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

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, May 12th, 2020

*Susan say, “As we come to our final lesson in 1 John, John has some good news for us and some bad news for us. But he doesn’t ask which one we want first. Instead he mingles the good and the bad new together.” (pg. 313)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 23– “Final Wonders! Final Warnings!” – 1 John 5:16-21 (pg. 324-325)

As John brings his epistle to a close, he gives his readers and us “Four Final Wonders” (vv 16, 18-20) and “Four Final Warnings” (vv 16,17,19,20). As we close our study of John’s epistle, let’s consider how we might apply the truths we’ve learned in this final lesson. Do you want the good news or the bad news first? Let’s take the bad news first, and then I’ll close with the good news!

Let’s take the *“Four Final Warnings” (vv 16,17,19,20)* first:

**The first warning is that “there is a sin unto death.”**

So I ask you, are you walking in obedience?

How tragic it would be to end your life sooner than planned because of sinning unto death. I’ve known people that I believe have sinned unto death. It is a very sobering reminder to me. We should also ask ourselves, do we know someone who is sinning? What are we doing about it? Have we prayed for them? Have we gone to them to lovingly warn them? If God has taken someone’s life whom you know was sinning, did you question God’s actions?

**The second warning is that “all unrighteousness is sin.”**

Do you view sin as ugly and abominable? Do you wink at sin? Do you think there are sins that God doesn’t care about---little white lies, cheating a little, laziness, and the like?

John says all unrighteousness is sin.

**The third warning is that “the whole world lies in wickedness.”**

What are you doing to protect yourself from the evil one? What about your husband or your children?

Do you protect them from the wickedness that is in the world? Are the things you read wholesome and godly? What about your viewing habits? Do you protect your eyes from watching things that are ungodly? What about your relationships? Are they godly? Are they wicked? Who do you spend the bulk of your time with?

Would that we all had the attitude of David in Psalm 101, where he vows that he will set no wicked thing before his eyes and that he will destroy all the wicked in the land.

**The fourth warning is to “keep ourselves from idols.”**

Is there anything or anyone that is keeping you from being fully devoted to Christ?

Run, my dear sister, run!

To close our study of 1 John let’s look at…

The *“Four Final Wonders” (vv 16, 18-20)!*

**The first wonder is that “you and I have the privilege of praying for sinning believers.”**

Prayer is such a privilege and one that we often take for granted.

I would encourage you to spend time in prayer, and especially for those whom you know are sinning.

Remember the individual mentioned in James 5, who was evidently sick because of sin?

James writes to the elders of the church and exhorts them to pray for him that he might be healed.

The effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much. And I would add that the effectual, red-hot, fervent prayer of a righteous woman avails much!

Do you know someone who is in sin, and are you praying for them?

**The second wonder is that “believers are not under the power of sin or of the wicked one.”**

Ladies, the power of sin has been broken. We have been made servants of righteousness and of God.

We are no longer servants of sin and of Satan. Do you believe that? Does your life show it?

**The third wonder is that “we can know we are of God.”**

You no longer have to doubt about your eternal state.

You can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are of God.

Do you have that absolute assurance that you are God’s child?

**The fourth wonder is that “God has come and has given us the ability to know Him and to have eternal life!”**

The incarnate Christ has come and given us the ability to know Him and to have eternal life and live with Him forever!

Susan concludes, “It is my deepest desire that, as we have been with the Master before the mirror, you have looked into the mirror of His Word and discovered that you know Him, the only true God and Jesus Christ!”