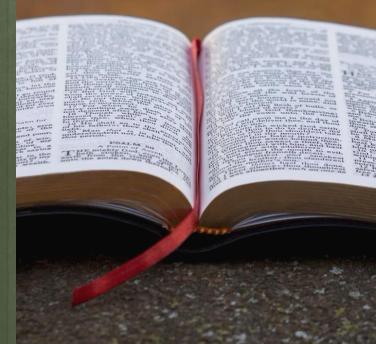
DISTINGUISHING the **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE CHRISTIANS** and **PROFESSING CHRISTIANS** (continued)

Scripture Reading:

I John 3:1-15



REVIEW

and those who only profess to believe is: ♦Known to God alone, who knows the heart of every person - cf I Sam 16:7, Acts 1:24, 15:8 Known to true believers by their works (fruit) -Matt 7:20

♦ John spells out these distinguishing works in his first letter to the churches

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN (HABITUALLY) PRACTICING SIN AND NOT (HABITUALLY) PRACTICING SIN (I Jn 3:6,9)

The believer feeling at ease (abiding) in Christ does not practice sin, i.e., "keep on sinning"
acting as if God has no requirements – cf 3:4
The believer being born of God does not keep on (habitually) sin because...

|**⊘| Jn <u>3:9</u>** in the believer ♦ The believer is God's possession, who will be glorified according to God's plan desire, and to do of His good pleasure **♦ Phil 2:12-13**

(continued)

♦4. The Holy Spirit will produce grief in our heart whenever we sin (Eph 4:30, II Cor 7:10-11, 7:1)

♦ 5. If we don't reason to the Holy Spirit's grief, then we are judged by the Lord to be "child-trained" (I Cor 11:31-32, Heb 12:6-8)

The standard action / work of a true believer demonstrating this love according to <u>God's</u> standard: vs 11

If or this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another"

An antithetical illustration of loving the brethren (vs12)
Abel offered a memorial sacrifice according to <u>God's</u> desired way – with blood

 The believer and his lifestyle are <u>hated</u> (despised, intensely disregarded) by the world of unbelievers (vs 13)
 \$\colored for Jn 15:18-20, I Pet 4:3-4

♦ The believer not loving his brother (at that moment) is feeling at ease in his old, pre-salvation state of spiritual death (vs 14b, cf Rom 6:20-21)

♦ He has the <u>potential</u> to commit murder (vs 15, cf I Pet 4:15)
 ♦ His indwelling Eternal Life (=Christ indwelling him since the initial point of his salvation) DOES NOT feel at ease in him! (vs 15)

CONCLUSION

Solution Good knows the heart of every believer and knows those who belongs to Him

♦1. Believers can only look at outward works to identify the one who is a true believer from one who merely professes a relationship with God

♦ 2. But even true believers can still act as they did before they were believers

♦(continued)

 God disciplines those who attempt to continue to practice sin. It is in this was that the Lord shows His love to His erring children

♦4. We have the CHOICE to not only <u>use</u> our salvation, but also to <u>growingly feel at ease</u> in Christ and in our so great salvation

CONCLUSION

Choose to USE your salvation

Choose to use it MORE and MORE consistently

"Feel at ease in Him and He will feel at ease in you" - Jn 15:4