

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:1, 2

Lesson 6

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Although our contemporary secular culture tries to deny or explain away the existence of sin by blaming it on heredity or environment.

What does the Bible teach us about sin in I John 1:8, 10?

- a. According to the following verses where does sin originate in each human being?

- 1) Jeremiah 17:9

- 2) Mark 7:21-23

- b. Even though we have been cleansed from sin we face the fact that being a Christian does not exempt us from sins and failures. What are believers to do about this? Print your answer from I John 1:9 by memory, if possible.

- 1) What does Proverbs 28:13 add to this?

- 2) How often do we need to apply this scripture to our life?

Personal: How do you respond to the conviction of sin in your life?

*It has been said,
The measure of maturity in the Christian's Life can be determined
by the amount of time between the sin and the confession.*

anonymous

2. Mark the paragraph we will be studying this week, I John 2:1, 2. These verses conclude the passage that began in I John 1:5. You will notice that I John 2:1b,2 is one sentence. What is Jesus Christ called in these verses that describes His ministry for us?

- a. I John 2:1

- b. I John 2:2

3. Review I John 1:1-10: 2:1,2 observing and thanking Him for all that He has done for you that is revealed in this passage. Then ask the Lord to teach you more about Jesus' ministry in your behalf through I John 2:1,2, to help you retain what you learn and affirm your heart's desire to respond to His love for you in loving obedience. Underline the phrases that are your prayer and speak them aloud to the Lord adding whatever you desire. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Jesus, draw me close, closer Lord to You:
Let the world around me fade away:
Jesus, draw me close, closer Lord to You
For I desire to worship and obey*

R. T.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 2:1

1. With what tender words does John address the readers of this letter?
 - a. Most Bible scholars seem to believe from the use of the Greek diminutive (*little*) that this phrase is an expression of endearment and loving affection for these believers. Other scholars believe he is addressing this letter mostly to new believers and that this phrase substantiates that viewpoint. In either case what does the possessive word *my* say to you about John's relationship to them?
2. Recall from the Overview of I John and I John 2:1a why John said he was writing *these things* unto them.
 - a. John is in no way indicating through this phrase that believers can live a life of sinless perfection. Rather, it is to emphasize the seriousness of sin. There could be a dangerous deduction from I John 1:8-10 about sin, *that since everyone sins and there is forgiveness for sin* what's the big deal? *Sin doesn't matter very much*. What have you learned from I John 1:6,7,9 that fully contradicts that kind of reasoning?
 - 1) Add other scriptures to support your answer if you desire.
3. This same attitude towards sin, treating sin as if it were of no consequence, exists among too many believers today. There is a tendency to think that *because everyone is doing it and because all we have to do is confess and then there is forgiveness that it is okay to sin*. What does the phrase *that ye sin not* say to you about this casual attitude?
 - a. Record and embrace the instructions concerning sin given to believers in these scriptures. Compare other versions if you desire.
 1. Romans 6:11-13
 2. I Corinthians 15:34
 3. Ephesians 4:17,(18-21),22-24

4. List the exhortations from Romans 13:11-14 to reinforce John's message from I John 1:5-2:1a

*My God! My God! And can it be that I should sin so lightly now,
And think no more of evil thoughts than of the wind that waves the bough:
I sin and heaven and earth go 'round as if no dreadful dead were done:
As if Thy blood had never flowed to hinder sin or to atone.*

selected

*The cross is the mirror in which the selfishness, hideousness, and penalty of human sin is reflected.
Our deepest self is revealed by our attitude to the death of Christ on the cross for our sins.
To see what your sin really means bring it into the light of the cross.*

J. Gregory Mantle

5. How do these quotations awaken you to the awfulness of sin?
 - a. Now consider what John is saying in I John 2:1a. Can you sense the passion of this godly, aged Apostle who literally saw our Lord Jesus Christ nailed to the cross because of man's sin and rebellion? What do you hear John saying?

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:1

1. Most of us are well aware that as Christians we are to *walk in the light* - to live pure, holy lives. Yet we are also aware that we fall, we fall short of being what we are called to be **we** sin. We become conscious before God that we are guilty. This is not to lead us to despair. Why not? Answer by writing I John 2:1b phrase by phrase.

2. The Greek word *paracletos* is translated here *Advocate*. We are more familiar with *paracletos* being used in reference to the Holy Spirit and being translated as *Comforter*. In I John 2:1b *paracletos* is used in reference to Jesus Christ in a more limited sense and means *one called alongside to defend us*. An advocate in the courtroom today would be called a *defense attorney*. The advocacy of our Lord Jesus in our behalf is entirely different from a defense attorney today. We know we are guilty, and we deserve the penalty for our sin. Jesus pleads the believer's case before His heavenly Father. He represents us before God's throne. When we confess our sins to God, God forgives us because of Christ's advocacy. He has already taken the penalty for our sin. On the basis of what He has done you are pardoned. Write a newspaper headline or article which describes your courtroom pardon because of your Advocate.

