

## Questions for Devotional Responses (third + final set)

In addition to the first and second sets.

- Students will write four papers aimed at bringing about personal reflection and spiritual formation. Students have the option to choose to interact with any select four related to the following readings, with no more than two from one single author.
- DR due 2/7, 2/14, **3/6, 3/20**
- Format for responses: typed, two pages (part of a third page is acceptable), double-spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman font, size 11. (Must follow these formatting directions.)
- **Optional Devotional Response #5** – answer the following question (for extra credit):
  - *Understanding that God uses everything in our lives for our benefit (His good, our sanctification), briefly write about one experience that you would not want to endure again, but was so valuable for the forming of your character that you are now thankful for it.* (This can be an event, a relationship/person, or any other experience).
  - Up to two pages, typed 1-½ spaced. Due 3/20 with Exam 3.

### Mark L. Strauss, "John: The Gospel of the Son Who Reveals the Father" (I)

- Consider three of the following questions in your response.
  - a. Consider Figure 10.6 (page 310) on Dualism in John's Gospel. Take two of the contrasts (e.g., Believe on the Son, versus Reject the Son) and write about the impact of the two different statements on your mind and heart. What jumps out as you sit and think on these truths?
  - b. How is the Holy Spirit the *paraclete* to God's people? How do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life, related to the discussion Strauss gives? (pages 323, 331-32)
  - c. How is salvation *knowing God*, and *Eternal Life* related to the present? (page 331) Consider how those two themes relate, especially in light of John 3 and Jesus' High Priestly prayer in John 17.

### H.A. Ironside, "The Christian Message (1 John 1:5-2:2)" (L)

- Consider each of the following questions in your response.
  - a. What does it mean to be cleansed of all unrighteousness? And how does that relate to your daily life of confession, repentance and restoration to full fellowship with God?
  - b. On page 33 Ironside takes about confession being a *definite* thing? What does he mean, and how does that apply to the way we come to God in specifics in our confession and not vague generalities?
  - c. What does Ironside think of the supposed claim of some in being wholly sanctified? Is it possible to go years (or months, days, even hours?) without sinning? How does that relate to the message of First John?

**H.A. Ironside, "Christ Our Advocate (1 John 2:1-2)" (L)**

- Consider each of the following questions in your response.
  - a. How are we all *little children* under God and in the Gospel?
  - b. How does Ironside (see page 38ff) discuss how "sin is not merely the violation of certain moral principles"? What does he mean by that in the context, and how does that relate to not doing God's will.
  - c. On page 47 Ironside mentions that "sin does not touch the question of relationship, but it does touch communion, or fellowship." How does that phrase relate to the theme of First John and specifically to Jesus being our Advocate (1 John 2:1-2)?

**J. Dwight Pentecost, "God's Command to Love" & "What Love Demands" (M)**

- Consider each of the following questions in your response.
  - a. How can there be commandments in the New Testament? Aren't we free from any sort of law?
  - b. Why is love a proof of salvation? Do you see a difference in your heart, in love, from before you knew Christ to now?
  - c. How do believers prove their love for other believers? How can you give evidence of Christ's work of love in your life to another, specifically? (Name that person and what actions your loving will embody.)
  - d. How does a right understanding of "neighbor" change who and how we love others?

**J. Dwight Pentecost, "A Condemned Heart" (M)**

- Consider each of the following questions in your response.
  - a. What is the source of condemnation in our hearts? How do you deal with feelings of condemnation?
  - b. Is there an unreconciled relationship in your life where confession of sin and humility needs to take place? Who is that person and how can you go about moving in the direction of reconciliation?
  - c. How does a clean conscience before God relate to joy in your daily life? Do you sense God's good pleasure over you?

**J. Dwight Pentecost, "Assurance of Eternal Life" (M)**

- Consider each of the following questions in your response.
  - a. Is it possible to have assurance of eternal life? How is it possible by the Spirit, and why is it necessary?
  - b. What are the primary purpose, and second and third results of receiving the Spirit's witness?
  - c. Have you struggled with assurance in the past (or presently) and what was the process you went through (or are currently engaged in) in moving towards full assurance of faith?