

Volume 2 – Day 30: The Reason to Believe

Most Christians suffer much guilt, shame and fear despite the fact that we have been saved by grace. It is all too common for Christians to believe that they are constantly sinning and needing to confess their sins in order to be **clean** before God. Unfortunately this is a gross contradiction to our claims to be saved by grace. Our **cleanness** is due only to our faith in the Son of God and His personal substitution of penalty on our behalf.

The first chapter of 1 John is a statement of how we can know that we are born again. The ninth verse is unfortunately often taught to mean that we must continually confess our most recent sins in order to be clean. That presupposes that we must help Jesus with our cleanness. What an affront to His excruciating and humiliating death naked on a cross! **Jesus either paid it all or He paid for nothing.** *Your* cleanness is not *yours*, ever! It is His cleanness given to you!

Christ's payment for our sin, (the separation from God—death) and His subsequent resurrection to a new life captivated the hearts of the first believers. This irrefutable evidence of **God's unconditional love and receiving it by faith, provided complete release and freedom from guilt, shame and fear.** So compelling was this freedom, that thousands of Christians were willing to face martyrdom for their faith in Christ. The first Christians not only fell in love with God, but also persisted in the journey, abandoned to intimacy with God. They lived and died knowing that Christ had risen from the dead and they had risen with Him. "If ye then be risen with Christ." That word, *if*, is not an if of uncertainty. The intent of the word is "*since* you are then risen with Christ." Paul declared in Romans 6:4, Ephesians 2:6-7 and elsewhere that Christ's resurrection applied to every believer as well.