

## 10.20.2024 - Transcribe - Renew Your Walk

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First John, chapter two. The whole book is supposed to be a book of encouragement, to encourage us as believers how we should act, to encourage us as believers what we believe and who we serve. You know, many are saying that we wanna see revival in our land, but it starts with believers to start living like Christians and renewing our walk.

Here in First John, chapter two, many times he talks about these are what, this is what I'm writing to you. He just introduced what he's talking about. Notice in verse one, he says, my little children, these things write unto you that you sin not.

If any man have sin, and if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Wouldn't it be great not to sin? Wouldn't it? What a pleasant life that would be. But here he just says, listen, I'm writing you to encourage you not to sin.

Now, John is not saying that you will not sin, but you should not sin. Yeah, later on he tells us that when we accept Christ as our Savior, we have our sins forgiven, our spirit is made new, but we're still strapped with his flesh, and the flesh sins. And it's important to understand that because of what Jesus did, we have the possibility of living a sinless life.

He says, I'm writing this stuff so you sin not. And we know he's not saying that as soon as you're saved, as soon as you're born again, as soon as you accept to Christ, you'll never sin again, because the very next line he says, but if you do sin, if you do sin, that's sinning in the flesh. That's not doing what the word of God tells us we need to do.

Sin not. That literally means to be so holy in your lifestyle, to be so pure, that even the thought of sin is repugnant. Even if you start thinking about sin, even if you start thinking about doing something God, you know God doesn't want you to do.

Suddenly you just become so grossed out, as we used to say, that you don't even want to consider it anymore. That's what sin not, where we need to get, to be so holy in your walk, to be so pure, to be so close to God as he told us in the previous chapter, to always be walking in that light so close that you become afraid of the dark. Remember as a little kid, many of you, maybe some of you still, I can't sleep without a light on, because I'm afraid of the dark.

Well, in the previous chapter we learned that we had, he is the light, and in him is no darkness at all. And when we fall into sin, we fall into darkness. So we need to be like that little kid, when it comes to spiritual matters, and be so afraid of the dark, that we want to stay in the light.

We want to walk in his path. But it says if you do sin, you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. If, if, kind of says that, yeah, it's gonna happen.

But the sin that should happen in a believer's life is the accidental sins, the things that sort of catch you when you're not looking. Like I mentioned in the nursing home, talking about this a little bit. You're driving down the road, and suddenly somebody else does something really dumb.

And your first reaction is to get very angry. We shouldn't be angry at that. For one thing, you can't help if they're dumb.

Right? I know the other day on the way to the nursing home, I'm trying to get there, I thought I was gonna be late. And what happened? Just ahead of me, this woman was sitting on the side street and decided, I know it's a woman because I saw her, okay? I'm not saying all women are this way. And so she was on the side street, so she decides to pull out to go the opposite direction I was going.

That's no big deal. You pull out and you move. Well, she decided she wanted to go at a snail's pace.

Mm. To the point I had to stop, or almost stop. And I'm like, what is she doing? So I had to repent of being angry.

But you see, things like that just pop up. But we should be wanting to be in the light so much that even if situations like that pop up, we don't react in the wrong manner. And so that's why he says, if you do sin, you have an advocate with the Father.

That's a legal term. That's somebody who comes alongside of you to help you in your time of need. Isn't it good we do that? Here's another good thing.

Do you know that word advocate? Is also translated other places as comforter. When it describes when Jesus was about ready to leave the earth, he says, well, I go, but I'm gonna leave another with you, a comforter. The Holy Spirit.

That's the same as an advocate. So you have someone dwelling within you if you're a believer, the Holy Spirit, that can help you through a situation if you just let him. An advocate.

Or when our sins come up to the Father, before they even get to him, the advocate grabs hold of them and says, they're still mine. That person is still mine. And what do we do? Well, we go back to previous chapter, 1 John 1, 9. If we, what, confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How can he cleanse us from all unrighteousness? Because he is Jesus Christ the righteous. So when you do sin, you go to the Lord, you say, I'm sorry, he forgives you.

