

1 John Chapter 2: Encouragement and Warning

Remember to Lift Up Our Lord Jesus Christ

1 John 1 Review:

Both Deny
Cross/need
of Salvation

- **The Incarnate Word: John testifies of Jesus;** the Eternal Life
- **God is Light;** a dilemma for darkness as God calls us to fellowship:
 1. **Man seeks to bring God low** denying his holiness and living any way we choose; living in darkness and dark deeds and claiming fellowship with light...? **Result: False assurance**
 2. **Man seeks to raise himself up** claiming perfection and equality with God; again denying His holiness and our sinfulness...pride. **Result: Bondage**
 3. **True fellowship with God** is when we allow the light to reveal our need and walk in that light being constantly and continually cleansed **as we confess our sins. Result: Fellowship**
- **Chapter 2:** continuation of how the "little children" have fellowship with God

If God is for us, who is against us? [Romans 8:31]

I. God's Love Revealed by God's Action God is for us

¹My **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;

- **Little children:** gr. *Teknia*; lit. "my little born ones" or my "little born-again ones"
- **May not sin?** What about the **Sin of omission**: [James 4:17] along w/commission
- **Sin breaks fellowship;** we have an **Advocate**. Gr. Parakletos: same as comforter in gospel of John; helper; to come along side in **every time of need**
- **Courtroom Scene:**
 1. **Judge : God** the Father
 2. **Accuser: Devil**

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, he who **accuses** them before our God day and night.

3. **Defendants : Us;** mankind guilty of sin

Matthew 5:25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

4. **Our Attorney : God the Son:** Jesus; our advocate before the Father

1 John 2:1b ...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...

²and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but

also for those of the whole world.

- **Propitiation:** Atonement for Expiation [**compensation**]; lit. " **Our sins are paid for by the suffering of another**"
 1. We sin
 2. Immediately Jesus is our advocate before the Father
 3. Holy Spirit brings conviction and we confess; cleansed and forgiven

- **God's love revealed in action through Jesus:**
 1. Our Advocate
 2. The One who took God's wrath in our place

II. Our Assurance Confirmed by our Love for Others

The gospel, when rightly understood and received, sets the heart against all sin, and stops the allowed practice of it; at the same time it gives blessed relief to the wounded consciences of those who have sinned. [Matthew Henry]

³By this **we know** that we have come to know Him, **if we** keep His commandments.

- **Assurance** (as far as we are concerned): When we keep His commands; Obedience is necessary for assurance

John 7:17 "If anyone is willing to do His will, **he will know** of the teaching, whether it is of God...

- **Commandments:** Not the 10 which are legal; Jesus will identify...

⁴The 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;

- Disobedient Christian is **living a lie**; Question: Do I **want** to please Him?

⁵ but whoever **keeps His word**, in him the **love of God** has truly been perfected [complete] By this we know that we are in Him:

- Difference between keeping "**commandments**" in v.3,4 and keeping His "**Word**"

A Child of God not only wants to keep the commandments but "keep His Word" i.e. the *essence of the expression of His will...to please Him!*

- If we keep His Word: "...love of God ...perfected..." **Realized in practice:**
- **John begins to narrow everything down to love: Jesus walked in Love**

⁶the one who **says he abides in Him ought** himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Not a question of commitment [see Cults and isms], but **love**

- Not **Religion**...but **Relationship**

1 Corinthians 13:3 ...if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, **it profits me nothing.**

⁷Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an **old commandment** which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

- **Old commandment:**

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**; I am the LORD.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [C.f. John 15:10-12]

⁸ On the other hand, I am writing a **new commandment** to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the **darkness is passing away** and the true Light is already shining.

- **New Commandment:** This side of the cross; after the **Holy Spirit and Pentecost**
- **Darkness passing:** lit. "*The darkness is passing and the true light is shining*"
- **Sanctification:** Growing in love demonstrated by **practical** righteousness:

Ephesians 4:18 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

⁹The one who says he is in the Light and yet **hates his brother is in the darkness until now.**

- **Impossible** :Walk in light [continually cleansed/forgiven] and hate a fellow Christian
- **Do we walk in Light or Darkness:**

¹⁰ The one who **loves his brother abides in the Light** and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But the one who **hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness**, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

- **Test:** Is Christ [the Light] the One we are following?
- If we hate a fellow Christian(s), we are **NOT** walking in the Light! [Apathy?]

