

## 1 JOHN CHAPTER 2

**Vs. 1-2** – Although John said in **1:9** we can confess our sins and we will be forgiven; John also wants us to know that we are not powerless against sin. John will say in **1 John 4:4** - *Greater is He that lives in us than he that is of this world.* The secret to victory over sin is found in the phrase from **Chapter 1:7** **“walk in the light.”** It’s like walking in a room in your house whereby you may know where the bed is located or where the night stand is located but even if you walk in a room you are very familiar with “without light” - *the darkness can hid hidden dangers like a toy, a shoe, water on the floor, etc. whereby you could trip and fall.* God screens every temptation and He only allows temptations that we are capable of handling (proof - **1 Corinthians 10:13** and the life of Job). God’s desire is that we may not sin. Yet if we do, there is provision made – we have an **Advocate**, Jesus is our defense attorney even when we sin now. God is not shocked by human behavior. He has seen it all in advance. He didn’t forgive us at one time to later say, “Look what they did now! If I would have known they would go and do that, I would have never forgiven them.” His forgiveness is available to us now. When Satan says to God; look at so and so; he sinned; he’s guilty...Jesus our advocate – our defender says – Not Guilty, Father, I

have already paid the price in full for every sin man has and will commit. **Romans 8:26-27** affirms the Holy Spirit is our Advocate in another way on this earth as it relates to prayer (read verses). **Vs. 2** highlights Jesus is our **propitiation** – this means Jesus is the appeasement; His death on the cross satisfied the just penalty for sin and it defeated man’s last enemy – **death** (**1 Corinthians 15:54-55**). Through Jesus we are not only forgiven; but purified. Also, this means everyone, no matter what they may have done they can be forgiven – no sin is too great. No one has to live in guilt. **Mark 1:15** and **Romans 10:9** tells us how we are saved and **Romans 10:13** affirms salvation is available to all who call on the name of the Lord. Jesus came to save **all people not just the Jewish people**. We especially in America need to realize Jesus came to save the Muslims, Mormons, Isis, the Iranians, undocumented workers, the pan handlers, the murderers, prostitutes, drug addicts...and we must realize it will take Christians **radically loving all people** and **lifting up Jesus** for us to see more people drawn unto Jesus. It will take people doing what Rahab did in **Joshua 2:12-13** - Rahab pleaded/prayed for her entire household to be saved and delivered from the wrath of God. It is this fact about Rahab that makes

me believe this is a primary reason she was divinely pre-selected by God to be in the lineage of Jesus the Christ.

**Vs. 3** – Obedience to God’s word is proof of our love for Him. *John 14:15* says, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* There are 3 primary motives for obedience. We can obey because we have to, because we need to, or because we want to. All three motivations are good reasons to obey but one is better. If you live in a house or apartment you have to pay your utility bill; you make your payment because you have to if you want electricity. An employee obeys because he needs to. He may not enjoy his work but he obeys the work rules and deadlines for work assignments because he needs to get a paycheck to support him/herself and his/her family. But a Christian should obey primarily because he wants to because of their relationship between with the Lord and out of gratitude of what He has done for us. It is a mark of real spiritual maturity when we started obeying because of love.

**Vs. 4-5** – Obedience for a Christian should be a lifestyle. Jesus said in *John 13:35* – *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* So love for one another is singular most glaring characteristic that reflects we are a disciple of Christ and “obedience to

*His word*” may very well be the 2<sup>nd</sup> most glaring characteristic we are a disciple of Jesus. Yes, we will sin (and when that happens we apply [1 John 1:9](#)) but, obeying God should be a priority and our lifestyle. The Devil is not going to give up on tempting us therefore, we must continue to live a lifestyle of obedience. Claiming to know Christ but intentional sinning makes you a liar (yes, forgiveness is available but in the midst of you sinning you are a liar). In [vs. 5](#) the word *perfected* means *mature* and the tense of the verb means it is a *constant over and over perfection or maturity* – the more we feed on the word of God and obey it; the more perfected or mature in the word we will be. An email, telephone call, or a diagnosis from the doctor will not (*long term*) cause us to throw in the Christian towel and quit. This Christmas and New Year season will be a period of difficulty for some...and the best antidote is [Proverbs 12:25](#) (read it and explain).

