

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“A Refreshing Reality.”**
 - READ (1 John 2:1-2) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

AS WE LEARNED LAST WEEK...

- The Christian life is NOT to be lived in isolation!
 - But in FELLOWSHIP with God & other believers.

JOHN TOLD US...

- (1 John 1:3-4) NKJV

OVER THE YEARS...

- I've learned that the Christian life is...
 - More often caught... than taught!

IT'S DURING MOMENTS OF FELLOWSHIP...

- Many Bible truths are absorbed...
 - As we see other believers living them out.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- When I was a new believer...
 - My friend Kevin from San Diego...
 - Modeled generosity perfectly to me.
- He didn't lecture... he demonstrated Biblical truth with his life...
 - And I caught on to it.
 - He showed me how generosity works by living it.

WELL... TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT...

- **“A Refreshing Reality.”**

JOHN IS TEACHING...

- That fellowship with God does NOT require lives of...
 - Sinless perfection... (because we can't attain that).
- BUT lives that are honest in bring our sin struggles to Jesus...

(1 John 2:1-2)
“Simple Truths”

➤ AND responding to His loving truth.

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY:

IDEA #1 – COMPLETELY COVERED:

(v.1) “*My little children...*”

- Literally = Little born ones!
 - John uses this phrase (9x) in this letter.

HE’S...

- Writing to the church simple truths...
 - That inspire growth.

IF YOU’RE HERE THIS MORNING...

- Struggling with walking out the Christian life...
 - This message is for you!

LOOK AT (v.1) AGAIN – “*An advocate.*”

- Meaning = A helper.

OR AS IT’S BEEN TAUGHT...

- A defense attorney that comes to your aid.
 - Jesus stands in the gap by saying Father I paid for that!
 - (Our sin... past / present / & future)
 - (Rom. 8:33-34) NKJV.

TWO PRACTICAL RESULTS:

- 1) (Ps. 23:3) NKJV
 - *Restores my soul...*
- 2) (Ps. 51:10-12) NKJV
 - *Clean heart & restored joy.*

IN THE **O.T.** WE SEE THIS IN ACTION:

- (Isa. 1:18-19) NKJV.

IN THE **N.T.** HERE’S AN EXAMPLE OF JESUS AS OUR “*Advocate*”

- (Luke 22:31-32) NKJV

(1 John 2:1-2)
“Simple Truths”

- Jesus prayed that Peter’s faith wouldn’t collapsing.
 - But that the sifting would make Peter stronger!

BY WAY OF UNDERSTANDING:

- *Growth happens best in sifted soil.*
 - That’s why God allows us to be sifted.
 - SO we come to the end of ourselves.

IDEA #2 – THE DEFENSE IS ON MY SIDE:

(v.2) “Propitiation” is not a common word in English.

BUT... IN ANCIENT TIMES...

- People understood their gods were angry & unpredictable!

AND THIS SUPERSTITION LED TO...

- People trying to satisfy all kinds of unknown gods...
 - With religious efforts of sacrifice – “Propitiation!”

NOW... THE N.T. WRITERS...

- Captured this phrase but poured a different meaning into it.
 - Propitiation focused on the kindness of God thru Jesus...
 - Who became the offering that satisfied God’s Holy Law.

CHUCH...

- Last week we enjoyed the heart of God...
 - As we saw His willingness to forgive us & cleanse us.
 - (1 John 1:9).

BUT WHEN OUR WAY COLIDES WITH GOD’S WAY...

- Our heart condemns us.

IDEA #3 – THE OBSTACLES ARE SATAN & SELF:

SATAN IS MASTERFUL AT CONDEMNING US...

- He will set you up with pleasure...
 - And then pull the rug out from under you... with guilt.

(1 John 2:1-2)
“Simple Truths”

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- Satan accuses us before God day and night (Rev. 12:10).
 - He’s trying to hinder you...
 - And to get you to give up on God.

BUT HERE’S THE WISDOM FOR US:

- (Rev. 20:10) NKJV
- (Phil. 1:6) NLT

HOWEVER...

- When we take our righteousness into our own hands...
 - We begin striving = We try harder to be good little Christians.
 - (Which never works).
 - Because we’re no longer walking by faith...
 - We’re walking by our own efforts.

IN THE GOSPELS...

- When Peter tried to do it on his own efforts & wisdom...
 - He would fail – (Luke 5:5-11).

IN (John 21:2-6)...

- Again... Peter was fruitless at work.
 - BUT when Jesus was leading... Peter was fruitful.

~ IN CLOSING ~

TODAY...

- John’s whole POINT... is that we would understand...
 - That fellowship with God is maintained thru...
 - The work of Jesus in a surrendered life.

~ COMMUNION ~