



Our works, the things we do that are bad or good in the flesh, do not determine and cannot decide whether we **will be** saved.

Our works are to be the determining factor to show whether or not we **have been** saved.

Verses 6, 8, & 9

Wherever in 1 John he talks about committing sin, it is speaking of a sinful existence, a **habitual** practice of sin.

Christians don't go on sinning without **conflict** and confession. Christians see it, hate it, confess it, and fight it and they do so with **increasing** vigilance as they grow in Christ.

Verse 4 – “Lawlessness” is **rebellion** against one who should be obeyed. Sin is not just an outward act, it is an inward **attitude**.

John is saying the sign of a Christian is a **surrendered** will to God's will. (1 John 2:3, 5)

Verse 5 – A sinful lifestyle is a denial of Christ's **character**. (...in Him is no sin.) 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- A sinful lifestyle is also a denial of Christ's **cross**. (...that he might take away our sins.) John 1:29; Psalm 103:12

A sinful lifestyle can never be an **alternative** lifestyle for the child of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
These lifestyles of sin must change and **cease** to be your lifestyles, cease to be the ruling, dominating factor of your existence.

If you're truly saved, your life will not be a denial of Christ, of His character, or of His cross and by that you find **assurance** of your salvation.

Verse 8, 5; 1 John 2:1-2

Jesus came at Christmas so that we might not go on **sinning** and He came to die so that there would be an **atonement** sacrifice for our sins if we do sin.

“Three Christmas gifts from John”

1) A clear **purpose** for living.
Don't **sin**. Trust **Jesus**. Love **People**.

2) Hope that our failures will be **forgiven**.
Christ not only came to destroy the works of the devil, our sinning, He also came to be an **advocate** for us when we fail in the fight!

But beware – if you turn the grace of God into a **license** for sin, you are probably not born again and you should tremble.

3) Hope that Christ will really **help** us in our fight.
1 John 4:4

The consistent test:
How **sensitive** to sin am I?
How **separate** from sin am I?

As much as in chapter 1 we didn't want to miss **Christ** this Christmas, in chapter 3 we don't want to miss that Christmas is intimately connected to the **cross**!