[Vs. 6](#) – John speaks of He who says He abides...the phrase “*abide in Him*” refers to consistent obedience - habitual obedience – it means to live what we profess that we are. It means to depend completely on Jesus for all that we need in order to live for Him and serve Him. As Jesus lives out His life through us, we are able to follow His example and walk as He walked. This verse stresses the importance of making

Jesus the Christ your Savior and He must be your Lord (*Romans 10:9*).  
*If Jesus is not Lord of All...He is not Lord at All.* Most people who come to the church will say that Jesus is their Savior or they want Him to be their Savior...not many volunteer to go to Hell. But most do not say nor live as though they want Jesus to be their Lord (**proof that one lives with Jesus being their Lord would reflect they read the word consistently – they would be obedient to the word – they would pray – they would forgive and extend forgiveness – they would grace give a tithe of their income – they would serve in the area of their spiritual gifting – they would help bear one another’s burdens**). We like to compare ourselves with others but the Christian’s model need to be Jesus (*Paul says imitate me as I imitate Christ in 1 Corinthians 11:1*). We possess the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (*the Holy Spirit*) – God dwells in the soul of all saved people. The false teachers that were present consistently failed to obey God’s word which was proof they were not Christians. This verse gives rise to the saying, *“What would Jesus do?”* Imagine the difference it would be in our marriages, with our children, and our church relationships if we acted like Jesus by being quick to forgive one another.

**Vs. 7-8** – John informs the reader that loving others is something they have already read – **Leviticus 19:18** says we should love our neighbor as our self. Therefore, when Jesus comes on the scene, He did not change that command but He enlarged it...Jesus said in **John 13:34-35** -*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* The cross points in four directions to show that the love of Jesus is: (1) Jesus’ love is Wide enough to include every human being. (2) Jesus’ love is Long enough to last through all eternity. (3) Jesus’ love is Deep enough to reach the most guilty sinner. (4) Jesus’ love is High enough to take us to heaven. This is a new love, a love the world had never really seen before the work of Jesus on the cross. This world is passing away the saved people must get busy letting our light shine so men may see our good works and glorify the father who sent us...we must live a life pointing people to Jesus.

**Vs. 9 -11** – John now examines us according to our love for other Christians as a measure of our walk with God. Just as our relationship to sin and our obedience is a measure of our fellowship with God, so also is our love for God’s people. If we say that we are in the light yet hate our brother, then our claim to fellowship with God who is light (***I***

***John 1:5***) is hollow. Have you ever heard someone say, *I love Jesus but I can't stand the people in the church*. It's really an oxy-moron to say you love Jesus but hate or don't want anything to do with the church. How many people would have a relationship with someone but that person has nothing to do with your children. ***1 John 4:20*** says, ***"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"*** Now furthermore, John in these verses is showing the reader how the false teachers live and what following their doctrine will produce. When you say you're a Christian and don't demonstrate love; it can reflect you are not saved. This ***"hate"*** in ***vs. 11*** is not a once in a while feeling you may get due to being momentarily angry with someone or something. No, this type of *hate* is characterized by a lifestyle of hatred. Christian love is not a feeling but a ***"choice."*** We can choose to love and be concerned with others well-being and treat them with respect and dignity whether we like doing it or not. We can call on the name of Jesus to give us strength to love others when they are not loveable; those type of prayer requests Jesus loves to answer.

***Vs. 12*** – Regarding the phrase ***"I write to you, little children"*** - We begin the Christian life as little children...immature Christians. They

had just learned about Christ and were just beginning their spiritual journey. Often time new Christians (little children) are so excited about their faith mistakes can be made by the church of thrusting them into leadership/teaching roles too soon. *1 Timothy 3:6* admonishes the church the following: *“not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”* When we are in this state spiritually, we are amazed at the forgiveness of our sins and all it took for God to forgive us righteously in Jesus Christ. The phrase *“Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake”* - this is something to rejoice in. If we do not rejoice in this, something is wrong. When we see how great our sin is, and how great the cost was to gain us forgiveness, we should be obsessed with gratitude for having been forgiven. The phrase *“Little children”* also refers to the fact forgiveness is a special joy of God’s little children – forgiveness is God’s gift, not man’s achievement. And the phrase *“forgiven you for His name’s sake”*- The reasons for forgiveness are not found in us, but in God. *Forgiveness is a necessary trait that makes human relationships workable.*

*Vs. 13-14* - Just as surely as there are little children, there are also fathers - men (and women) of deep, long spiritual standing. They have the kind of walk with God that doesn’t come overnight. These are like



great oak trees in the Lord, that have grown big and strong through the years. In vs. 13 the phrase *“You have known Him”* refers not so much to an intellectual knowledge (though that is a part of it), but more so in the depth of fellowship and relationship we have with Jesus. There is no substitute for years of an experiential relationship with Jesus. A youth can read the *23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm* but they cannot share its meaning like a spiritually mature and experienced Christian. In vs. 14 - regarding the phrase *“I write to you, young men”* - As much as there are little children and fathers, there are also young men. These are young men and women who are no longer little children, but still not yet fathers. They are the “front-line” of God’s work among His people.

