



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: The thing that Christ requires is that you give Him your confidence, and let Him manage your case.

1 John 2:1

So imagine you are in court in front of the most stringent judge in town. You stand before the court guilty and the only hope is that you might receive some leniency or an unexpected pardon. However, the issue of the judge makes you very nervous, this judge always follows the exact letter of the law and never gives pardon when a person is guilty. If you stand in this court without a lawyer (advocate) you are basically saying that you are willing to plead your own case and that you understand the law and the penalty for breaking it. Praise God the Father that He has sent His only son to act as our advocate in the Heavenly court!

- Why is God so stringent where sin is concerned, can he pardon sin at will?
- What part of God's nature would be transgressed if the guilty were pardoned without payment for sin?
- God the Father's standard or requirement is perfection, a standard in which we can not achieve in our fallen state. We see the Father's desire to satisfy love and justice in the sending of _____?
- If you had to plead your own case based on your own merits, what would you say to God? Would you expect a pardon or leniency?
- Do you see why people that reject Jesus must pay for their own sins at the Final Judgment?



Day 2

Sermon Sentence: The thing that Christ requires is that you give Him your confidence, and let Him manage your case.

1 John 2:2

Jesus is our advocate, but what does that mean? When we stand in the Heavenly court, we stand convicted before a Holy God, this has been settled since the fall of man. John stated his hope was that we NOT sin but if we do sin we have an advocate in Jesus Christ before the Father. Jesus is described as the atoning sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world!

- What is the job of an advocate?
- If Jesus atoned (paid for) all sins through His death, why do we still need an advocate?
- How must an advocate differ from the guilty being represented?
- In 1 John Chapter 1 we learned that if we say we have no sin we are a liar, then John goes on to say in 1 John Chapter 2 that he hopes that we do not sin. Is this a contradiction?
- How can both be true? What is the contextual difference?
- In order for Jesus to act as an advocate a person must enter into an agreement with Jesus. When we do this we are said to be what?



Day 3

Sermon Sentence: The thing that Christ requires is that you give Him your confidence, and let Him manage your case.

1 John 2:3-4

When we read this it is easy to jump back to the Ten Commandments from the Old Testament and think that is what John is referring to in this scripture. Partly this is true but now in the New Testament the full purpose of the Commandments has been realized as love, being the reflection of God's character.

John 13:34-35

In Jesus' own words the new commandment was to love and this is how we would be recognized as his disciples. In the Old Testament the Commandments were viewed as laws not to be broken but few understood the representation of love for God and fellow man that they truly represented.

- Can we ever truly obey God's commandments?
- What do we need to do when we sin (miss the mark)?
- What is the difference between unrepentant sinners (unsaved) and believers who continue to sin because of imperfection?
- If the Commandments are summarized in love for God and love for each other, can you see how you can not be "In Christ" and hate your brother or sister in Christ?



Day 4

Sermon Sentence: The thing that Christ requires is that you give Him your confidence, and let Him manage your case.

1 John 2:5

Some of the Gnostic teachings that were entering the Church at that time made it seem like a believer could be in Christ but be living like the Devil. John was making it very clear that this was an apostasy. In truth, a believer has reached the point of repentance (to change your mind) about sin, and has turned to Jesus for forgiveness. The true Christian walk is about brokenheartedness towards our sin because of the price that was paid for it and obedience to walk as He walked because God so loved us.

- The Gnostic teachings always attack the deity of Christ or the need for repentance, why is it so important that we understand how to rebuke these teachings?
- Can you identify Gnostic teachings affecting people and churches around you?
- What does John mean when he says that “But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.”?
- What is the difference in the heart of a believer versus someone that just talks the talk?
- What things do their hearts truly desire?



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: The thing that Christ requires is that you give Him your confidence, and let Him manage your case.

1 John 2:6

A litmus test is a test of a liquid to see how it falls on the PH scale. The PH scale runs from acidic to base with neutral being in the middle of the scale. In relation to coffee, litmus testing can be performed to tell the level of acidity in a particular brew of coffee. To a coffee aficionado, acidity has often been related to finer qualities of coffees but in relation to drinkability many prefer the lower acidic brews that cause less stomach irritation. So why is the sermon named after this test this week? Easy, look to verse 6 above and John is describing the perfect litmus test to identify true believers. If we claim to live “in Him” we must live “like Him”! The scale in this case would run from “like Him” to “indifferent” in the middle to “rejecting Him or worldly” at the far end.

- Can you relate to how verse 6 can be used to identify believers?
- Why was John teaching them how to identify false believers?
- Do you think this would help to purify the Church?
- Why did these false teachers and believers infiltrate the Church?
- Why is the purpose of being among Christians?
- How is the Devil’s plan served through apostasy such as Gnostic teachings and what is the best defense against it?