

1 John 2:1-6

We began looking at this text last Sunday. I really want to encourage you, if you were not here to go listen to it. You can also read devotions based upon this text at www.missionsurge.com/blog. We saw...

I. The Purpose v1a

I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin!

Matthew 5:48 *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Let it be deliberately set before you as your fixed and settled purpose that you are not to sin; not merely that you are to sin as little as you can; but that you are not to sin at all. Robert Candlish

II. The Possibility

1. I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
2. In order to make it possible for you not to sin.
3. 1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

III. The Pleader v1b-2

1. Advocate: One who pleads the cause of another in a court of civil law.
2. Our advocate is with us, encouraging us, and assuring us of complete victory!
3. He is beside us, to help us if we do stumble—to lift us if we should fall.
4. Our advocate is pleading our cause.

IV. The Propitiation v2

That is a big word...Propitiation. What does it mean?

1. The English definition is, "The act of appeasing wrath and obtaining the favor of an offended person."
2. But if you want to know the best meaning of a biblical word, you go to the Bible itself.

Romans 3:21-25a *But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.*

1. The righteous standard of God has been revealed and fallen short of.
2. We are justified and made righteous, not because of our goodness, but because Jesus publicly paid the penalty for our sins by His blood.
3. He was, and is, our substitute...our propitiation.

Hebrews 1:17 *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

1. Use Philippians 3 to share the gospel.
2. He is our propitiation who took the wrath of God for us!

He has appeared the wrath of God and obtained His favor for us.

1. Romans 5:8-11 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

2. Romans 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

This is not something we can keep to ourselves.

1. He is the propitiation for our sins...but not just ours.
2. He is the propitiation for the world!
3. Push them out to the EE UUPG and to the community.
4. there is gospel ignorance and there are resources available.

V. The Proof v3-6

By this, we know that we have come to know Him (the advocate...our propitiation)...if we keep His commandments. If we walk as He walked!!!!

1. 1 John 3:6-9
2. What are you practicing?

It is what we do, how we live, our walk that proves our legitimacy!

1. Rev 21:7-8 *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

2. 1 Cor 6:9-11 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

John 3:36 *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

1. Is there any difference in believing and obeying?
2. Our salvation is evidenced, not by what we say, but by who we are and how we live.
3. That is the proof!
4. Matthew 21:28-31
5. Matt 7:21 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

We are saved by faith alone, but a faith that saves is never alone.

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them*

2. We are saved BY grace FOR good works.

Some of you might be feeling some tension now...

1. How do I know if I am good enough? If I have a good week, I feel good...if I have a bad week, I feel bad....and before you know it you are basing your salvation on works.
2. Here is a safer question....What trajectory am I on?
 - a. Am I moving toward worldliness?
 - b. Am I moving toward holiness?
 - c. What does your trajectory say about you? Your practice.
 - d. Does it affirm your profession of faith?
 - e. Does your trajectory prove that Jesus is your advocate...your propitiation?

What is your trajectory?

1. Are you moving toward worldliness? If so, stop. Repent. Come to Christ.
2. Am I moving toward holiness? Keep pressing. Keep coming.
3. You will not have joyful assurance if you are not!

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father....God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"