## True Christians Practice Righteousness

# Bible Study

1 John Chapter 2

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Welcome to the KKMinistry bible study podcast. This is L.A. Smith. I am so happy that you decided to study with me. In this podcast we will be studying first John Chapter 2. Before we get started you should know that you can download a free bible study guide that goes along with this bible study by going to my blog at KKMinistry.com. The study guide has all of the scriptures and is really basically a transcript of this podcast, so I highly recommend you either pulling it up online and following along or printing it out.

Before we dive into the scriptures, let me do a brief introduction to this chapter.

## Introduction

In first John chapter 2 the apostle John encourages not to sin, but he explains that when we do sin, we have someone who can appease our sin if we repent and accept Him as the savior. John also talks about the fundamental required element to truly becoming a Christian, which is love for our fellow man. The apostle gives warning to loving things of the world. He also stresses and makes clear the importance of abiding in God.

## **Christ Is Our Advocate**

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

Verse 1 states that: "we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Jesus Christ is the advocate. Another word for advocate is supporter, sponsor or backer. In other words, if we except Jesus Christ as our savior, Jesus will back, support and represent us when we stand before the Father.

Verse 2 states that: "He Himself is the propitiation for our sins". Another word for propitiation is appease, which means to bring to a state of <u>peace</u>, quiet, ease, calm, or contentment

3By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

Notice he said we can get to know Him, if we keep His commandments. This scripture directly contradicts those people going around saying that we cannot keep God's commandment. Those who believe that we cannot keep His commandments obviously do not keep His commandments, so they cannot possibly know God according to God's word.

#### Listen to what versus four states:

4The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

#### Verse 5 states:

5but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

If you want the word of God to be perfected in you, you must keep His word or in other words, obey His commandments. Verse 5 ends by saying:

By this we know that we are in Him:

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

If you say that you are Christian or a follower of Christ or someone who is professing to be "Christ Like", then you should be doing the things that Christ did. If you continuously and routinely doing things or living your life contrary to how Christ lived his life, who came here to be an example for us, how is it then that you are a Christian or "Christ Like"?

John is telling us in verse 7 that what he is expressing in these scripture is not anything that is new.

#### He said:

7Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. 8On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

What do you think the true light is that He is referring to at the end of verse 7?

Let's see if the next three verses clarify this for us.

9The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.10The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.11But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

It's pretty clear from reading verses 9-11 that to be in the light you must "Love" your brother or fellowman. If you are not in the light and this type of unconditional love is not in you, then you have no clue where you are headed in life. You are essentially lost and in darkness.

I can hear some of you asking, but why is this.

It's because the only way you can possess this type of unconditional love is by developing a relationship with and getting to know the Father. You cannot know the Father unless you keep His commandments as we learned from earlier scriptures.

You cannot keep the commandments until you step out on Faith, accept Jesus the Christ as the Savior and repent of your sins. When you sincerely do this, God gives you His gift of Grace or Love or the Holy Spirit. It is this gift which compels you to keep God's commandments, which in doing so, requires you to have and express love for others.

The new commandment mentioned in verse 8 is to LOVE! However, it is very important to note that:

- 1. You cannot keep this or any of the commandments without God's Grace/Holy Spirit
- 2. You cannot obtain God's Grace unless
  - a. You repent of your sins
  - b. Step out on Faith, believe and receive Jesus the Christ as your savior.

#### Hebrew 11:6 tells us that:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

#### The Him John is referring to is Jesus the Christ.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.14I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Remember in verse 5 where it states that the word is God's commandments. Therefore the young men are strong and have overcome the evil one because the word of God abides in them. In other words, they keep God's commandments.

## Do Not Love the World

15Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Hear we learn that we cannot love the world and the things in the world and Love God also. We are only capable loving one or the other, but not both at the same time.

16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.17The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

It is interesting to note that verse 17 clearly tells us that the world that we live in is slowly passing away.

18Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.19They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

### Verse 18 tells us that during the time John was living and wrote these scriptures it was described as the last hours and that there were many antichrist among them. He also warns us about false pretenders or Christian imposters, who pretended to be part of God's army, but never was.

20But you have an anointing from the Holy One and you all know.21I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

John is saying here, I know that you know the truth, so my reason for writing you is not because you do not know, but because you do know it.

22Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

It is important to note here that John is saying that anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ or savior is a liar and not only that, they are antichrist.

23Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.24As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

I believe John is reminding us here once again that we must keep God's word or His commandments, so that we can have a relationship with and know Jesus the Christ and the Father.

## The Promise Is Eternal Life

25This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.27As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

This is a very important scripture that tells us that once you enter into a relationship with the creator of the universe you receive an anointing, which is the Holy Spirit that gives you unique insight and the ability to see the world from a spiritual perspective because you receive revelation directly from the kingdom. Therefore, you cannot be deceived.

In addition and in accordance with verse 27, you have no need for anyone to teach you because God's anointing teaches you about all things. We just merely have to read the bible and ask God for revelation. The more we read and study, the more He reveals and the more anointed we become thereby decreasing the chances of us being deceived.

To say it another way, God is His word so the more we study and understand His word the better our understanding of Him, the closer our relationship with Him, the stronger our anointing becomes, which increases our ability to identify deceit and see through lies. This is another reason why we (Christians) are said to be the light or in the light.

28Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Now this is a strong statement by John warning us to stay focus on God and to keep His commandments. Live a sanctified life, so that when Jesus returns we can stand before Him and the Father on judgment day with confidence.

29If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Verse 29 clearly states the quality and character of a true Christian. They practice righteousness. They do not accept the lie that we cannot keep the commandments and continue to sin like the world believing the same old lie that Satan told Adam and Eve in the garden that they will not surely die. God made it very clear back in the garden and He is making very clear now through his scriptures that if you do not abide in Him by keeping His commandments you will surely die the second death.

In John 8:11 Jesus told the woman who was about to be stoned because she committed adultery that although she sinned He did not condemn Her. In other words, He forgave her. The woman was forgiving. However, the last thing He told her was to go and sin no more.

## Conclusion

In a nutshell, this chapter written by the apostle John is telling us that true followers of God practice righteousness. They do this because of their love for God and the love for their fellow man.

In Luke 10 chapter 35 versus 25 through 28 from "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" states: using the NIV:

<u>25</u>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

#### 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<u>27</u>He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind's; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>d</sup>"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

When you love someone you will not cheat them, lie to them, steal or murder them, etc.

The closer we get to God by meditating on His word, the more we are perfected in this kind of Love for God is indeed love.

Satan does not want you to experience this kind of love because as Jesus said in the scripture, if you do what the scripture says, you will live and Satan wants you dead because you are of one God's creation and Satan hates God and he want to hurt God by deceiving you and causing you to be deceived to the point where you miss your opportunity to receive eternal life.

## Quiz

- 1. If we step out on faith, repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our savior we can be washed clean of our sins? \_\_\_\_\_False
- 3. When you enter into a relationship with God you receive an anointing that will give you the ability to see the world from a spiritual perspective. \_\_\_\_True \_\_\_\_False
- 4. Anyone who denies Jesus as the Christ or as God's Son and the Savior is a liar and an Anti-Christ. \_\_\_\_True \_\_\_\_False
- 5. True Christians practice \_\_\_\_\_\_.

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God bless and Shalom.

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