

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

Generally John 8: 31-59

Who is *your* Father?



- Here, the message of the preceding section continues.
- *Review 31-38.*

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

- Of those **Jews who do believe in Him**, Jesus asks much more than a shallow faith resulting from superficial enthusiasm:
 - they should be **true disciples**;
 - **Jesus' words should imbue their whole life.**
 - That kind of faith will bring them to know the truth and to become **truly free** persons.
 - * Truth is a person, and Jesus is that person sets us free!

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

- **Knowing the Truth** is, in the last analysis, **knowing Christ himself**, and that this Christ is:
 - ☑ The **God who became man to save us** from the yoke of slavery to sin;
 - ☑ That the inaccessible God having become man, is **our Friend, and our Life**.
 - ☑ Finally, **because** Jesus personifies **Truth** - He is the **Way** to salvation and eternal **Life**.
(cf.: Jn 14:6)

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

- “Christ himself links liberation particularly with knowledge of the truth; ‘You will know the truth and the truth will make you free’ (Jn 8:32).
- This *liberation means our inner transformation*, which is a consequence of the *knowledge of truth*. The transformation is, therefore, a **spiritual process**, in which a man is again “**created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**” (Eph 4:24).

Saint John's Gospel. (2005). (p. 107). Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

Who is *your* Father?



- Note Jn 8:39-47 and vs 53-55
- Sons of Abraham or. Sons of the Devil.
- Depends on who is your guide.
 - Your Father is who you listen to.

SONS OF ABRAHAM?

- v. 57 - “So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?””
- “Amen, Amen I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.”



DUTY TO WARN



- A follow up to Jeremiah Chapter 23:
- *Regarding* shepherds who mistreated their sheep and allowed them to languish
 - Ez 33-1-20 & Ez 18: 1-29
 - Ez 3:18-21

WARNING

Skim - Ez Ch 33 1-20*

There are several themes:

- Failure to correct or warn - prophet duty (33:1-9)
- Repentance preferred over Justice (33: 10:11)
- Ez 33: 12-16 - OSAS (once saved always saved) - what might one believe in light of God's spoken word to Ezekiel



WARNING

You decide

- Are people more likely to commit a crime, if there is no consequence for the crime?
- Do most people balance benefits v. risks when engaging in what might be controversial conduct?



WARNING

- Contrast what we read with the following statement:
 - The [Westminster Confession](#) adopted by most Presbyterian churches, who follow the teachings of [John Calvin](#) states:
 - "They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved ... Nevertheless they may, through the temptations of Satan ... fall into grievous sins..."
(Book of Confessions of the United Presbyterian Church, 1967 Ed., Sec. 6.086-6.088).

WARNING

Skim - Ez Ch 18: 1-29*

There are *several* themes:

- Personal Responsibility for sin (18:1-9)
- Only sinner is responsible for own sins (18: 10:23)
- Ez 18: 24-29— OSAS (once saved always saved) - again not sustainable



