



## Daily Devotionals

[click here to go to website – stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org)

### 1 JOHN 1:8-10 Sin by Any Other Name

*<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

Few of us would deny that we are sinners in the general sense. After all Scripture, from prophets to apostles, reminds us that "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." (Isaiah 53:6; cf, Romans 3:23). But that does not mean that we have not and do not deny that we are sinners when it comes to specific thoughts and actions. In practical terms it is almost as if Jesus took the "sin" out of our self-centeredness. Rather than imputing his righteousness to us as we stand in judgment before God's throne, we act like he transformed our sinfulness into righteousness. If we do something in the Name of Jesus or the Church how can it be sinful? So we divide the body of Christ according to our self-appointed criteria of holiness. We accrue power to ourselves and our circle of cohorts through worldly means. We are blinded to our immorality by the dazzling light of our own self-importance. We make statements like "God wouldn't want his people to not look prosperous. It would be poor stewardship not to provide my family with all they desire." In Scripture this is known as self-righteousness - not the righteousness of God. It is both a claim to be without sin and one that we have not sinned under our particular circumstances. In either case we are living a lie. Alternatively, if we really have not sinned, then we are proclaiming that God is a liar. In either case there is no salvation.

The sin that is un-confessed is the sin that will become an insurmountable wall between you and God; and therefore, eternal life. Un-confessed sin is not that which we do not as yet even know we have, but that which we know but deny its nature as sin. There is no forgiveness for sins that are not confessed because the sinner has declared that those actions and attitudes need no forgiveness. Ultimately, however, God will give us what we choose. If we choose ourselves, he will leave us to ourselves. If you want to be in charge of your future, God will let you be in charge. But you cannot live life on your terms and then reasonably expect to live into the results of living life according to God's will. Once again, liars do not enter the kingdom of God (Revelation 21:8, 27), and a god who lies cannot be the source of salvation.

**Fill me with your Holy Spirit, O God, so that I might see and be convicted of my sins. Un-sear my cauterized conscience so that those sins I call "not-sin" will cause me to repent and follow you ever more closely in obedience. Make me joyfully diligent in rooting out all sin in my life while showing love and mercy to my neighbors as they struggle with their own. Amen.**

*Chuck+*