

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:3-6

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 1:1-10, 2:1-2. Share how I John 1:5-2:2 has affected the way you live your life.

a. Refresh your memory in the truth of I John 1:7 by writing it here and personalizing it.

1) What does *walk in the light* say to you about things that might be doubtful (you're not sure whether or not they are sinful)?

2. Every believer needs assurance that he/she is truly born again. That assurance comes from the Word of God, in scriptures such as Romans 10:9,10. The paragraph (I John 2:3-6) we will be studying this week underscores that assurance by revealing how our lifestyle backs up our profession. Our desire to be obedient to His commands supports our claim and reassures us. With this in mind slowly read the following verses:

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whosoever keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.
I John 2:3-6 KJV

Now go back over these verses and: **a. circle** the word know;

b. underline the words *keep* and *keepeth*; **c. highlight** the words *commandments* and *word*.

3. We live in an age where lawlessness abounds. Rebellion against authority and circumventing the laws is becoming more and more the norm. People don't trust those in authority, so they feel justified in their lawlessness. Even some Christians bristle at the words *command* or *commandments* in the Bible. They forget that their God Who created them loves them with an everlasting love and *commands* only what is best for them. To prepare your heart for this week's lesson. look: at the word *commandments* from the perspective of Psalm 119:75 KJV. Write this verse here as an acknowledgment of His authority over your life and your desire concerning His commandments.

*For this is the love of God,
that we keep His commandments:
and His commandments are not grievous.*

I John 5:3

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:3

1. Notice the word *hereby* that appears twice in I John 2:3-5. It is defined as *by this means*. By what means can we *know that we know* Him?
 - a. His *commandments* here does not refer to the Old Testament Law but to the commandments (precepts and instructions) given by our Lord Jesus. What do these verses reveal about *His (Jesus') commandments*?
 - 1) John 13:34
 - 2) John 14:21a
 - 3) John 14:23a
 - 4) John 15:10
 - 5) John 15:12
 - 6) II John 5,6
 - 7) Meditate on these verses before moving on in the lesson. How do they speak to you?
 - b. The Greek word for 'know' used in this verse is *Ginosko* - to know by experience. Its usage here indicates *knowing on a con inuing basis*. We continue to build *assurance* in our heart that we *truly know* Him when we keep *His commandments*. Keep means *obey* (watchful, observant, obedience). Contemplate and record the promises to those who keep His commandments from the following scriptures:
 - 1) John 14:21c
 - 2) John 14:23c
 - (a.) How will His promised presence resulting from our obedience to His commandments enrich our assurance that we *know* Him?

Advanced Students: Define the *Law of Christ* (Use Galatians 6:2; II John 5; James 1:25; 2:8 as guidelines).

2. Print Jesus' command from John 15:17.
 - a. To what degree are we to love one another? See John 15:12b; I John 3:16.
 - b. Write the exhortation from Galatians 6:2 which is a practical demonstration of Christ's love at work in us. Use other versions if you desire.
 - 1) How do you put this into practice?

Challenge: In what sense does obeying Jesus' commandments fulfill the Old Testament Law?
See Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8,10.

3. Consider your life in relationship to I John 2:3. How does the desire to *keep His commandments* assure you that you *know Him*?
 - a. If you *know Him* and you experience failure in keeping His commandments, what will your reaction be?
 - 1) Review and write the provision for our failures from I John 1:9. Apply it today, if necessary.

*To keep His commandments means
we obey carefully and consistently.
Christianity requires moral conduct.
selected*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:4

1. I John 2:3-6 provide tests or ways to examine our lives to see if what we say lines up with what we do. These verses are key to our assurance. How does I John 2:4 expose the person who is all *talk* and no walk?
2. Explain as you would to a person who professes to know Him but hates other Christians and unbelievers and has no desire to walk in love towards anyone, how what they say invalidates their profession.
3. Why is it a lie to claim to *know Him* if there is no obedience to His commands? Use scriptures to support your answer. See I John 4:7,8.
4. If you *know you know Him* and yet you feel that there are people you cannot love, what should you do about it? Use Romans 5:5; Ephesians 4:31,32 as guidelines for your answer.
5. Ask yourself today: Which of these two verses. I John 2:3 or 4, accurately describes my life? For another perspective on these verses. look, at I John 3:23. What do you see?
 - a. How does I John 3:18 reinforce I John 2:3, 4?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:5

1. But *if anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in Him.* I John 2:5 niv. Write I John 2:5 phrase by phrase from kjv in the left-hand column. In the right-hand column write each phrase in your own words personalizing it.

I John 2:5 kjv	I John 2:5 (in your own words)
a. But whosoever	a.
b. In Him verily	b.
c. hereby	c.

2. *Word* in I John 2:5 includes all that is made known to us of the Divine will concerning our conduct. *If true love exists in the heart, it will be carried out in the life. Love and obedience are intertwined, each manifests the other.* Obedience to His Word is proof of our love for Him. Contrast the one that *saith* (I John 2:4) with the one that keepeth (I John 2:5) by completing the following phrases:

a. He that saith, I know Him. and keepeth not His commandments. _____

b. But whosoever keepeth His Word, in him, verily, _____

1) *Perfected* means: brought to an end by completing or perfecting or accomplishing; is matured. In I John 2:5 it speaks of the love of God operating through him who keeps His Word. God's love is made complete in him. Two explanations are given for this phrase:

1. God's love for the believer is made complete when it moves the believer to acts of obedience (see 4:12).

2. That our love for God becomes complete when it expresses itself in obedience (3:16-18).

➤ Either way, when we keep His Word, what do we *know*? I John 2:5c

(a.) How does this build your assurance?

*Obedience grows out of love for God.
Love is the soil in which obedience flourishes
Our love for God is our response to His love for us.*

I John 4:19

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:6

1. Read I John 2:6 and define the word *abide*. Use synonyms if you desire. (*Abide* is one of John's favorite words. He uses it twenty-three times in his writings.)
2. If we say we abide in Him, how ought we to walk (live)? I John 2:6

a. Who is our example?

1) How is our keeping His commandments related to our walking *even as He walked*?
See John 8:29c.

3. This scripture (I John 2:6) needs to be written on our hearts. We should memorize it and apply it. Print this verse here and think seriously about what you *say* and what you do.
4. Meditate on I John 2:6 in the light of I John 2:28. What does this *say* to you about the way you live and where you abide?

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:3-6

1. Good works cannot contribute to our salvation, but they can and do contribute to our assurance. How does keeping His commandments contribute to our assurance?

2. What is the essential point or theme of I John 2:3-6?

3. How is obedience entwined with assurance that we *know* Him?

4. Explain the meaning of the phrase *keep His commandments*.

5. What do you observe about the one who does not keep (obey) His commandments from I John 2:4?
 - a. On what do the professing Christians of I John 2:4 often build their assurance?
 - b. How should this affect his assurance that he *knows* Him?
 - 1) What would we want the result of this scripture to be on the one who recognizes *the truth is not in Him*?

6. Review I John 2:3-6 and complete this phrase: I know that I know Him because, _____

7. Think once more about I John 2:6, What is your response to this verse?

8. How does I John 2:3-6 urge you to live more and more in obedience to His commandments?

*Truth of our relationship to Christ is revealed
not by what we say about knowing Him
but by how we live.*