

“1st John Part 3 - Who’s the Boss?” (4-28-24)

Living in the Light

Review: Pt 1 - Hear, See, Handle, & Ponder - God is Light / Pt 2 - Krystal: Walking in the Light

Today (Main Text: 1st John 2:1-6)

1 John 2:1-6 (ESV)

(1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (2) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (3) And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (5) but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: (6) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Let’s explore each verse . . .

1) Jesus is our Advocate

1 John 2:1-2 (ESV)

(1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (2) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Note: My “little children” (1 Greek word: teknion G5040) . . . (9x in NT: Paul - 1x in Galatians, John - 1x in Gospel (Jesus says it), then 7x in 1st John). Meaning: endearing term of affection meaning little, darling, or dear children (used only figuratively and in the plural form in NT).

Verse 1

- “That you may not sin” - (walking in the light) - is this our goal? (are God’s desires becoming my desires?)
- If you do sin - we have an advocate!
- “Advocate” meaning: to comfort, encourage or exhort. It is properly a verbal adj. referring to an aid of any kind. In the Greek writers, used of a legal advisor, pleader, proxy, or advocate, one who comes forward in behalf of and as the representative of another.

Verse 2

- Propitiation - atoning, appeasing. This is the sacrifice of Christ for the removal of our sin
- Jesus the advocate - For us, and for all . . .

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

(16) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Application: Christ came to remove and free us from sin, so now our aim is that we sin not - that we may walk in this freedom. Even now, when we struggle He is working as our advocate!

John is showing us how to walk in this freedom - being people of the light!

2) Jesus is our Commander

1 John 2:3 (ESV)

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

Note: To know God is to know him rightly, to have him in the proper place. He is God. He is the Creator. He is the King. Always.

Knowing Him - (remember how John opened this letter) The whole point is for us to cultivate a deep knowing, a fellowship with God, who is light, that produces fullness of joy!

Keep - a warden, guard. To keep an eye on, watch, and hence to guard, keep, obey, to attend carefully, to take care of

Commandment - order, edict, direction, commission, charge

***So are we attending carefully His commandments?**

1 John 2:4-5a (ESV)

(4) Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (5) but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

Note: Keeping God's Word perfects us in love. We are lying to ourselves if we don't live this out.

Verse 4

Liar - a liar, one who breaks faith, a false and faithless man. This term is used of those who profess salvation but live and think contrary to Christian truth

Verse 5

Love is perfected - 1st time in this letter John mentions love. It's something the Lord is working into us as we yield to him.

Perfected - (meaning) complete, mature. To complete, make perfect by reaching the intended goal.

1 John 5:3 (ESV)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

3) Jesus is our Guide

1 John 2:5b-6 (ESV)

(5) . . . By this we may know that we are in him: (6) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Note: The walk that abides - "in the same way" (see John 15 - "just as I")

John 15:9-11 (ESV)

(9) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (10) If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Note: Jesus walked in obedience to the Father's commands, and now calls us to follow him in this way.

Conclusion: Look to Jesus - our advocate, commander, and guide. Now consider, am I truly yielded to Him?