

I John - Part 2

Review

Theme of 1John: Personal assurance of genuine salvation.

Purpose of 1 John: To clarify the difference between those who belong to God and those who belong to this world so that the church may enjoy peace and joy in Christ.

Chapter 1: The Father sent his living Word to us to reveal his light, and true religion consists of walking in the light, though it exposes our sins.

Theme of 1 John 2- Standing upon Christ's atoning work, true Christians walk in obedience and love as they enjoy the privileges of God's children at every stage of the Christian life.

Contrast between God's True Children and the World (1:5-3:24)

Walking with God in Gospel Forgiveness (1:5-2:2)

Promise of Christ's Propitiation and intercession (2:1-2)

- 1-John wrote with fatherly authority and affection.
 - Forgiveness does not promote sin.
 - We have an advocate, a friend who speaks for you before a judge.
 - Christ's perfect obedience is the basis of God's acceptance of believers.
 - Charles Hodge - The advocate so exalted, so tender, furnished with an availing plea, with such solid reasons why those for whom he pleads should not be condemned, ever lives to make intercession for us. His advocacy is uninterrupted and will never fail. He never can be absent from the court in which our case is to be decided. He is always accessible. We can always go to him, at all times find him, no matter where we are or what may be the emergency.
- 2- Propitiation is sacrifice appeasing God's righteous anger against sinners not limited to ethnic groups such as the Jews.

Obeying God's Law of Love in Gospel Privileges (2:3-14)

Contrast: Obedience or Disobedience to his Commandments (2:3-6)

- 2-4- Warfield - Of course there is no sin of conduct and no sinfulness of disposition, of whatever sort, kind, or degree, the proper effect of which is not to interrupt our communion with God and our peace with Jesus. If it does not actually interrupt our communion with God and our peace with Jesus, that can only be because our communion with God and our peace with Jesus have their ground not in our own holiness but in Christ himself- rest, in accordance with 1 John 2 on what Jesus has done for us and is doing in us and not on any works or attainments of our own.
- 5 - By keeping God's Word, God's love is perfected in us and by this we know we are united to Christ. Union with Christ results in likeness to him.
- 6- Calvin - As John has set before us God as light for an example, he now calls us also to Christ, that we may imitate him. Yet he does not simply exhort us to imitate Christ, but from the union we have with him he proves that we ought to be like him. A likeness in life and deeds, he says, will prove that we abide in Christ. But from these words he passes on to the next clause, which he immediately adds to respecting love to the brethren.

Contrast: Love in the Light or Hate in the Darkness (2:7-11)

- 7-8- When Christ came and displayed God's love in his death, the old commandment became new. In him the new era of light had dawned.

Promises to Children, Young Men, and Fathers (2:12-14)

- 12-14 - John assures new converts of their justification in Christ and adoption by the Father; mature and aging believers of their relationship with the unchanging eternal God; and believers striving for holiness of their victor over the Devil.

Resisting Temptation in Gospel Hope (2:15- 3:3)

Contrast: Love of the Father or Love of the World (2:15-17)

- 15- We must love people but not the present age; the world is the Devil's kingdom of hatred against God.
- 16- Lust of the flesh and eyes are strong desires to please the body and to possess visible treasures and the pride of life is boasting in one's acts and resources.

Contrast: Christ-Centered Truth or Anit-Chistian Lies (2:18-27)

- 18 - This is the final period of this age between Christ's first and second coming. ***And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; Acts 2:17***
- Antichrist is coming as one yet in John's future who attempts to take Christ's office or position. Many antichrists seek to usurp Christ's office as teacher. ***Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 2 Thes 2:3-4***
- 20-Christians have been anointed (Greek chrisma) with Christ (Greek christos- Anointed) to know God's truth in contrast to the antichrists (Greek antichristoi)
- 22-False teachers denied Jesus as God's Christ. His anointed prophet, priest, and king, probably because they denied that a physical man could be the spiritual Lord.
- 27-HC 32 - Why are you called a Christian? Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of his anointing, that so I may confess his name and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him and that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life, and afterward reign with him eternally, over all creatures.

Promise of his coming for God's Children (2:28-3:3)

- 28- Stay joined to God by clinging to Christ as the Bible reveals him. Christ will come in visible glory on judgment day.

Applications:

1. Sometimes when we take our children to a park, we pay for their admission and their hands get stamped to show that their admission price has been paid. John explains the stamp that marks those who truly know God: they obey God's laws, love God's people, and receive God's doctrines. They should remember, however, that these marks did not pay their admission to the kingdom; only the death and intercession of God's righteous Son does so.
2. God's people have the anointing of the Spirit to teach them the truth. Their faith does not depend on human testimony or secret knowledge from a special teacher, but on God's Spirit speaking through God's Word. However, God's Spirit does work through Bible teachers.