

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
January 12, 2022
One Decision

1 John 3:4-9 KJVS

[4] Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

[5] And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. [6]

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. [7] Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even

as he is righteous. [8] He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. [9] Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

According to wacky theoretical physics (sorry if that's your field) there are countless trillions of alternate possible universes and every tide and turn you experience delivers you into a separate and unique future. Imagine your venture into the kitchen for a snack. A few moments of thought may yield you either an apple or handful of Oreos. That small choice has altered your path into history like a fork in the road takes you in either of two distinct directions. Every second in life then presents you with new choices, each one redirecting your possibilities. You are constantly navigating new waters and altered states, never able to go back to unchoose a poor choice. Experimental physics on the other hand puts these conundrums to the test proving our future can change based on one momentary change of course. You've all participated. Think back to a moment in time when you thought to turn left or right knowing it would change the rest of your life. Education, career, marriage, where to live, who to befriend? Every choice changed the future. Sin is a choice. Some seem insignificant, others loom large in our past. Each one has altered our life path in some way. In our sermon this Sunday we heard the phrase, "One decision." This particular one decision is that of receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior. Most every one of us can pinpoint a moment in time when we said yes to the gift of salvation that our Lord offered to us. Again, as was stated Sunday, that instant of decision completely changed the whole course of life. "Nothing would ever again be the same." We were instantly translated from eternal death to eternal life. The punishment for our sin was removed from our own soul and placed upon Christ at His cross. There were no infinite number of possible universes ahead of us. There were two directions. A fork in the road with two paths. Hell or Heaven. A moment in time set us on the right path which greatly altered our destination. We originally knew only of the consequence of sin; death. Jesus handed us the consequence of righteousness; eternal life in Glory with Him. Today's scripture opens for us a concept that most cannot resolve. If sin sends us to hell and Jesus sends us to heaven, what happens if I sin again? A simple, face value reading of our text may incline us to see doom in the coming days. Read it again. What other understanding can be reasoned into this?

Let's dig in. First we know that any scripture in its local context can imply something that may not be consistent with the remainder of God's Word. What did John mean by committing sin? What does the Holy Spirit mean as He speaks this passage into our hearts? We'll begin with 1 John 1:6-10. Here is highlighted the difference between instances of sin and fellowshiping with Christ and walking in His Light. We see our need for confession and cleansing. As much as we would like to live righteously we will still sin after salvation. We do not have license to do this nor should we take it lightly. Hebrews 6:4-6 describes those who come close to committing their lives to Christ but ultimately choose a lifestyle of sin. A choice that seems to seal their fate. It can be said that God has infinite grace but can our sin reach a limit? Can we abuse His grace? Romans 5:20-6:2 shows us we still have sin in our lives but we can't deceive God or mock Him. He knows us better than we know ourselves. As we are learning of Him and walking in Him we are developing in relationship with Him. As we come to know God, ever closer, our hearts learn a desire to please Him, not to hurt Him. Ephesians 4:29-30. God is allowing for us to grow and is working actively to that end. Philippians 1:6. As our Heavenly Father had so graciously allowed us to choose Him out of our own free will, He also allows us to continue to make choices throughout our lives. Every moment presents new opportunities and new decisions. Our "One Decision" to trust Christ in salvation opens many doors to many choices to continue to trust Him. Every sin that approaches us gives us another chance to choose Him. He showed us how and encourages us to follow His example. Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16. Our many choices do not open for us infinite universes. There is only one universe and each moment presents to us time and again opportunities to shame Him or glorify Him in the here and now. While He readily forgives our 'missing the mark', He much more readily rejoices in our success in resisting sin and 'sharing in the prize'. Zephaniah 3:17. Imagine how God sings! He has included us in the blessings of Israel. Let's make Him glad He did.