Vs. 15/16 – John speaks of love as the trait Christians must exhibit, there is a type of love that God despises and that is *“love of this world”* – the word “world” in this verse means the spiritual system of evil dominated and ruled by Satan and his demons because all that Satan offers is in opposition to God. It means depraved humanity. In John 3:16 it says, “God so loved the world” the *Greek* word for *world* in John 3:16 refers to humanity in rebellion against God. Yet God so loved sinful, depraved humanity so much that He gave His only begotten Son. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrated His love towards us* (sinful

humanity) *in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*” We are either in Jesus’ camp or in Satan’s – there is no middle or grey territory. Regarding vs. 16 all temptation falls into 3 categories and they derive from Genesis 3:6. We see these same 3 temptations that had caused every human to sin but Jesus as Satan tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 but Jesus defeated the temptations by the word of God. Lust of the flesh – refers to a preoccupation with gratifying physical desires. Lust of the eyes - means we are craving and accumulating things, bowing to the god of materialism; and the Pride of life is an obsession or preoccupation with one’s status or importance – living to glorify self and not God. The means for which we overcome these temptations – the Word of God – 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 4:4b – so herein lies the problem with temptations...the Bible is still the least read best seller of all times.

Vs. 17 – In this verse John is saying there is folly in worldliness. When we understand the word of God, we will discover this evil world and our sinful desires for its pleasures will end and that should give us motivation to control our greed and selfishness and to continue to live for Christ. We must realize we have reconciled to 1 John 1:9 (*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to*

*cleanse us from all unrighteousness*) with **Galatians 6:7** – (*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*). Additionally, **Proverbs 14:12** says, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*” In the final analysis to **know better** but **not to do better** is folly – its foolishness.

**Vs. 18 -23** – Talk about deceptions in the last days – we are living in the last days and so were John and all the people in that era. The “**last days**” refer to the time between Jesus’ ascension into heaven (**Acts 1:9-10**) and His coming back for His church in the Rapture (**Matthew 24:36**). The next church age will be the **The Tribulation (7 years – first 3 ½ years called the Tribulation; the final 3 ½ years called the Great Tribulation)** and then the **Millennial Age emerges (1000 years, Satan will be bound but then released at the end of that 1000 years to tempt the Millennial age and then he, his demons, and all who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior will be cast into Hell.** And then Jesus destroys the world with fire and a *New Heaven* and *New Earth* emerges (**Revelation 21**) and we live forever in this new heaven and new earth with Jesus and **everyone** who is saved from Adam and Eve through those saved in the Millennial Age. John uses the proper term of **anti-Christ** who is the person and the world system that will openly oppose Christ energized

by Satan who wants to replace and oppose the Living God. **Vs. 18** – the phrase ***“Little children, it is the last hour”*** - John lived in the constant expectancy of Jesus’ return, regarding his time as the last hour. This is an expectancy that we should also have, knowing that the Lord’s return can come at any time. It is time for the church to truly live a “Watch and Pray” lifestyle. We must have a renewed vision of the soon return of Jesus for His church; we must recognize that it is ***“Harvest Time”*** - it’s time to cast the net of the Gospel and become fishers of men because the ***“Antichrist is coming and Hell is real.”*** In this verse, John refers to an individual who has captured the imagination of many people, including those who don’t know the Bible. The name ***antichrist*** is important to understand. The prefix **anti** can mean ***“the opposite of”*** or ***“instead of.”*** The antichrist is the **“opposite of Jesus”**- he is the ***“instead of”*** Jesus. ***Daniel 9:24-27 – Daniel 11:36-37; and Revelation 13*** provide us more info on the anti-Christ. ***The anti-Christ may be alive on the earth right now but he cannot reveal his identity until after the Rapture...he will lead the world into signing a 7 year peace treaty with Israel allowing them to rebuild their temple and be guaranteed safety in doing it as stated in Daniel chap. 9. (a week = 7 years – Genesis 29:20, 27-28).*** And as it was in John’s day, so there is today many false prophets. We have

heard of Jim Jones in Guyana, South America - David Kerish in Waco and many who claim to be Jesus. Again they are a sign the anti-Christ is on the way and/or he may be alive but because the church is still here he cannot be revealed yet. This text was not written for people to begin guessing when Jesus is coming back or when the anti-Christ will arrive on the scene. It is to warn us and encourage us to be ever ready Jesus IS coming back. We do not need to fear these people because they Holy Spirit will reveal them and their errors to us. Matthew 24:24 says, *“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”* If it were possible that even the elect be fooled. Every one that denies Jesus is the Christ is in essence an *“anti-Christ.”* But notice the anti-Christ were not complete strangers, *they were once apart of the church but have fallen away (because they were never saved)*. We see this clearly in our day and age with so many churches, denominations, and pastors coming out of the shadows claiming homosexuality is not sin...health wealth prosperity false teachers etc.

