

# CHAPTER TWO

Vs 1

My little children

They are believers, not people who should question if they are saved.

ALL THROUGH THE LETTER THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD!

1Jn 2:12, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21

Again, their salvation is NEVER IN DOUBT.

The purpose for writing to them revolves around their:  
FELLOWSHIP WITH THEIR "FATHER".

I am writing...that you:

1. do not excuse your person sins
2. are not encouraged to sin because of how fully they have been "taken care of" by God.  
Rom 6:1-2
3. may not sin

Even though it is true that all "children of God" do sin - thus - we have been provided with an Advocate for when we do - JESUS CHRIST.

The function of our ADVOCATE is not to plead with the Father, asking Him not to cast out sinning believers.  
Rom 8:31-39; 11:29

The function of our ADVOCATE is to intercede for believers that their "faith should not fail".  
Lk 22:31-32

BOTTOM LINE: FAITH ALONE SAVES  
which occurs ONCE IN A MOMENT IN TIME

Once saved - the faith that "appropriates the many gifts of God, is subject to failure -

Vs 2

He, Himself - by Himself - He intercedes for believers  
because He has already personally made satisfaction  
to God for their sins.

(No matter what the sin - God has already been "satisfied".  
Indeed, Christ's propitiation was sufficient to cover  
ALL THE SINS OF ALL HUMANITY) Jn 3:14-18  
("THE WHOLE WORLD")

NOTE: The fact that Christ's death was payment for all of  
humanity's sins does not mean that any are saved.

Two people are involved in the saving of a soul:

1. GOD - sin as a barrier to God has been removed
2. HUMANS - must also see Christ's death as removing  
the barrier that sin causes between themselves and  
God.

Until this occurs, the sinner remains dead and  
"alienated" from the life of God. Eph 4:18

3. At the final judgement of the lost (Rev 20:11-15),  
sin as sin will not be the criteria; rather -  
their works will be.  
Their works will result in their having no claim to  
God's salvation.

CHRIST'S WORK - CLAIMS THE PRIZE  
MAN'S WORK - NO BASIS FOR RECEIVING IT

Vs 3

A TEST

Not "Are we saved?"

A person is saved when he/she accepts that something  
is true - that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and  
rose from the dead.

1Cor 15:1-8; God's witness 1Jn 5:9-13; Jn 3:16;

Jn 5:24; 6:35

But do we "know" Him - a fellowship of knowing 1Jn3:3  
All believers "know" Christ at a foundational level;  
All believers may not "know" Him at the level of communion  
and fellowship  
Experiential knowledge of God - not saving knowledge - is  
the focus

Just as a claim to fellowship with Him is false when the  
believer is walking in the darkness 1:6, so  
Making the same claim when not keeping His  
commandments is also not true.

Vs 4           Someone might claim such a thing but in claiming this they  
                  are lying; the truth is not in them.  
Without obedience to God's commandments, no person can claim  
an intimate, personal knowledge and relationship with  
the Father and with His only begotten Son.

Vs 5           Stated Positively - whoever keeps His teachings experiences  
                  the love of God and experiences the "perfection" He died to  
                  give us.

THE LOVE OF GOD IS PERFECTED IN OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS.  
(bring to completion; bring to its goal)

God's love for the believer is wonderful at the point of  
salvation, 3:1,  
but His goal is not reached until conformity to the  
Son is accomplished.

Being "in Him" refers to the "abiding",  
teacher/disciple relationship Jn 15:1-8

Vs 6           To ABIDE IN CHRIST (claims this) can be verified by a  
                  CHRIST-LIKE LIFESTYLE           Jn 15:4-7

What is John saying? What does he mean? vs 7-11

vs 7           The Old Commandment had from the beginning of their  
                  Christian experience has not changed.  
                  Jn 13:34-35

(There has not been "new revelation" given to special, chosen teachers that trump what Jesus taught "in the beginning".)

**GOD'S MESSAGE IS THE SAME!**

Vs 8 From another point of view - the Old Commandment has taken on  
**NEW MEANING**

1. because He who was with us is now in us

Jn 14:15-18

2. the darkness is passing away - the prior age has become a new age

2 Cor 3:4-18

3. the true light is already shining

Gal 3:21-29

and we await its total completion

2 Pet 3:13-14

Vs 9 He who says...and hates his brother  
(a believer toward another believer - or -  
a non-believer toward a believer)

**IS NOT WALKING IN THE LIGHT**

1 Jn 1:6-7; 4:20 - 5:1

In short: Some believers have feelings of animosity toward their fellow believers.

To claim that this behavior is walking in the light in fellowship with God - is not true.