III. **Spiritual Maturity** Three Degrees

¹²I am writing to you, **little children**, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

- **Little children:** "*Paidia*" lit. "Immature little crumb snatcher's"; know they are children of God...that's all. Easily victimized. **Spiritual immaturity**
- Ignorance is Bliss/ No awareness of Spiritual Warfare or their own danger:

Ephesians 4:13 [seek to] attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are ***no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*** ¹⁵***but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up*** in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ..

- **Time to Grow Up;** Scripture knowledge and application, Right Actions, accepting roles as husbands and wives [and young adults]

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

- **Fathers:** Built a relationship with Jesus by focusing on HIS glory...not our own
- We are not to draw attention to ourselves for vain glory:

Matthew 6:1 Give in Secret, Pray in Secret that: ⁴that your charitable deed **may be in secret**; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly...pray to your **Father who is in the secret place**; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- **People need to see reality**, not a cartoon version of Christianity [Berryfields]
- Mature Christians do not draw attention to themselves but give glory to God

¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the **word of God abides** in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- **Young men:** Secret revealed to previous victory in v.13; i.e. overcoming the evil one **...Word of God abides in you!** No longer falling for false teaching; even fighting against cults

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

SUMMARY: 3 Degrees of Spiritual Maturity:

1. **Children:** Immature Little Crum-snatchers: Not believing their in a battle an losing
2. **Young Men:** Victorious with the Word of God abiding in them
3. **Fathers:** Seeking God's Glory even if they are not noticed

II. Reject Idols Little Children Do Not Love the World

- Rejecting Idols as exemplified by rejecting/hating the Satanic World System

¹⁵ **Do not love the world** nor the things in the world If anyone loves the world, **the love of the Father is not in him.**

- **World:** gr. *Kosmos*; the world system organized and belonging to Satan
- Greed. Selfishness, Deceit, Lying, Danger; etc
- Satan is Ruling this world and the world system...right now!

John 14:30 [Kosmos] "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me...

John 16:11 [Kosmos] ...and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Ephesians 1:4 [physical world] just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love

Ephesians 2:2 [Kosmos] in which you formerly walked according to the *course of this world*, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

2 Peter 2:20 ...For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

¹⁶For **all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- **All that is in the world...is not from the Father** [c.f. Genesis 3, Matthew 4]

- **Devil tempts in these 3 areas:**

1. **Lust of the Flesh:** Denying God's will and seeking our own pleasure to our hurt:

- Eve Hungry and said yes/Jesus hungry but said no denying self/Submitting to God
- Contrast with Walking in the Spirit:

Galatians 5:16 [Read] I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

2. **Lust of the Eyes:** Covetousness/ Discontentment:

- Eve saw the fruit was pleasant and took it, not content with God's gracious provisions
- Jesus offered Kingdoms of the world [Love of riches, comfort, self-absorbed]
- Contrast with Contentment:

Philippians 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

3. **Pride of Life:**

- Eve heard the fruit could "make her wise" and she ate, Jesus told to cast self down that everyone could see how close to God He was when God caught Him
- Desire to be known as "the Guy" obviously close to God because of Great Bible Knowledge [Colorado pastor]
- **Result:** "unfruitful professor" at best [Matthew Henry]
- Contrast with Humility:

Philippians 2:1 [Read] Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made

Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

- Word of God rejected in Genesis 3 lead to tragedy
- Word of God headed in Matthew 4 led to Victory

¹⁷The world is **passing away**, and also its lusts; but the one who **does the will of God lives forever**.

- **Found in His Word:**

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, **but the word of our God stands forever**.

¹⁸ **Children**, it is the **last hour**; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have appeared; from this we know that it is the **last hour**.

- **Children:** Different word; "first degree of spiritual experience"; last hour x2
- **Last days:** Began after Jesus resurrection until today
- **Anti-Christ:** "Anti" can mean "**against**" or "instead of, Imitation, **substitute**"
- Cults and False Religion: **Person** and the **work** of Jesus is questioned; the **Godhead** and the **Atonement** always under attack:

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an *angel of light*

Galatians 1:7b ...there are some who are disturbing you and want to *distort the gospel* of Christ. 8But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

¹⁹They went out from us, but they were **not really of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

- "**...not really of us...**": Eventual true colors showing by leaving the apostles teaching; that is : SCRIPTURE JW's Seventh Day Adventist Millerites
- **Judas looked** like the other 11 but...
- Prodigal left but **came back revealing sonship**

- **Question:** Are we a "New Creation"?

