

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

March 16, 2022

1 John 5:16-21

Asking For Life

John has just finished telling us that we can confidently come before God with our petitions and know that He hears us and will answer us according to His will. (Vv 14-15) These prayers seem to be specifically about our salvation and that of others. (Vv12-13) See Jude 1:21-23. John now, in today's passage, moves into the dangerous territory of unrepentant sin both in the lives of believers and unbelievers. Those who consistently reject Jesus' offer of salvation are 'sinning unto death' eternal separation from God. Hebrews 10:26. Believers who turn deeply into sin and refuse to turn back to the grace of God 'sin unto death' as well but the Lord Who has saved them will never let them go. He has sealed them into eternal life with Him but He may well require their life on earth to come to an abrupt end rather than let them continue to abuse their salvation, and muddy the Name of the Lord. Acts 5:1-11 tells us of a time in the early church when God made an example of sinful believers. Our prayers may get the sinner saved but when God has chosen to take a rebellious brother home, our prayers will be fruitless. Paul actually says not to pray for them. (V16) Pray that it does not get that late. Galatians 6:1-2. James 5:19-20. All this is not to discourage us from praying for others. Quite the opposite. Other centered prayer must be our most heartfelt interaction with our Savior. Realizing that a believer is derailing his own life and damaging his walk with God we need to beg the Lord that He will reach into their soul and call them to once again find their first love. Revelation 2:4-5. We can't judge them and we must pray that God will restore them. We must ask that He may even use us to love them back into the Kingdom. John 13:35, James 5:16. Even more, our prayer life must be filled with the pleading that God will save those who thus far have not believed. Save them from eternal hell. Read again Jude 1:21-23. A lifestyle of sin is a dividing line separating folks from fellowship with God. Some during life on earth. Some in eternity. (Vv17-18) 1 John 1:6-10. Ask God for life. Mark 10:17. Verse 19 tells us that the unsaved world is hopelessly lost and it is clear that this wickedness desires to consume us as well. 1 Peter 5:8. That accounts for his warning in verse 21. Let us focus on Verse 20 and praise God that He has made Himself known to us and has accepted us through the death of His Son Jesus. May He ever deepen our understanding of Him and keep us keenly aware of the need to share His gospel.