**HE IS WALKING WHERE GOD - IS NOT!**

Vs 10 By contrast: the believer who loves his brother:

1. abides in that light

2. causes no one to stumble as they watch him.  
doesn't become a snare or a trap

3. is walking as He (Christ) walked 1Jn 2:6

Vs 11 A Christian who hates another believer:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. has lost touch with the True Light                                  | 1Jn 2:8 |
| 2. has embraced the darkness, which<br>is passing away                 | 1Jn 2:8 |
| 3. has lost his way  |         |
| 4. has blinded his own eyes so that he can<br>no longer see the truths |         |

1Jn 1:3 we proclaim to you...that you may have fellowship...  
 1:4 we write so that our joy may be made complete  
 2:12-14 I am writing because...you possess spiritual assets

QUESTIONS: Why the three references? why the order?

little children  
 fathers  
 young men  
 children

Is spiritual growth implied?

Do all the titles refer to the entire readership  
 from various points of view?

1. the whole readership is addressed as "little children"  
 2:1, 18, 28, 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21
2. In 2:18 all the readers would be included.

From these verses what can be said about all the readers?

- Vs 12
1. all "little children" have had their sins forgiven
    - a. This forgiveness has been granted on the  
 effectiveness of Christ's Name  
 3:23; 5:13; 2:2; Jn 1:12 and Jn 3:18
    - b. "your" is added by the translators!  
 Literally "because sins have been forgiven." 2 Cor 5:14-21  
 They have had the experience of forgiveness!

NOTE: If this epistle is a test to see if its readers are saved, then verse 12  
 would not be stated.

Vs 13

1. "fathers" - know Him - seasoned experience
2. "children" - you have come to know Him - come to the point where you keep the Lord's commandments.  
1Jn 2:3-4  
  
John's readers constitute a relatively mature group of believers.
3. "from the beginning" - a reference to the eternality of the One whom the readers know; One who began all things.  
Jn 1:1-2
4. "young men" - strong; the Word of God abides in you; over come the evil one 1Jn 2:10-27

NOTE: As children (forgiven) as fathers (possess knowledge) renders them prepared to do battle with the wicked one.

In fact, all of them have already done battle 2 Cor 4:3-6

And since the effects of new birth can never be reversed Rom 8:38-39 by Satan.

Vs 14

"I am writing" becomes "I have written"  
He repeats what he has written to the fathers.  
He amplifies that which he says to the young men.

little children your sins are forgiven  
for His Name's sake

fathers, because you know Him  
who has been from the beginning

young men you have overcome the evil one  
you are strong  
the Word of God abides in you  
you have overcome the evil one

children, you know the Father

minimum experience becomes more advanced experience

1. Those who know the Father come to know the Father
2. Those who have overcome the evil one, overcome the evil one

Our knowledge gains depth.

Jn's readers are ready to hear about and move on with that which He is about to warn them.

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- Vs 15-27      Two enemies John's readers will confront:
1. the world vs 15-17 (world system; age)
  2. antichrists vs 18-27; 1 Jn4:3-5
- Vs 15            Every believer needs this warning 1 Cor 10:12.  
Christians must not "love the world" or its components.  
We can think we do not live the world when, in fact, we are deeply attracted to one of its sinful aspects: for example: immorality has been overcome while a deep drive to acquire remains.
- "The love of the Father" is not operational in him.  
Our attitude toward the world is a reflection of our love for God or lack of love for Him; not His love in or of us.
- Vs 16            The components of the world we are not to love  
All of it whose components can be reduced to one word "lust" with 3 classifications:  
flesh- that which appeals to the sinful heart and excess.
- eyes - that which is visually appealing but not properly ours  
to desire or obtain  
covetousness
- pride of life - the main display of earthly life - possessions or accomplishments.

None of these elements have their source in God

NOTE: The physical world is "of God" who created it; the world as a moral system is not.  
All that is in the world bears the taint of wickedness with which God has nothing to do. 1Jn1:5

- Vs 17 "The world" is transient.  
When it no longer exists, none of its sinful experiences will continue to exist either.
- The obedient person, himself, abides forever.  
The abiding aspect of life is the eternal identity and it will outlast the present world system
- 1Jn 2:6 (the one who walks as He walked does the will of God)  
Thus 1Jn 4:17 (1Cor 3:11-15; 2Cor 5:10)  
See James 2:21-23 with John 15:14-15
- The Christians' identity in eternity will be determined by obedience to God in time.  
Since all lives of obedience are unique in their particulars, each eternal "identity" will be as unique!
- Resisting the anti-christs. verses 18-27
- Vs 18 Not only is the world passing away (and all that we are "accustomed to" and comfortable with"), but also
- It is the last hour - lasted for almost 2,000 years so far  
period of time following God's final Word through the  
consummation of this present evil age
- John's readers have heard that "antichrist" will arise at the conclusion of this "age":
1. There is more to this age than its seven year conclusion
  2. Even now - 60AD - many antichrists have arisen 1Jn 4:1
  3. They are "forerunners" of the "supreme" antichrist
  4. Their message - 1Jn 4:2-3
  5. These conditions present assure us that we are living in



the "last hour".