It's as simple as that.

But it also has the idea of this. When you say, I'm sorry, and I confess, you're also implying, I will try better next time not to do the same thing. You know, it's not like sometimes people will go, oh, I'm sorry, I'll never do that again, the next day they're doing it again.

God wants us to learn from these situations. Once again, to become so afraid of the dark, we'll wanna stay in the light. We wanna stay close to Christ.

And why does he do this? Why is he the righteous? Because verse two, and he is the propitiation for our sins. That's a big word. It basically means he is like the mercy seat.

Remember the old time Jews in the Old Testament, it tells us the way they sacrificed on the day of atonement. The lamb was killed, the blood was taken into the Holy of Holies by the high priest, he sprinkled it onto the mercy seat, and the sins of the people were forgiven. That's the propitiation.

When Christ died on that cross and shed his blood, literally, it's like his blood was taken to the Father, he is our propitiation, he is our mercy seat. It's because of that, he can give us grace for our forgiveness of sins. And it says he's not only offered the forgiveness of sins to you, and hopefully, H1N1 here has accepted it, because if you haven't, when you die, you're not going to heaven.

But not only is that, is he's made it available to the whole world. Don't misunderstand. When he says he's been the forgiveness of sins for the whole world, doesn't mean the whole world has had their sins forgiven.

It's a two-way street. Forgiveness is only active when you accept the forgiveness. Okay? So when he's died for the sins of the whole world, that goes against what some of our Calvinistic friends teach, Christ only died for a few people, he's picked.

Peter's going to heaven. Sorry, sorry, Josh, you're not. Appreciate you being here, though.

God's not that way. He says, I died for the sins of the whole world. Whosoever comes to him will be saved.

Isn't that good to know? But it also encourages us. If he died for the sins of the whole world, it should encourage us to share that good news with the whole world. You know, in our early stages of our country, they didn't believe in missions, because some of the early churches, the denominational churches, they were Calvinistic.

And it's like, why should we go anywhere else? If God's going to save them, God's going to save them. Because suddenly somebody got, God got hold of them, and they said,

wait a minute. How are they going to be saved if they're never here? And the missions programs were started throughout the world.

And that's why we send missionaries. That's why we're missionaries locally. Why? Because Jesus Christ, the righteous, is a propitiation for the sins of not only ours, but for those of the whole world.

Are you saved this morning? If the trumpet should sound and the Lord come back, would your seat be empty, or would you still be sitting here wondering, what happened? Well, I'll tell you what happened if you're still sitting here. You don't know Christ as your savior. You've not had your sins forgiven.

You didn't believe he died for your sins. You didn't believe he was buried. You didn't believe he rose again the third day.

But I hope you have. So because he's accepted us, because we're his, I know I say this over and over, but it's good to remember. Once you have had your sins forgiven, you have developed a new relationship with God the Father.

Now you truly are his child. People who say, we're all children of God. No, we're not.

Only those who've accepted Christ as their savior are a child of God. That's what the word teaches. Everybody's a creation of God, and God loves everybody, but you're not part of the family until you believe.

And because you're part of the family, there's things that we need to do because we have this relationship. And if we fail God by not doing what he wants, we will never lose that relationship. But we might lose the fellowship.

You might know a lot of families where the kids don't talk to the parents anymore. Haven't talked to them for years, and that's sad. But it happens.

Are they still their children? Yeah, until the day they die. But do they have a good fellowship? No, and that's the same way it is with God. That relationship will never be broken once you accept as him.

Once he becomes your father, you're always his. So when you die, you're gonna go to be where he is. But we need to have that fellowship.

And how do we do that fellowship? Verse three, hereby we do know that we know him if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth's not in him. Well, if we are part of the family, we need to do what the father tells us to do.

