

9/10/89

## 1 John 2

John continues to deal with the subject of sin in Chapter two emphasizing that the believer does not practice sin.

### 2:1-2 The basis for fellowship.

2:1 Little children- (teknia) term of affection, little born ones.

- 1) Doctrinal test of living in sin.
- 2) A believer doesn't live a habitual life of sin as before, but is not perfect or sinless.
- 3) An advocate speaks of a lawyer for our defense. Rom. 8:34; Heb.4:14-16; 5:2; 7:24-25; 1Tim.2:5
- 4) If any one sins - aorist tense, a single act, confession is necessary. 1Jn. 1:9; Is.59:1; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:13

2:2 Jesus was the propitiation.

- 1) The sacrifice to remove God's wrath.
- 2) The sacrifice to remove our sin.
  - a) Appears two times in the N.T. 1Jn. 4:10
  - b) Other forms translated it merciful and reconciliation.

### 2:3-14 The tests of knowledge in Christ.

2:3-6 The test of obedience to God's word manifests character.

- 1) Keeping God's word indicates we know Him. vs. 3
- 2) A person declaring he knows Jesus and not live out the word is a liar. vs. 4a-d  
\* The word keep means continuous action. vs. 4
- 3) The conclusion is, the word of God is not in him. vs. 4e
- 4) Obedience to God's word results in mature love, evident of being "in Christ". vs. 5
- 5) The proof of abiding in Christ is to live after the example of Christ. vs. 6

2:7-11 The test of love.

- 1) The letter regarding the commandment of love is not new. vs. 7  
\* The beginning: 1) Creation. 2) Law. 3) Gospel.
- 2) The new (kainos) commandment is in quality, not in point of time, love your neighbor as yourself. vs. 8a-b  
\* Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34; Mat.22:37-40; Rom.13:10
- 3) This is true of Jesus and the believer, due to having turned from darkness to light,

the true light being Jesus, imparting His love to us by the Holy Spirit. vs. 8c-e  
\* Jn. 1:4; Gal. 5:22

- 4) Hating a believer is a contradiction to love and light, sinning against the One he loves and causing someone to stumble. vs. 9
- 5) Loving a believer is proof of abiding in the light, Jesus, therefore does not stumble. vs. 10
- 6) The refusal to love as a Christian will result. vs. 11
  - 1) In distorted perspective.
  - 2) In greater blindness.

\* The royal law. Ja. 2:8

**2:12-14** The all inclusive audience of John.

- 1) The Some believe John refers to age groups, but I believe he is referring spiritual maturity. vs. 12
  - a) The phrase Little Children “teknion” means to give birth to, little born ones.
  - b) Those who had embraced the gospel message, a term of endearment.
  - c) Those who had repented and forgiven for their sins in the name of Jesus and were living as new creatures.
  - d) Those who were in fellowship with the Father and the Son.

- e) The phrase is used throughout the Epistle collectively of all the saints regardless of their maturity. 1Jn. 2:1, 12, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21
- 2) The term Fathers “pater” means the older men of age and maturity. vs. 13
  - a) The word is used of literal fathers. Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21
  - b) The word is used for older ancestors who have died. Lk. 1:55; Jn. 6:31; 1Pet. 3:4
  - c) Both proclamations to the fathers are identical, there is no difference.
  - d) John is using the term for those men who are in the capacity of being spiritual fathers by the duration of their walk with Jesus.
  - e) The young men have overcome the wicked one, Satan.
  - f) The little ones because they have come to know God, the Father.
- 3) Young men “meaniskos” means those men in their vigorous prime of life. vs. 14
  - a) The word is used for an attendant or servant.
  - b) Men certainly in their twenties on to forty years of age.
  - c) John is using the term again also in a spiritual capacity for spiritual maturity.

- d) The men who have walked with Christ for years from their conversion growing and maturing in their walk.
- e) The factor of age may be included or it may not, since someone could walk for twenty years in their youth.
- g) The young men because they are strong spiritually through the word and overcoming the wicked one, Satan.

### 2:15-17     The believer and the world.

2:15 The test of resisting the world.

- 1) The World refers to the evil system in rebellion against God.
- 2) Things - The objects and priorities the world system values in opposition to God. Matt .6:24
- 3) Love for the world cancels out love of the Father for you can't serve two masters.  
\* Friendship of world **is rebellion** against God. Ja.4:4

2:16 Three spheres the evil system targets.

- 1) Lust of flesh - sinful nature to pervert the intended function by God (from within).
- 2) Lust of the eyes - includes the imagination.  
- Achan and Gahazi coveted from without.

- 3) Pride of life - the very heart of sin (Satan)  
Prov. 16:18

2:17 The world is very temporal.

- 1) The world is perishing and pleasure of sin for it is for a season!
- 2) The one doing the will of God abides forever!  
- 2Cor. 4:16-18

### 2:18-23     The deception of antichrist

2:18 Antichrist.

- 1) Have come in types - Antiochus, Nero, Hitler, etc.
- 2) Is coming, the Anti-Christ. 1Jn. 4:3, 2 Jn. 7
  - a) Anti means instead of Christ.
  - b) Anti means against Christ also.
  - c) The Anti-Christ will exercise both.  
2Thess. 2:3-4, Dan. 9:27
- 3) The last hour mentioned twice indicates the church age before the rapture of the church.

2:19 Th reference is to the gnostics who denied Jesus as the Christ.

- 1) The deceiver went out from them.
- 2) The second group addressed in the letter are the Christians being deceived.

- 3) The third group were the Christians not being deceived.
  - a) Too often this verse is used by Calvinist to prove a believer can not be deceived or go back to the world.
  - b) Ignoring the purpose of the letter to keep Christians from deception.
  - c) If a believer can not be deceived, why the warnings and why write the letter?

**2:20-21** The Holy Spirit illuminates the believers.

- 1) The anointing is the Holy Spirit teaching the truth of God's word. vs. 20  
\* The not some mystical knowledge experience. Jn. 12, 15, 16
- 2) Knowing truth they could discern the lie. vs. 21

**2:22-23** The marks of an antichrist.

- 1) One who denies Jesus is the Messiah is a liar. vs. 22a
- 2) He is antichrist by denying the Father and the Son. vs. 22b
- 3) The possession of the Son and the Father is in acknowledging the Son. vs. 23  
\* The Son brings us to the Father and rejection of Him is rejection of the Father Jn. 1:18; 14:6.

- 1) An ongoing relationship and process of dependency and growth is needed. vs. 24
- 2) The promise is a gift of eternal life. vs. 25; Jn. 3:16
- 3) The purpose of the letter was to keep them from being deceived by the Gnostics. vs. 26
- 4) The illuminating teacher of God's mind is the Holy Spirit not man, who is the instrument. vs. 27  
\* 1Cor. 2:9-16; Jn.14:26; 16:13-14
  - a) Confidence versus shame at the judgment seat of Christ. 1Cor. 3:12-15; 2Cor. 5:10
  - b) Motives will be revealed. 1Cor. 4:5
  - c) Family resemblance must be seen.

**2:24-27** **The need to abide in Christ.**