

Message 5 in the Series: Just So You Know

Message: Practice Makes Perfect

Text: 1 John 2:4-6

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**1 John 2:1-6 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world. <sup>3</sup> By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

John refers to Jesus as the righteous One who came to make atonement for our sin. He became to us the wisdom of God, the righteousness of God, and the salvation of God.

**1 John 2:2 (NASB)** (John writes) He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

Paul's words to the church in Rome serves as a perfect conclusion to these words of John...

**Romans 5:18 (NASB)** So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

These truths, along with all the Gospel, are summed up by one of the greatest and most popular scriptures known by all the church –

**John 3:16 (NASB)** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

God saves us, not because He needs us, but because He loves us. God sent His Son to "Save us from our sin."

Sin is such a comprehensive subject in the bible. Many have a narrow understanding of sin. If asked, most would say sin was doing something wrong. In reality, an immoral act is the result or fruit of sin.

**Matthew 15:19 (NASB)** "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Sin defiles, pollutes, and taints one's life – their whole person (Sin's Influence). Sin's power over a person keeps them from "knowing" the life God created for them.

In reference to sin, the bible uses words and phrases such as:

- ***Bondage*** (being in bondage to sin)
- ***Servant*** (being a servant of sin)
- ***To Rein*** (being ruled over and controlled by sin)

Salvation in Jesus Christ goes way beyond forgiveness of sinful acts we have committed. He sets us free from sin and restores life to our soul. This life is eternal; eternal doesn't just describe length of time (all souls of mankind are eternal). Eternal life describes the quality and nature of the life which is from God.

Eternal life is a righteous life apart from the defilement and pollutants of sin.

Jesus saves us from our sin, not in an isolated moment through a "sinner's prayer" but throughout our life from the moment we surrender our life to Him.

### **1 John 2:3-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

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#### 1. Keeping

"Whoever keeps His word"

The word "keeps" (*têreô*) is continuous action. It means to continue and not to stop; it means to watch as a warden or guard would keep watch over a prison. It means to keep an eye on, and hence to guard; Particularly it means to watch, to observe attentively, to keep one's eyes fixed upon. Keeping the commandments is stated here in the positive, while breaking the commandments is stated in the negative.

To keep His word is to practice His word.

\*Practice Makes Perfect! If we keep God's Word day-by-day, then we learn more and more about God; we learn to love Him more and more. His love becomes perfected, completed, and fulfilled in us.

\*The object of God's love is to give us His eternal life. Jesus called this life, "Abundant Life."

This abundant life is filled with the righteous things of God.

**Romans 6:18 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup>we have been "freed from sin", we've become slaves of righteousness. His righteousness rules us! We are under new management.

**Romans 6:20-22 (NASB)** <sup>20</sup>For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

**1 John 2:5 (NASB)** "Whoever keeps His word", in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

God's love is fully experienced and accomplished (what God desires for us) is happening when we "KEEP HIS WORD." When we keep our eyes fixed upon "That which is from the beginning"; when we observe His teachings attentively.

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## 2. His Commandments – His Word

**1 John 5:3 (NASB)** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

**Psalms 119:97-105 (NASB)** <sup>97</sup> O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all day. <sup>98</sup> Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. <sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. <sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts. <sup>101</sup> I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. <sup>102</sup> I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me. <sup>103</sup> How sweet are Your words to my taste! *Yes, sweeter* than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup> From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore, I hate every false way. <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

God's Word is all inclusive: we have His commandments and all of His promises!

**Ephesians 2:12 (NASB)** <sup>12</sup> you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**Ephesians 2:19 (NASB)** <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household.

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### 3. The Love of God

God's love for us makes a way, shows the way, and provides the way for us to have His abundant, eternal, life.

**John 3:16 (NASB)** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 14:6 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

God's Love is everlasting!

**Romans 8:38-39 (NASB)** <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.