Or, do you confess your sins? Do you run from sin, avoid it, and hate it? If so, then He is faithful and just to forgive your sins, to cleanse you, to plead with the Father on your behalf. What great promises for those who walk in the light!

Perhaps you are walking in the light this day, but you are struggling with an area of sin. May I lovingly suggest to you to not only kill sin in your members but find a person who will hold you accountable and pray for you? God never meant for us to go alone in our walk. Titus 2:1-5 is very clear about our responsibility to one another! Don’t ever let pride keep you from getting help and from asking others to pray for you as you struggle with sin. I would also echo the aged old apostle, who appealed to these believers to sin not! May we all have the attitude of the evangelist Billy Sunday, who said,

*“I’m against sin. I’ll kick it as long as I’ve got a foot, and I’ll fight it as long as I’ve got a fist. I’ll butt it as long as I’ve got a head. I’ll bite it as long as I’ve got a tooth. When I’m old and fistless and footless and toothless, I’ll gum it till I go home to Glory and it goes home to perdition!”*