

1 John 2

1 John 2.1-6

V1 – Why does he use phrase “my little children”? A term of endearment

-John was very old at this time (probably in his 90’s)

-We don’t mind if older people call us “young people”

-**What were “these things?”** All in *Ch. 1*

-**What was the purpose of John in 1 John?** To try to get the First Century Christians to stop sinning (Christ’s goal for us)

-**Is that possible?** No

-**Does that mean that our situation is hopeless?** No

-**Why is it not hopeless?** Because we have an “advocate” with the Father

-Advocate: an attorney (Australia) – someone who pleads the case of someone else (a public defender)

-When we have to testify at a trial to the moral life of fellow Christian, we are serving as an advocate or “a Christian witness”

-Sometimes, a famous person (mayor, government, movie star, etc.) will testify at a trial on behalf of someone else (it usually creates quite a stir)

-**First job of Jesus?** To take up our case and to “testify” on our behalf

V2 – Propitiation = (dictionary) – an atoning sacrifice, an appeasement, conciliation

-When we should have died for our sins, Jesus died in our place

-**For whose sins did Christ die?** Whole world

-**Will the whole world therefore be saved?** No

-**Why not?** We must accept the terms of pardon

V3 – Notice use of word “know”

-Today, many people think that they know God by “feeling” him in their hearts, getting very emotional, etc.

-**But how did John say that we could “know” God?** By obeying him – obedience is the key
Read Matthew 7.21-23, John 14.15, 2 Corinthians 5.10, Titus 1.16

-**What is the application here to the Gnostics?** They said that their actions didn’t count, since the body meant nothing – application today: it refutes the Once Saved Always Saved doctrine

V4 – John did not back down a bit

-**How did John attack Gnostics here?** Major attack – they are liars (strong language)

V5 – **Who is really the one who loves God?** The one who keeps the word of God

-John will not turn loose of this issue – he is determined to keep on attacking Gnosticism until it is dead

V6 – **One way to know if we are abiding in God?** Walking as he walked

-We study four gospels and try to live as Christ lived (our actions do count)

1 John 2.7-11

V 7 – John’s attitude is always one of love

-“*Speaking the truth in love*” (Ephesians 4.15)

-**Is what he is about to say new or old?** Old - Read Leviticus 19.18 and John 13.34-35

-“*From the beginning*” – beginning of Christian faith and even back into the Old Testament

-God has always wanted us to love one another

V 8 – In some sense this would be a “new” commandment – **How?** A new application

-**Explain?** Darkness passing away...

Darkness: superstition, ignorance, hate – passing away due to the spread of Christianity

V 9 – **The new application?** If we claim to be Christians and hate one another, we are still in darkness

-**Application?** Gnostics were dividing Christians and bringing about hate among Christians

V 10 –**If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, what will our conduct be like?** No cause for stumbling

V 11 – **How did John describe the one who hated his brother?** Walking in darkness

-**How can darkness blind a person’s eyes?**

-**Applications?** Those with “superior knowledge” were really showing hate for fellow Christians

1 John 2.12-14 – Words of encouragement

V 12 – **Many** questions have been raised about these three verses

[Many very interesting Greek questions (two different words for *children* and also a shift in tenses)]

-**Possible interpretation of *children, young men, fathers?*** Three levels of spiritual development in the church

-Children = new converts, young men = older, fathers = those who are spiritually mature

-**What is John’s message to “*children*”?** Sins forgiven

-**To fathers?** They have known Christ from the beginning

-**To young men?** Have overcome the evil one

V 13b – John starts cycle again

-**Why had children been forgiven of their sins (v 12)?** V 13b – because they knew God the Father

V 14 – **Fathers?** Have known Christ from the beginning

-**Young men complimented?** Have overcome evil one

-The young men were strong because word of God was in them

1 John 2.15-17

V 15 –**What did John mean by “*world*”?** Evil in life - Read Romans 12.2

-Remember *John 3.16* – *God so loved the world...*

V 16 – Three ways the world tempts us?

1. Lust of flesh – things which appeal to senses (feel good)
2. Lust of eyes – things that look good
3. Boastful pride of life – things that make us full of pride

-Eve and fruit: good to eat, delight to eyes, would make her wise - *Genesis 3.6*

-Three temptations of Jesus (change stone to bread, throw self off the temple, shown all the kingdoms of the world) – Satan tempts us in one or two or all three ways

V 17 – What is the problem with giving in to temptations of Satan? The world is passing away: a new car rusts, house decays, awards, etc., all fade away

-**What will give us eternal results?** Doing the will of God – we will abide forever

-Good advice for us all to take and apply

1 John 2.18-24

V 18-24 – very important – much discussion about the anti-Christ today

-General Premillennial theory today (dispensational) = U.S. of Europe will come from Common Market (European Union) – headed by “anti-Christ” who will attack and persecute Christians

-The leader of forces of evil in the battle of Armageddon will be the "Anti-Christ"

V 18 – Explain “last hour”? Possible John was near death (or) the Christian age – referred to as “last days”

-This shows a sense of urgency in John’s voice

-The danger from Gnostics was severe and imminent

-In other words, you must take action against Gnostics now

-**When had they heard of anti-Christ before?** Apparently John had written about this danger before

-**How many anti-Christ were there?** Many

-Implications for premillennialism: it destroys it as a theory

-Not one anti-Christ, but many

-Also, not in our time, but in John’s day

V 19 – Some tragic statements

-**What was the source of these false teachers?** From the church itself

-We can be attacked from within and from without

-From within is more serious and can be deadly to a congregation

V 20 – The Christians had received an “anointing” of Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 12.10* – distinguishing the spirits)

-**What was John saying?** They could use the Holy Spirit to tell who was a false teacher and who wasn't

V 21 – The Christians had the “truth” – they could tell that the Gnostics were wrong

V 22 – **What is the definition of anti-Christ?** Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ
-Today many claim that Jesus was just a human being, not God in flesh
-Anti-Christ = to deny deity of Jesus
-This would include most Jews today and all others who accept "Jesus," but not "Christ" (the literal Son of God)

V 23 – We are to confess Jesus as Son of God

V 24 – This was encouragement for them to remember all they had been taught as Christians to remain faithful
-“Anti-Christ” – *1 John 2.18,22, 4.3, 2 John 7*

1 John 2.25-29 – Beautiful summary for Christians

V 25 – **God’s promise and our goal?** Eternal life

V 26 – **Purpose of this verse?** To warn Christians about those who were trying to deceive them (their goal)

V 27 – A reference to special gift of Holy Spirit

V 28 – Beautiful and deep thought

-**What should our attitude be toward Jesus Christ?** Not one of shrinking away in shame
-If we are afraid of Jesus Christ, we should get our lives straight today

V 29 – We are to practice righteousness

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