

The Great Revolution

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 3:4-5.

B. These verses give reason for human distress.

II. Sin, which is lawlessness, is the source of human distress.

A. There is a determination to refuse authority and please self, resulting in lawlessness within every heart ending in lawless acts by everyone.

B. Lawlessness is to be a law unto oneself and shut one's eyes to the truth.

C. Lawlessness expresses itself in open defiance. Lawlessness is found equally in the respectable crowds as it is in the openly defiant. (Romans 1-2)

D. Hatred, darkness and death are the activities of lawlessness.

1. This darkness is evident everywhere.

2. The root of all the world's problems is in lawlessness.

E. The world is divided between the radicals and respectable people, but both are guilty of sin and lawlessness.

III. The answer to these problems is to take away the lawless spirit.

A. The basic cause must be struck.

B. The hope is that Jesus appeared to take away lawlessness because in Him there is no lawlessness.

1. Only Jesus can take away sins.

2. Jesus gives life in place of death, light in place of darkness, and love in place of hate.

3. This is where the Christian life begins—it is a process afterward.

4. The results are always the same—the taking away of sin and the restoration of peace in an individual.

C. There is nothing greater than to be a part of the enterprise that touches humankind at its basic problem.

Application questions:

1. What is lawlessness? How have you seen this manifest itself in your community? How have you seen it manifest in yourself?

2. Why is being respectable not enough?

3. How is Jesus provision for the problem of lawlessness an enterprise of missions? Explain.
