



Sunday, August 16, 2020

Key Text: 1 John 2:1-5

Part 3

The call of Jesus is not just to believe but to follow Him. This calls for obedience and life surrendered to Jesus and His teaching.

## Setting the Scene

- The phrase, "Dear Children," is used 15 times in this letter. This letter is written to those he knows and loves in the faith. He borrowed the statement from Jesus. (John 13:33) when Jesus was washing their feet and predicting betrayal of his followers. "Love each other as I have loved you." He takes a tough subject like sin and confronts the issue, but he does it with kindness.
- John lays out a challenge to not sin.

<sup>33</sup> **Dear children,** I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. John 13:13

<sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9

- We can not live as if God ignores or disregards our sins. His forgiveness means sin is real, and it must be confronted and confessed. To deny the reality of sin is rejecting the grace of God.

"Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living, and incarnate." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"We might think that God wanted simply obedience to a set of rules; whereas He really wants people of a particular sort" - CS Lewis

### 1. We Know God Through Honesty (1 John 2:1-2)

- Knowing God means I have embraced Him as my only hope
- Knowing God means I am not alone. (Advocate)

Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. **For the accuser** of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one **who accuses** them before our God day and night.<sup>11</sup> And they have **defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.** And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. Revelation 12:10-11, NLT

- Advocate (Paraclete): A spiritual or personal comforter, A Practical helper, or a legal counsel or spokesperson. *We have an advocate on our behalf, who pleads our case before God.*
- Jesus is righteous. He stands in our place not because we are innocent, but that we are guilty.

Christ is our defense attorney. Having paid for all our sins and purchased our complete forgiveness, Jesus Christ is well able to represent us before a holy God. We need not fear judgment. Because of what Christ has done, we are "not guilty"; furthermore, we possess the very righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)! When you pray, regard Christ as though he were by your side, discussing your situation with God.<sup>1</sup>

He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also **for the sins of the whole world.** 1 John 2:2, ESV (Not some people, but for all people.)

Man has forfeited his life on account of sin, and God has provided the one and only way whereby eternal life could be bestowed, namely, by the voluntary laying down of His life by His Son, under divine retribution. Of this, the former sacrifices appointed by God were foreshadowing.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1998). [1, 2 & 3 John](#) (p. 29). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

<sup>2</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 494). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

<sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath** of God. Romans 5:9, ESV

<sup>5</sup>You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.<sup>6</sup>Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Ephesians 5:5-6

*Atonement/Atonement: There, the two thoughts merge clearly: Sins are covered over, and God's righteous anger is changed. The NIV attempts to catch both emphases with its translation, "atoning sacrifice."<sup>3</sup>*

- Good teaching is intended to keep us from bad living.

## **2. We Know God Through Obedience (1 John 2:3-4)**

- John was addressing false teaching that you can have special knowledge and do not have to follow Jesus.
- Knowing God is lived out by a heartfelt desire to obey Him. Obedience reveals commitment.
  - We can obey because we have to.
  - We can obey because we need to.
  - We can obey because we want to.
- Partial obedience is another name for disobedience.
- Knowing God is walked out in our day to day lives

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup>In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. Matthew 5:43-45

<sup>28</sup>Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." Luke 11:28

## **3. We Know God Through His Love. (1 John 2:5-6)**

- In Love, God Sent His Son.

<sup>10</sup>This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10

- In Love, Jesus Gave.

<sup>16</sup>We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters, 1 John 3:16

- In Love, A Christ Follower Responds.

<sup>21</sup>Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them." John 14:21

**One Last Thought:** If we do not have the Spirit of God in us, we are incapable of loving and obeying God. Love Him, and He will transform your life.

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<sup>3</sup> Burge, G. M. (1996). [Letters of John](#) (p. 86). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.