Challenge: Contrast a few of the differences between the believer's Advocate and a defense attorney in the courtroom today.

3. Ponder a moment the phrase *Jesus Christ the Righteous*. I John 2:1c *Only through a Righteous Savior could we be cleansed from all unrighteousness*. How does II Corinthians 5:21 describe this transaction?

4. Looking at Jesus through the Word as our *Advocate* brings a deep sense of gratitude and praise. See Him also in His ministry in our behalf from the following verses and briefly record what they reveal about Him:
 - a. Hebrews 2:17,18
 - b. Hebrews 4:14-16
 - c. Hebrews 7:25

5. What difference does it make to you that *Jesus Christ the Righteous* is your Advocate?

*When the Judge shall at last
call my name from the throne and say:
Who will answer for this guilty soul?
By His grace I shall see Jesus standing for me
And His sweet voice will say:
I will answer for Thee*

--Pastor Chuck

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:2

1. The word *propitiation* in I John 2:2 is translated from the Greek word *hilasmos* – which signifies a means whereby sin is covered and remitted. In I John 2:2 Christ Himself is the *Hilasmos* · the *propitiation* (the atoning sacrifice that turned away God's judgment). "He is the One Who took God's wrath against our sins upon Himself and brought us into fellowship with God; and He is the forgiveness of our sins, and not only ours but all the world's."
I John 2:2 TLB (Christ's death covered the sins of everyone ever born or who will be born but if they do not choose to accept Him as their Savior, they cannot experience what John wrote about in this verse.) Simply stated, *through Christ's death on Calvary, God's righteous demand that sin be punished was met. 'Believers, therefore, can experience forgiveness and fellowship.* Underline or highlight the definition of *Hilasmos* as it pertains to Jesus Christ.
 - a. Write I John 2:2 in your own words substituting your name for the pronoun 'our'.

Advanced Students: Take a closer look at *propitiation* from the Old Testament type in Leviticus 16:6-22, 34. How is the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat relevant to Christ's work of propitiation?

2. The word *atonement* is very much a part of *propitiation* Christ is our *atoning* sacrifice. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for *atonement* is *kaphar* which means *to cover*. We see this in the sprinkling of the blood on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies in the Temple which made a covering for their sins and turned away God's righteous judgments, but this did not bring them into fellowship with God. See Hebrews 10:4. Christ's atoning sacrifice not only satisfied God's righteous judgment but removed our sins and brought us into fellowship with God. One of the definitions of atonement is reconciliation. Combine what you've learned in today's lesson on I John 2:2 about *Propitiation* and *Atonement* and compose a sentence verse or poem of thanksgiving praise and worship or choose a song that expresses your appreciation and love. Write that here.

FIFTH DAY: Review I John 2:1,2

1. What do we learn about sin and sins from I John 2:1,2?
2. Why do we need an Advocate with the Father?
3. Many Christians have a limited view of Jesus and never press in to discover more about Him. The lesson this week expands our knowledge and appreciation of Him. Gaze upon our Lord Jesus through the following verses. What do you see?
 - a. I John 2:1b
 - b. I John 2:2a
 - c. Hebrews 7:25
 - d. Hebrews 4:14-16
4. Why will believers never have to experience the righteous judgment of God for their sins? Answer from I John 2:2 by filling in the blanks: Because Jesus Christ, the righteous is the _____ for our sins.
 - a. View this from another perspective from Romans 5:8-11. Why do we joy in God?
5. Add to your praise vocabulary the words *Advocate* and *Propitiation*. (You may want to add some blank sheets of paper to your notebook to record these week by week.) Complete the following sentences using these words:
 - a. Because You are my Advocate
 - b. Because You are my Propitiation

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 1:1-10; 2:1,2

1. What do I John 1:6,7,9; 2:1,2 have to do with our *fellowship with God*?
2. What does *walk in the light* say to you personally about your life?
3. What is necessary for the believer to walk in unbroken *fellowship with God*?
 - a. How is *broken fellowship* restored?
 - b. What help do these scriptures (I John 1:5-10, 2:1,2) give you as you come to terms with sin in your life?
 - 1) What happens to a Christian if he fails to confess his sins? (I Corinthians 11:31,32; Hebrews 12:7-9)
 - (a.) What is certain about unconfessed sin? Proverbs 28:13a
 - 2) What does Psalm 32:5 say will be the result of our confession of sin?
 - (a.) Amplify this from I John 1:9b.
4. Thoughtfully review I John 1:1-10; 2:1,2 once more. Share the impact these verses have had in your life.
 - a. Report any changes you are making in response to these truths if they are not too personal.
5. Where do you find yourself today in this passage? I John 1:1-10; 2:1, 2

*I just want to be where You are,
Dwelling daily in Your Presence
I don't want to worship from afar,
Draw me near to where You are.
Don Moen, Integrity Music*