It's as simple as that. You're saying, well, do I have to do that to maintain my relationship with him so I can maintain my salvation? No! If you don't, you sin. But you

still have the relationship.

The reason we have to do the commandments is not to maintain the relationship, to maintain the fellowship. So we can still walk in the light, not in the darkness. That's why we follow his commandments.

Not to get salvation, not to keep salvation, but because of salvation. And there's a big difference, amen? Now, he says, if we know him. That word know is a great word.

That means to have a close relationship. It tells us, in 2 Corinthians 4, 6, for God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We are to do what Christ tells us to.

Now, this isn't talking about the old dietary laws of the Old Testament. Although, they are good to follow, many of them. Except that one about not eating pork.

We got to have our bacon, right? But, do I get any more? No. But there are a lot of commandments given to us in the New Testament that come from God. The biggest one is, Jesus said, though know ye are my disciples, if you what, have love one for another.

That means you care about each other. Sometimes, in churches, that's not always there, and that's sad. But, that's a commandment.

In fact, he even tells us later in John, we'll find out, if you say you love God, but you hate your brother, you never need to check your salvation. I summarized it, but that's the gist of it. He says, keep his commandments.

How about this one? In 1 Thessalonians 4, when Paul wrote to Thessalonians, he said this, for you know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus? For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should obtain from fornication. That's a commandment from God. Don't sin.

This one was fornication. That basically is sexual activity outside of marriage. But there are others.

If you read through the whole New Testament, there's all these things where Paul teaches, where John teaches, where Peter teaches. This is the will of God for your life. Those are commandments.

They normally have to do with sin. You're saying, well, what if I'm doing most of those? Well, are you doing good? Are you doing good for people? Scripture also says, for him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin. He expects us to do good.

He expects us to be in communion with other believers. He expects us to fellowship together during our different services. All of those things are the commandments of God.

Well, that'd be a good study. Try to find all of the commandments just from the New Testament. I think they'd probably make some of us a little sad.

Oh, man, I gotta do that? Yeah, but remember, you're not doing it because you have to to keep salvation or to get salvation because of salvation. You're doing it because you love God. Many times, and we look at our lives not just while we're there, not just when we're living under the house, in the house with our fathers, but many times as we get out and go other places, we still do what our fathers wanted us to do, what he taught us to do.

I remember my dad, he taught me a lot of things. Well, he taught me a lot of bad things, but the good things was one of the things he always taught me, he says, if you ever have to borrow something from somebody, always return it in better shape than when you got it. And that stuck with me my whole life.

His reasoning was that way they're more likely to lend it to you again. But we learn these things and we try to keep these commandments. My dad told me when I was younger, save money now, because if you don't, it's gonna be harder when you get older.

Okay, Dad, I didn't, but he was right. It does become harder. You see, our earthly fathers give us commandments that stay with us our whole life, things to help us live, things to help us get by.

Think how much more the heavenly father gives us. And it says if we know him, if we have a relationship with him, and how do you get that relationship with him? You spend time with him, just like you get a relationship with anybody. You spend time with him.

Husbands and wives, they know a lot about each other before marriage, but after marriage, they learn even more, because you spend more time with them. So if you know him, but if you say that you are in relationship with the father through Jesus Christ, and you refuse to do whatever he says to do, you're a liar, it says. Don't get mad at me, it's what it says here.

So we need to keep his word. Tells us, for example, in Luke, Jesus said, why call you me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say? You say we have a relationship, but you just totally ignore me and everything else. It tells us in verse four, he that saith, I know him, and keeps not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

We learned a little bit about this this morning in Sunday school about the Holy Spirit. If you say you're a believer, but you don't live it, the truth's not in you. What is the truth? And that the question that, who was a Pontius Pilate asked when Jesus, what is truth? Well, Jesus Christ is truth.

