

“I declare!”

Lesson for Sunday, February 16, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 1:5-2:2

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Start with a class effort to quote the memory verse from chapter 1 – vs. 7
 - Today we move into chapter 2. The verse we will memorize is vs. 15.
- ⇒ QUESTION: What are the biggest problems we are facing in today’s world?
- ⇒ After some discussion, point out that humanity’s greatest obstacle is our sin problem. It is our most fundamental problem, and it impacts everyone.
- ⇒ Obviously, sin is not a popular subject in our day. People will go to great lengths to hide it, rationalize it or deny it.
- ⇒ Here’s the issue: If we have no sin then we have no need for a Savior.
- ⇒ John has an altogether different understanding both of sin and a Savior’s necessity. John teaches us in today’s text that if we learn a lot about a person when we discover what they believe about Jesus and what they think about sin.

CONTEXT:

- ⇒ 1 John 1:5 is the basis for 1:6-2:2 and is the foundation for 1:6-3:10, which makes up half of the book.
 - 1 John 1:5-3:10 emphasizes the truth that God is light.
 - The second half of the letter, 3:11-5:12, emphasizes the truth that God is love.
- ⇒ Following his declaration in 1:5 that “God is light,” John will weave together six “if” clauses and three “if we say” statements.
- ⇒ Nine times he will use the word “sin,” and two times the word “darkness.”
- ⇒ John’s point: To think correctly about Jesus, you must think correctly about sin.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The world must know what God says about Himself (1:5)
 - a. The first phrase of verse 5 could be translated, “Now this is the Gospel message we have heard from Him.” We have a “good news” message that the world needs to hear!
 - i. The message concerns Jesus Christ who John has already thoroughly introduced to us in vs. 1-4.
 - ii. Jesus is the eternal Word of Life (1), Who has revealed to us eternal life (2) and is the Father’s Son and the source of our fellowship (3) and joy (4). This is what John thinks about Jesus.
 - b. We have a Gospel to announce – “which we have heard of Him.”
 - i. The perfect tense of the verb means this message is still ringing in our ears.
 - ii. It is a message we have heard from Him, Jesus Himself.
 - iii. And it is the Gospel message we continually “declare” to others.
 - iv. The heart of our message is that God has given us His Son who is both light and life.
 - c. We have a basic truth to affirm – “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”
 - i. John uses a double negative to emphasize this truth. For us that is bad grammar, but it is excellent theology.
 - ii. John is communicating that “God is light” means God has as His very nature and being the source of life.

- iii. Martin Luther wrote, “There is no darkness in Him, not even the slightest!”
 - iv. This is the message we must be passionate about to share with the world. We who have received the light must be a light to all.
- 2. The world must know what God says about sin (vs. 6-10)
 - a. John uses three “If we say” statements to help us see sin as we ought.
 - b. Do not lie to others (vs. 6-7).
 - i. Using an inclusive “we,” John makes a negative assertion (6) and a positive observation (7).
 - ii. The verb “walk” is in the present tense and speaks of a continuous and consistent pattern of life.
 - iii. When we say we know God, but our beliefs and behaviors contradict our words, we lie to others about who we are.
 - c. Do not lie to yourself (vs. 8-9).
 - i. John is describing a spiritual posture that says, “I have no sin, and I do not need a Savior.”
 - ii. John’s judgment is to the point: “You are deceiving yourself.”
 - d. Do not lie about God (vs. 10).
 - i. There is a sequence John is proposing: Lie to others (6) and lie to yourself (8), and soon you will lie about God (10).
 - ii. When we talk about sin, we must say what God says. God says we are sinners and need a Savior.
- 3. The world must know what God says about Jesus (2:1-2)
 - a. John changes his tone from chapter 1 with “My little children.” He has clearly pointed out our sin problem and now he offers the solution.
 - b. Jesus is our Advocate (1)
 - i. The word is *parakletos* in the Greek. All the other references that use this word in NT are referring to the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Only here it is a reference to the Lord Jesus who is able to be our advocate because He is the righteous one.
 - iii. The word means helper – Jesus is the helper we need when we sin. He is the cleanser of sin (1:7), the forgiver of sin (1:9) and the helper when we do sin.
 - c. Jesus is our Atonement (2)
 - i. The key word is “propitiation.” When we find this word in the NT it always appears in the context of the work of Christ.
 - ii. Through Jesus’s sacrifice for us on the cross He reconciled the world to Himself (2 Cor. 5:19) – He became our propitiation.
 - iii. Through Jesus and His blood, we can become right with God.
 - iv. (Note: Jesus’s sacrifice was for “the whole world.” No one is beyond His reach which means we cannot witness to the wrong person!)

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ This text should warm our hearts and ignite our lips to “declare” to the world the Gospel.
- ⇒ Use this time to talk about how we can share the Gospel and witness more effectively. Encourage them to be here Wednesday night for Preacher’s evangelism training.
- ⇒ Share some testimonies in class about recent opportunities people may have had to witness.