2 Corinthians 13:5 *Test yourselves* to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

- Test is:
 - a) Love
 - b) Endurance
 - c) Holy Spirit

III. Anointed: Equipped for **discernment** and **practical** righteousness

- We are equipped for the hour we live

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent **at this time**, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for **such a time as this?**"

²⁰ But you have an **anointing from the Holy One**, and you all know.

- **"But you..."** those that have fellowship with John, the apostles teaching; Holy Spirit
- Word is revealed to us by God's Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:9 ...as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." ¹⁰For to us **God revealed them through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

²¹I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because **you do know it**, and because no lie is of the truth.

- **"You know the truth, but I am..."**
 1. Encouraging you because you know the Truth
 2. Warning you because some will try to pervert, dilute, deny what you know

²²Who is **the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?** This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

- **Liar:** Satan, the Father of Lies

- **Anti-Christ** Def. Denier of the Father and Son; i.e. Denying the Deity of Jesus Christ
- **We cannot deny Jesus** [Everything He is, did, is doing] **w/out denying Father**
- Whoever has the Son has the Father; to reject Jesus is to reject God and Salvation

²⁴As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning If what you heard from the **beginning** abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵This is the promise which He Himself made to us: **eternal life**. ²⁶These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to **deceive** you.

- **Deceive:** Seduce; to lead astray "from" the Truth; i.e. to entice to "Spiritual Adultery"
- **Gnostics** [Cults and isms] know "just a little bit more"; can even be an attitude of superior knowledge of scripture. Bible is NOT the 4th Person of the Trinity

John 3:30 "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease..." Humility "knowledge 'puffs up'"

²⁷As for you, the **anointing** which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as **His anointing teaches you about all things**, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- **Anointing:** gr. Charisma; lit. "to smear" or "to take ointment and smear on"
- Old Testament Priests and Kings anointed with oil; **Holy Spirit**
- "...no need for anyone to teach..."; i.e. **going beyond Scripture**
- **Teachers are given by God to teach to His Word as the Holy Spirit touches hearts; i.e. prophecies to individual hearts:**

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and **teachers**,

- Church has need for "**Enlightenment**" by God's Spirit, not **Emotion**; some carry a Bible and even study with no anointing to understand what is written:

2 Timothy 3:6 ...among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, *7* always learning and *never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*.

- Study and Teaching should lead to Repentance and Relationship; not simply head knowledge
- **God desires to give us His Holy Spirit** to understand His Holy Word! He is for us!

Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

- **Goal:** Allow the Spirit teaches us; then we will not be **deceived**
- **The Anti-Christ will not deceive** the elect because of this "anointing"; discernment

Mathew 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

²⁸Now, **little children, abide in Him**, so that **when He appears, we may have confidence** and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that **everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.**

- Little ones: Little "born ones"; i.e. **all believers**
- **Abiding in Him**; i.e. "in His love" y loving others [c.f. John 15]; Assurance
- **Everyone who practices is born of Him:** Kids look like Him; walk as He walks
- **Confidence when He comes:** Live in the light of the "imminent" coming of Jesus

Revelation 22:12 *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.*

SUMMARY: I John Chapter 2

We have confidence as we love others, understanding Jesus is our Advocate that paid for our Sins to give us freedom to grow in maturity exemplified in rejecting idols in ourselves; flesh, eyes, pride and to reject the satanically charged world system that seeks to deceive us. We are equipped for this hour, such a time as this, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be overcomers in this world as we love each other with the love God has already provided for us as we seek to share that love with a lost and dying world

I. God's love revealed by God's action; Jesus is our:

- A. Advocate
- B. Propitiation

II. Our Assurance Confirmed by Our Love

III. Spiritual Maturity in 3 degrees

- A. Fathers
- B. Young Men

C. Little Children

IV. Rejecting idols by not loving the world; not lusting after:

A. Flesh, Eyes, Pride of life

V. Anointed with God's Holy Spirit for: Discernment, Practical Righteous