

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

1 JOHN 2: 1 – 6

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.

- Who is he writing to? My little children
 - “In the NT used as a term of kindly address by teachers to their disciples”
 - Used 7 times by John in the book of I John.
- Why is he writing to them? So that we may not sin
- What is the good news he shares with them?
 - If we do sin, we have an advocate with the Father
 - He is the propitiation for our sins

Advocate: *paraklētos*. (John uses this word 5 times in all of his writings in the Bible.)

- one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor.
 - of Christ in his exaltation at God's right hand, pleading with God the Father for the pardon of our sins

Advocate: *paraklētos*.

- of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom

Propitiation: *hilasmos*

- the means of appeasing
- atonement, i.e. an expiator
- John also uses this word in I John 4:10.
 - “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

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

- We want to do our best not to sin out of a deep sense of gratitude for the “propitiation” He has made on our behalf. That gratitude leads us to a deep sense of worship, and greatly enhances our obedience.
- Unfortunately, we will sin, leading us to remember what John said in verse 1:9 of this book. Confession of our sin needs to be a routine part of our daily walk.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1:9)

I John 2: 4 - 6

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.

Abides (meno)

1. to remain, abide
 1. in reference to place
 1. to sojourn, tarry
 2. not to depart
 1. to continue to be present
 2. to be held, kept, continually
 2. in reference to time
 1. to continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure
 1. of persons, to survive, live
 3. in reference to state or condition
 1. to remain as one, not to become another or different
2. to wait for, await one

Twenty times in I, II, and III John uses this word.

- What is the impact in using the word ABIDE is John is trying to leave with us?

Only in Jesus Christ do we find life!

"whoever says he abides in him **ought to walk** in the same way in which he walked"

How does that phrase sound to you?

The Greek meaning of OUGHT (*opheilō*):

- to owe
- that which is due, the debt

The English meaning of OUGHT:

- express obligation, advisability, natural expectation, or logical consequence.

So here we are again. Why did John lay out the need for confession in I John 1: 9,

**"If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

So, we humbly come before him, not in guilt and shame, confessing our sin because we did not "walk in the same way in which he walked."

Yes, we "ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" given what we "owe" to him.

**BUT HE KNOWS US HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SINS.**