NOTE: Today - 2010 - there are many antichrists promoting this false teaching in the church of Christ.

Vs 19            These false teachers were at one time recognized as part of the leadership of the true church.

These are the teachers who moved on beyond the Apostolic teaching (Scriptures).

They would not have left the true teaching if they were of the true faith. Time allowed them to be exposed for who they really were.

NOTE: When a teacher moves beyond "that which has been written" it is shown that they ALL are not a part of the ministry of the Apostolic group.

The church is oppressed with many such antichrists.

Vs 20            The recipients of this letter were spiritually advanced Christians vs 13-14. They all know!

They all have an anointing from the Holy One (Spirit)  
1Jn 2:27; Jn 14:26; 16:7-15; Eph 1:13-14

Galatians - People so foolish to follow after such false teachers!

Vs 21            They are not ignorant of the truth.  
That which they received in the beginning is sufficient for all the remaining time of their life! 1Jn2:7; 1Cor 15:1-5

John is not writing to give them a test by which they can know if they are of the truth; he knows that they are; he simply wants them to continue in that which they received at the beginning.

Any teaching that goes beyond the Gospel is a lie and contains no truth at all.

Vs 22           Who is the antichrist in your midst?  
Who is the liar?  
Who is the false teacher?  
1. the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ  
  
2. the one who denies the Father and the Son Jn 5:23

Vs 23           A Simple Truth  
deny the Son - you do not have the Father  
confess the Son - have the Father also  
  
Its about the Son - Who do you say that He is?  
Jn 20:30-31; 1Jn 5:11-13

#### SUMMARY

Believing that Jesus is the Christ means to believe He is the One who guarantees eternal life to the believer.

This was the Father's plan.

Deny it and you reject the Father.

Vs 24           As for you - reader of this letter.  
Let what you were told in the beginning be sufficient for you.  
You don't need to grow into deeper truths.  
Let this truth "abide" in you.  
  
Key: if you let the Word which you have had from the beginning abide in you, you will abide in both the Father and the Son.  
  
The "abiding life" is the life lived by a disciple who keeps the Lord's teachings and is marked by love for the brethren.

Vs 25           "He" - can refer to either the Father or the Son.  
  
The promise is "eternal life".  
This is the center of the subject!  
Who can give life?  
Without this "life" all the other teaching is meaningless!  
1Cor 15:12-19

Vs 26           What was the deception which they were attempting to  
"sow" in the church?  
What you received in the beginning was not enough!  
Let me show you.....

Vs 27           As for you  
1. The anointing which you received from Him (not them)  
    abides in you. 1Jn5:10  
  
2. You have no need for these "enlightened teachers"  
    to bring you on to perfection.  
  
3. If you need teaching, the Holy Spirit will teach you -  
    using the original document you received in the  
    beginning - the Bible  
  
4. What is truth?  
  
5. Just as His ministry has taught you - you abide in Him  
    and He will continue to bring you up

**SUMMARY:**

John's readers are competent in the truth and need only to hold fast to what they already know in order to enjoy the "abiding life".

Verse 28 in the theme verse of the Epistle. It forms the foundations for what follows.

Vs 28           The Theme of the Epistle  
                  "abide in Him" (continuous action)  
  
                  fellowship - with us; with the Father; with His Son, Jesus Christ  
                  1Jn 1:3 and "joy made complete" 1 Jn 1:4 requires "abiding"  
                  (continuous action)  
  
                  The word "abide" occurs 112 times in the New Testament.  
                  66 times, John is the writer, using the term:  
                  40 times in his gospel  
                  23 times in 1 John (10 times in 2:6-27)  
                  3 times in 2 John  
  
                  The abiding life is the key to the Christian life!  
                  It is the foundation for being confident before Christ at His

Coming. Rev 1:12-18

As to confidence: 1Jn3:21; 4:17; 5:14

Right living will produce a "boldness of speech" when that day comes. (Not what does He see or feel, but what you will feel)

NOTE: There is a negative side -

Should a believer fail to abide in Him - shame will be the experience on that day - might be the basis for the tears being wiped away!

Vs 29 "born of Him" 1Jn 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18

When the recipient of this letter sees a person doing right righteousness exhibited they can be sure that the person who exhibits it is a child of God- (produced by Him in them).

(vs 29 cont)

The converse of John's statement does not follow - "that everyone who is born of God does righteousness, proving they are born again. 1Jn1:6,8; 2:1 1Cor 11 and Jn 5

The "new birth" is manifested in the actions of believers:

1. the only visible evidence
2. Jn 15:1-11
3. the only proof of discipleship Jn 15:8
4. this is what will draw people to Christ Jn 17:17-2