But also in John 16, it says, how be it when he the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he hears, that shall

he speak, and he will show you things to come. So when we have the Holy Spirit, we have access to the truth. That's why it tells us don't be filled with wine, which is an excess, but be filled with the spirit.

Because when you allow the spirit to activate, to exercise his abilities within you, you have access to all truth. And then Jesus also said, when he was praying to the father, sanctify them with thy truth. Thy word is truth.

So the two great things. If you wanna know the truth, do you wanna know if it's in you? How close are you to allowing the Holy Spirit to work within you, the spirit of truth? How much do you study his word, the word of truth? And you say, well, I don't need that. I don't need the Holy Spirit.

Well, the truth's not in you. If the truth's not in you, you don't know God. If you don't know God, you don't have salvation.

And that should scare you. Because hell is not a pretty place. Just thinking about it gives me the creeps.

Verse five and six. But whoso keepeth his word, and him verily is the love of God perfected, hereby know that we are in him. He that saith he abides in him, ought also to walk even as he walked.

I like the way John always says, if you say. So a lot of people have a lot of words, but they have little doing. And that's what he's saying.

Don't just say you're gonna do the truth. Do the truth. Don't just say you're gonna follow Jesus Christ.

Follow Jesus Christ. Don't just say you're gonna do his commandments. Do his commandments.

Don't just say you're gonna love God and love others. Love God and love others. It's not just saying.

It has to be followed by doing. I'm sure all of you know people who talk a lot and make a lot of promises. They do a lot of saying.

But when it comes to the doing, they fall a little short. And so we have to understand, even with God and serving him and being more spiritual, we don't just say. We do.

Christianity is a life of action in serving God and doing what God wants. And that's how we prove that we love God. We keep his word.

And the more we keep his word, the more God's love is perfected in us. The more God's love is perfected in us, the more God's love is projected from us, and we get to show it to

others. So it says if you say you abide in him, you are in him, part of him.

Like he taught about abiding in John earlier, about how he is the vine, we are the branches. We abide in him. In other words, we get all of our power, all of our energy, all of our life from him.

That's abiding. So ask yourself this question. First, the most important question.

Do I know Jesus Christ as my savior? Am I 100% sure that when I die, I'm going to heaven? If not, none of this other stuff matters. Because that's where it starts, salvation. But then if you are saved, if you are born again, if you have accepted Christ, if you are a child of God, are you living like that? Are you walking like Christ walked? Think about the way he walked.

There were people that were calling him names for what he was teaching. He used a few words of God to counter it and moved on. He didn't get angry.

He just moved on. He was arrested falsely, and he just continued to follow the father. He said some things against the religious leaders that would curl your hair, but he said this is what you're doing wrong.

He stood up for the truth because he is truth, and that's what he wants us to do. Let's bow our heads, please, for just a moment. We need to walk renewed.

We need to walk in such a way that the world will see us and instantly say there's something different about them. But in order to do so, we need to choose not to sin. We need to choose to obey God.

We need to choose to love one another. But more than just choosing, we need to put these into action. As we go to the Lord in prayer, ask yourself, do I live a life of obedience to God? Do I follow what he teaches? Do I live so others will know in all of my actions that I truly am a child of God? If not, now's a good time to go to him.

Ask his forgiveness, ask for his direction. Ask for his guidance. Let's pray together, Heavenly Father.

Lord God, we thank you for what you teach us in your word. We thank you, Lord, for the salvation that we have through Jesus Christ. When we trusted him, his shed blood was a propitiation for our sins.

They're gone. We're thankful, yet still in the flesh, Lord, we may have problems. We're thankful, Lord, that you are a comforter, our advocate.

But, Lord, as we live here on earth, sometimes it gets tough to follow your word. Help us, Lord, to draw ourselves closer and closer to you through prayer, through fellowship, through study of your word, through allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in all things.



Lord, help us to be like you.

We ask this in Jesus' name, amen. Amen.

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