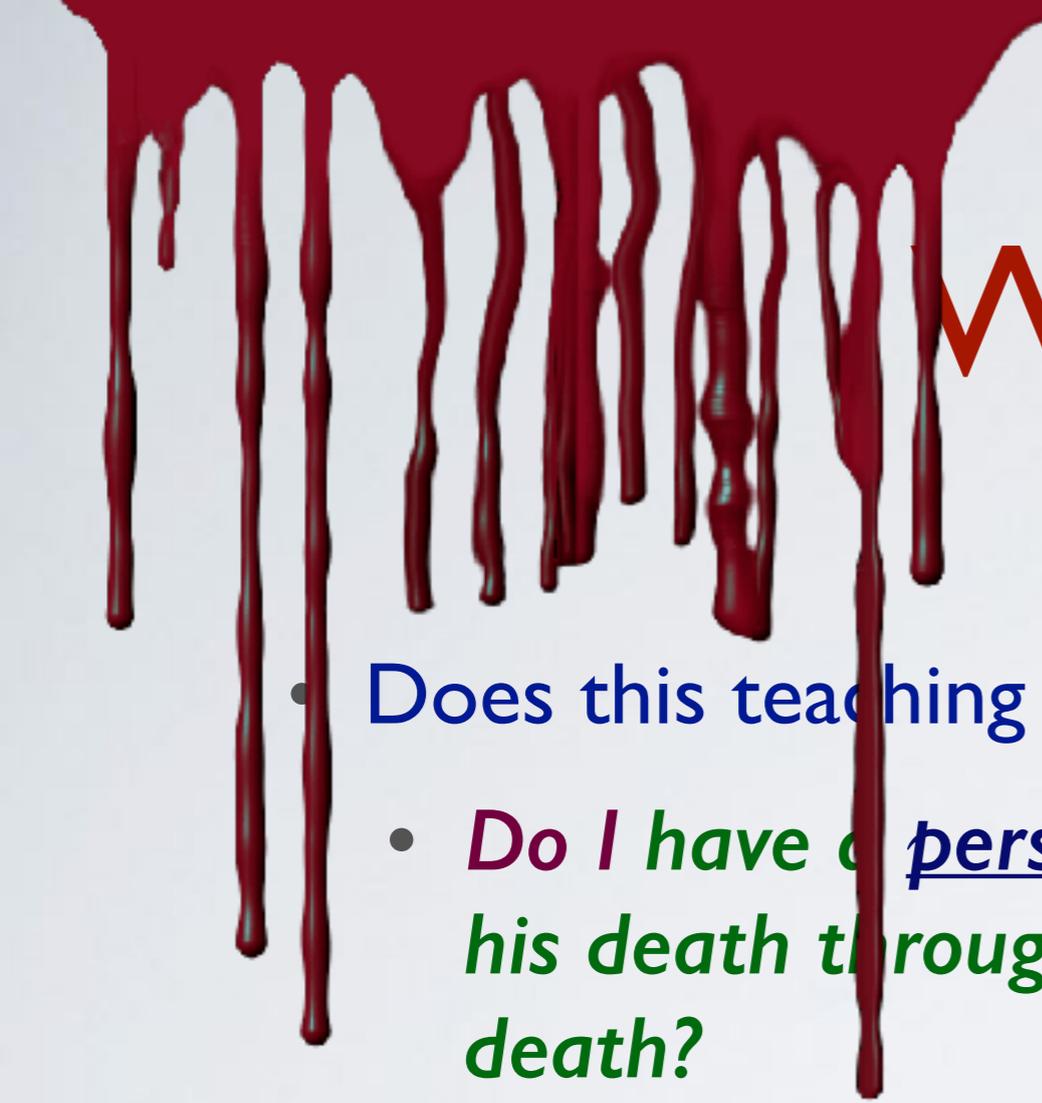
WARNING

Does this teaching apply to ME?

Skim - Ez Ch 3: 18-21*

Again the Watchman theme:

- If a prophet warns - then regardless what the wicked man does, the prophet will live (3:18-19)
- If he does not warn the wicked man of his sin - then if the wicked man does follow through and sins, then God will hold him responsible. (3: 20-21)



WARNING

- Does this teaching apply to me, or only to **OT** prophets?
 - *Do I have a personal duty to warn my brother, such that his death through his sin - makes me responsible for his death?*
 - **cf CCC 783:** Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.



IS *Once Saved*
ALWAYS SAVED?
BIBLICAL?

ETERNAL SECURITY

A Modern Heresy based on the sin of presumption

ETERNAL SECURITY

- One of the key passages that is usually cited for the proposition that “once saved” a person is “always saved” is 1 John 5:13
- This passage is usually cited to trap the “uncertain” Catholic,” who when asked if she knows where she would go if she died right now ... hesitantly answers: “I hope Heaven, but I don’t know for sure.”



ETERNAL SECURITY

I John 5:13

- “I write these things to you so that you may know that *you have eternal life*, you who believe in the **name of the Son of God.**”
 - Do you believe in *Jesus*?
 - You know you believe, but somehow you **smell a trap!**



ETERNAL SECURITY

1 John 5:13

- Do you *believe in Jesus*?
 - If you do, then the Word of God says you should KNOW that you have eternal life.
 - If you do not *know* or have certainty about this, perhaps you do not really believe!
- Don't you see?** The Catholic teaching conflicts with the Word of God, because it leaves you in doubt.

ETERNAL SECURITY



This clever set of questions, can cause a Catholic to turn his doubt about his final destiny, into a doubt about his faith!

Maybe the Catholic Church is teaching **falsely** on this issue?

- But **does 1 John 5:13 really say** what the person challenging your faith, thinks it says?