Vs. 22 -23 – Show how cults derive – they generally will believe that God is the Father and all powerful etc. but they do not accept and teach Jesus is also God – God the Son - the 2<sup>nd</sup> member of the Holy Trinity.

This is the litmus test that will reveal cults and false teaching. Ask the questions: Who is Jesus and what role does Jesus play in salvation and eternal life? If they deny that Jesus is God...you know you are dealing with a cult/false teaching. Cults and false teachers will say Jesus was a great holy prophet but they will not say Jesus is divine and a co-equal member of the Holy Trinity. Again this is a “*tell-tale*” sign that they are “*anti-Christ.*” *To deny Jesus as being God the Son is the ultimate form of blasphemy.* The Mormons and Jehovah Witness both claim to be Christian but both do not teach Jesus is God the son. They do not teach *Romans 10:9* as a primary text that leads to salvation.

*Vs. 24-25* – John is encouraging the Christians in *vs. 24* to hang on to what they have been taught. We must read and study God’s word daily to grow and be able to withstand the wiles of the Devil. *1 Peter 3:15* says, “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*” We must read and study God’s word daily to grow and be able to withstand the wiles of the devil. With so many TV and radio evangelist...people have many options to what “church” you can be a “member” of. If you are not grounded in the basic tenets of Scripture you become “perfect” bait for the false teachers. The Bible

is true and it cannot be amended by public opinion, the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court...the Bible cannot be overridden.

Eternal life is God's gift to us (*Ephesians 2:8-9*) – we cannot earn it; we can only earn rewards for being faithful and obedient to God's calling on our life.

*Vs. 26-27* – Our protection against deception is the *anointing – the Holy Spirit led truth of God's word*. In *John 10:10* it says, the *thief* (Devil) *has come to steal, kill, and destroy* (but just because he wants to, the good news is...that does not mean he can do it) because *Jesus came that we may have life and have it more abundantly*. The false teachers want to deceive us to fulfill their personal agendas; to promote their personal narrative. Many of them preach a *good works* verses a *for by grace through faith* means to salvation...*they preach obtaining a crown without a cross...they preach salvation without repentance of sin...and then they strive to redefine sin to fit their lifestyle/agenda. Remember where good works fit in (*Ephesians 2:10*). Regarding *vs. 27* – we receive the *anointing of the Holy Spirit* the moment we are saved (Justification) and because we have the *Holy Spirit* to assist us in discerning the truth. The phrase “*you do not need that anyone teach you*” is not suggesting that Christians don't need to come to Bible study or have pastor/teachers in their life.*

Just as he stated in 1 John 2:20 (you know all things), John tells us again that the anointing we receive from God guides us into truth. We are guided into truth on a one-on-one level, God confirming it to our hearts. When we ask God for wisdom and discernment, He will often time lead us to a church that teaches sound doctrine with sound and mature Christians that can help disciple us. **\*\*\*Read James 1:5\*\*\*** The foundation of what you need already exist in you, in the form of the Holy Spirit and the inspired word of God. The fact so much false teaching exists should encourage Christians to attend and participate in Wednesday Bible Study and SMBS...**Proverbs 27:17** says, “Iron sharpens Iron.” The early church was called *people of the “Book.”*

**Vs. 28-29** – Knowing that Jesus will come back and have rewards for the Saints should encourage Christians to walk in holiness. The word **abide** is a powerful and significant word to the Christian. The word **“Abide”** in **vs. 4** means to remain...to settle in...or to stay...Abiding in Christ is evidence that salvation has taken place...you cannot abide in Christ without first being born again...you must be saved...you must have traveled down the Romans Road to Salvation. Now that we know we must be saved to **Abide in Christ** then practically speaking, “Abiding in Christ” means living a lifestyle obedient to God’s word; Abiding in Christ”



*means following Jesus' example of going & making disciples; Abiding in Christ" means relating to both the saved and unsaved with Agape and Phileo love; Abiding in Christ" means worshiping God in spirit and in truth; Abiding in Christ" means consistent communication with Jesus through prayer, the Word, and fasting. Abiding in Christ" means extending and receiving forgiveness. Abiding in Christ" means casting the net of the gospel in your sphere of influence. And the tense, voice, and mood of the verb Abide in the Greek is aorist, active, imperative which means – Abide in Christ is a command from God for believers to Abide now and keep on Abiding... Again, abiding in Christ is not to be passive; or to be done every once in a while. Abiding in Christ is to be a lifestyle for the Christian. The phrase and "when He appears" is a reference to the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). When we live for Christ we will not have anything to be ashamed of when Christ returns. We are righteous because of a right standing with Jesus Christ. Righteous living is proof of being born again.*