

Sermon Notes:

 Jesus is the Truth-----

 Jesus is the Bondage-----

 Jesus is the Curse-----

- 1 **John introduces the concept of false believers as early as the end of John chapter 2.** Here we have another instance of false believers. Though they believe in verse 30, Jesus continues truth-speaking to them. What does he say that distinguishes between true and false believers? Consider the following scenarios before discussion with your community group:

 Gary has always been in Christian environments, from a Christian family to Christian school to working at a Christian parachurch organization. When he was young, he prayed a prayer of belief in Jesus with his parents. Soon he was baptized. As a teenager, he struggled with sexual sin. His parents talked to him and said he needed to stop. Gary felt bad about his sin but knew he was forgiven already. His sin followed him all the way through Christian school and through college education until he found himself a leader of other Christians. But still the sin followed him. He was a nice person and was always thought well of but he never gained any measure of victory over sin. Finally his sin caught up with him and he was found out through the internet/camera system at his parachurch organization. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Gary?

 Clarice intellectually struggled with the claims of Jesus. What about the Trinity? What about his death and resurrection? What about other religions? Are good people in hell? She continued to have these doubts but would find herself immersed in the Bible. Coming out of Bible study, she would commit herself again to her relationship with God. Through the years, these doubts would come and threaten to claim her for good. But always she was drawn to the Bible for the answers and would come away stronger in faith. Since beginning a relationship with Jesus, Clarice overcame substance abuse, willingly served at the Rescue Mission, shared her income with the household of faith, yet she would still have intellectual battles with the claims of Christianity. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Clarice?

 Jose was quiet and reserved on the outside but inside he was always looking for pleasure. He floated in and out of various religious systems that claimed Jesus as the Savior. When he finally came into a church that preached the grace of Jesus, he found himself consistently attending. He loved the concept of grace. But instead of grace teaching him to deny all ungodliness, he began to give in to pleasures and parties all week while basking in grace on Sundays. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Jose?

- 2 **“Faith without works is dead” is a favorite verse of certain legalistic systems of religion.** For the legalist, outward repentance is easy. They have a certain list they follow. Jesus comes in and destroys the legalist by addressing the heart. Can you think of some of Jesus’ words that destroys works-based salvation? Here in John 8, Jesus accuses the religious leaders of doing the works of their father (and he definitely doesn’t mean Abraham). What is Jesus pointing to by saying Abraham is not their father? (Consider Genesis 15:6 in your answer.)