THE “IF” STATEMENTS

- | John 1:6
- | John 1:7
- | John 1:8
- | John 1:9
- | John 1:10
- | John 2:3
- | John 2:4
- | John 2:5
- | John 2:6
- | John 2:9
- | John 2:10
- | John 2:11
- | John 2:15
- | John 2:16
- | John 2:17
- | John 2:19

THE “IF” STATEMENTS

- I John 2:24
- I John 2:28
- I John 2:29
- I John 3:6-8
- I John 3:9-10
- I John 3:14
- I John 3:15
- I John 3:17-18
- I John 3:21
- I John 3:2- Jn 15:10
- I John 3:24
- I John 4:2
- I John 4:6
- I John 4:7
- I John 4:11-13
- I John 4:20
- I John 5:10
- I John 4:12

ETERNAL SECURITY

- Depending how you read I John Chapters 1-4 there are over 30 **IF** statements.
- How many of the IF statements are you required to satisfy to KNOW, you have eternal life? **Just some?**
 - ★ Some of the statements are related to what you believe, and
 - ★ Some of the statements are related to what you do!
- Can a OSAS believer *really* have eternal security?

Psalm 51

PRAYER FOR CLEANSING AND PARDON

- This Psalm is read every Friday morning by all clergy, religious and lay religious as part of the Liturgy of the Hours.
- It properly describes the relationship between us and God, our dependence on His forgiveness and the need to be transformed.



SUNDAY GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-30 - Familiar account of the young rich man

- Kneled before Jesus
- What must I do to inherit Eternal Life?
- You know the commandments:
- These I have done
- Lack one thing - give all to the poor and follow me.
- Rich to enter - like camel pass through eye of the needle
- For human beings it is impossible. All things are possible with God
- We have given up everything to follow you

SUNDAY GOSPEL

- Mark 10:17-30 - Familiar account of the young rich man
 - “Amen I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.”

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Lets **reflect** on Jn 10: 17-18*
- Lets **add** Phil 2:5-8*
- Then **see** Heb 5:8-9*
- **Return** to Heb 2:10, 17-18*
- Finally, **digest** 1 Tim 2:5*
- **What does all this mean for each of us?**

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Jn 10:17-18: This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I'll lay it down on my own.
- Phil 2:5-8: Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Phil 2:5-8: Rather, He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found in human appearance, He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.
- Heb 5:8-9: Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Heb 2:10,17-18: For it was fitting that He, for whom and through Him all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. Therefore, He had to become like His brothers in every way, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expose the sins of the people. Because He himself was tested through what He suffered, He is able to help those who are being tested.

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- 1 Tim 2:5 for there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself as a ransom for all.

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- But wasn't Jesus perfect when he was born in the manger?
 - And didn't He live a sinless life?
- Wasn't His death the death of an innocent man?
 - What did He lack?

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Did Christ have to die so that He would know what it would be like to be us?
- Did He die, so we would know what it was like to be Him?
 - Are we called to imitate Christ? 1 Cor 11:1
 - Does it help you in carrying your own cross?

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- Christ emptied of His Divine attributes, and being true man did not want to die, but his prayers at Gethsemane were answered with **affirmation** and **obedience** to His father's will.
 - See **Rom 8: 14-25***

SUFFERING & PERFECTION



- St Paul knew this kind of suffering. He quotes Jesus' own words at Gethsemane referring to His father. **We who follow Jesus, and are His brothers, can pray likewise:**
 - **“Abba, Father, all things are possible to you; remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”**
(Mark 14:36)

SUFFERING & PERFECTION

- St Paul's hymn in Philippians captures that:
 - Jesus humbled Himself becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.
 - “His obedience, moreover, was not simply a matter of submitting to the Father's will, for as St Paul points out, He made Himself obedient: His obedience was active; He made the Father's salvific plans his own.”

Saint Paul's Captivity Letters. (2005). (p. 104).
Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.

SUFFERING & PERFECTION

- Finally, for us, there is another kind of perfection or completion that comes only by experience.
 - Sometimes I can only know what I can do, if I persevere and just do it.
- Jesus entered fully into the sufferings of this world and emerged victorious over them.
- His Human will, every bit like ours, totally submitted and embraced God's will. This is the definition of perfection. That is why He may be called the "author" of our salvation. (Heb 2:10 & Mt 5:48)

THE GOSPELS

A Scholarly Biblical Study

