



Know So, Not Hope So

August 7, 2016

Text: 1 John 2

Vs. 2:1-2--- My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Children = a term of endearment.
- Will not sin = because of our identity in Christ.
- STORY: the future queen of England.
- 50 times in this epistle John uses the word KNOW.
- If we sin = Jesus is our Advocate to satisfy the holiness of God which requires payment for sin.
- NOTE: Sounds like the Father wants to punish us and Jesus is trying to hold Him back.
- Totally false!
- God hates sin, not sinners.
- Jesus: “Father forgive them, for they don’t know what they doing.”
- God did not pour His wrath out on Jesus on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21--- God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

- When Jesus was on the cross, He literally became sin... yours and mine.
- Father God poured out His wrath on the sin, not Jesus.
- God hates sin. Why?
- Because sin separates us from Him.
- Jesus is the propitiation, the payment for our sins.
- In Christ, our sins are forgiven, paid for in full by the blood of Christ.
- Jesus stands in our place representing the righteousness we have in Him before the Father.
- He is the atoning sacrifice not only for our sins but for the sins of the whole world.

Vs. 2:3--- We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.

- We don’t become who we are by what we do.
- But we do what we do because of who we are.
- EX: Do I become a rabbit by hopping around?
- No. But if I am a rabbit, I will be hopping around.
- Do I become Jesus by keeping His commands?
- No. But if Jesus is my life, I will be keeping His commands because that is who He is and what He does.

Vs. 2:4--- The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

- Knowing implies ONENESS.

- Abraham KNEW Sarah and she bore a son.
- John 17:3--- “This is eternal life that they may KNOW You, the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent.”
- If you have become ONE with Jesus... He has become your life... can you live contrary to your true nature?
- To live contrary to the commands of God would be a total denial of your true nature in Christ.
- Jesus always did what pleased the Father.

Vs. 2:5-6--- But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in Him. This is how we know we are in Him: **6** Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.

- Love must have an object.
- Love cannot exist alone.
- When we put into action His word, we love God, others and self.
- Love is complete only when it is given away.
- Loving God by Loving People.
- Eve came out of Adam. She had his DNA.
- When Adam loved Eve, he was, in essence, loving himself because she came out of him.
- The church, ekklesia, called out ones, you and me, came out of Jesus, Himself.
- Jesus death on the cross birthed His Bride, the church.
- The church, you and me, have the same DNA as Jesus.
- When we love people, we are literally loving Jesus, just as Adam loved Eve and thus loved himself.
- If we claim to live in Him... if He is our life... won't Jesus be living as Jesus would live?
- If we don't walk as Jesus walked, we are either living IN the flesh, or ACCORDING to the flesh.

Romans 8:8-10 NKJV--- Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

- Christians can forget their identity in Christ and act ACCORDING to the flesh, but we will be miserable because it is not who we are.
- It would be like a human trying to live like a rabbit.

Vs. 2:7-8--- Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. **8** Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in Him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

- The command to love is old.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV--- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18 NIV--- Love your neighbor as yourself.

- In what ways has the OLD been made NEW?
 - Christ's illustration of divine love on the cross.
 - Christ's exposition of the OT law in the Sermon on the Mount.
 - The daily experience of believers as they grow in love for each other.

Vs. 2:9-11--- Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

- Darkness is the absence of light.
- Turn on the light and darkness is dispelled.
- God is love. Love is not something God does. He IS love.
- Love and hate are like light and darkness.
- They are mutually exclusive.
- Love and hate are not primarily emotions, but attitudes expressed in actions.
- Love cannot be your life and you still hate your brother.

Vs. 2:12-14--- I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- John is repetitive for emphasis here.
- He is expressing his confidence of their salvation in spite of the rigorous tests contained in this letter.
- He addresses three levels of spiritual maturity.
 - Children
 - Young Men
 - Fathers
- As Children...
 - We know our sins are forgiven.
 - We know God loves us.
 - We are footloose and fancy free.
 - We think God is good and He can do anything.
 - EX: Clay thought I could hit a ball a mile when he was four. At 12 he didn't think I could even hit it.
- As Young Men...
 - We think we are strong... bulletproof.
 - Will charge hell with a water pistol without water in it.
 - Caveat: We think we can just boss the devil around just by quoting the word.
 - Patience and waiting upon the Lord is not our long suit.
 - EX: Seven Sons of Sceva
- As Fathers...
 - We have KNOWN Him Who is from the beginning.
 - God waited over 40 years before He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

- But at first, Abraham winged it on his own.
- Went down to Egypt for food without a word from the Lord.
- God still blessed Him because of unilateral covenant.
- As he became the Father of the Faith, he didn't take advantage of the covenant, but relied upon it as He sacrificed Isaac.
- Abraham knew if he killed Isaac, God would have to raise him from the ashes because Isaac was in God's covenant with Abraham.
- Fathers do not panic in crisis.
- They have seen God faithfulness over and over and in calm assurance, they simply trust Him.

Psalm 112:1 & 7--- Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in His commands... He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD .

Do Not Love the World

Vs. 2:15-17--- Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- The world is not the world of people, or the created world.
- The world here is COSMOS, the world system ruled and controlled by satan and organized against God.
- It is the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ.
- How well did Jesus fare in the cosmos?

John 15:18-19--- "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

- The world and its desires will pass away.
- But those of us who do the will of the Lord will live forever.

