

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 1 John 2

John Preaches What We Know

By Love ~ Keeping Jesus' Commandments

*1 John 2:1-17*

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 A.D. ~ Pastor Matthew Diehl

**1 John 2:1** My little children, (Little children or children 5)

I am writing these things to you that you may not sin.

And if anyone sins, (sin or sins 4)

we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

<sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;

and not for ours only,

but also for *those of* the whole world.

The first two sentences of 1 John 2 will make many ministers preaching from pulpits today cringe. I mean, the text lends to the possibility that mankind has a problem; in fact, a sin problem. John uses the word “sin” three times in the first two sentences. The audacity of the man; judgmental, many will say. These sentences will not only make some preachers cringe and shrink back from the Word of God, but many church-goers will be headed for the door. No, it’s not the health-and-wealth-gospel of today, not the name-it-claim-it-gospel of today. The only item to which John points that we should name and claim is our sin. Perhaps, during today’s sermon, in some places, they will weather the storm and then not come back for more the next Sunday or forever, which is exactly what Satan wants.

Satan desires for mankind not to deal with their sin problem. -Under the coaching of Satan, fallen man hears the devil whisper in his ear, “Do what you want, for it is God who does not want you to be like Him” (Genesis 3). Sound familiar? It does not take a Bible scholar to know these are the words that Satan, the snake, in the Garden of Eden spoke to Eve (Genesis 3:5). Satan does not care if you have a sin problem. The more sin the better for him. Satan’s goal is to deceive as many as he can away from the eternal arms of our loving God and Father in Heaven. Satan wants you to have a sin problem.

There are two things Satan definitely does not want you to realize. One is that you have a sin problem, and the other is how to fix your sin problem. In the first two sentences of 1 John 2, God, speaking through John, addresses both of these that Satan does not want you to realize or know. Therefore, John dives right into the fact that we may have a sin problem and, if anyone does, then here is a how-to ‘correct the problem’ solution. You have an advocate, an attorney, but not just any attorney. This attorney did not graduate from the world’s most prestigious law schools. This attorney is not a member of any bar association. This attorney has never practiced at the Supreme Court. This attorney wants no retainer fee before He hears your case. As a matter-of-fact, this attorney has already paid your bill in advance. In addition, this attorney has already heard your offenses, and He automatically receives your case regardless of what you have done. This attorney has taken on the most severe offenders that the world has ever seen who came to Him and surrendered to His counsel, to His terms, and accepted His payment for their wrong-doing, their sin. Under His terms, this attorney has never lost a case. I see that knowing the facts, all should accept this advocate John presents. By the way, this attorney must be a busy person. John declares that He stands in for the whole world.

Now we must remember what John has already written in chapter one verse 8-10 to Believers, to the recipients of this letter the Lord directed him to send to them.

1 John 1:8-10 <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us

I like the way John starts chapter two, “My little children”. These are caring, nurturing, mentoring, fatherly and enduring words. John must have had a tremendous relationship with the initial audience that received his letter. “My little children” I mean, who do you address that way? John must have met them and lived life with them and shared in hardship with them. Remember, John writes these letters toward the end of his life. He was at least above the age of seventy and most likely into his eighties. He was a father-figure to them. We reflect upon the letter we call Revelation which is written to the seven churches in Asia. John had a large readership.

John deeply cares for his audience. These are also the words of God. God is the author; John is the writer. Therefore, God also sees us as His little children, for He is our Father in Heaven. This term is used five times in chapter two.

The word “know” is used fourteen times in chapter two. “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The 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.” It seems to be a paradox. In 1 John 1:8-10, we are told that we are lying if we say we have no sin.

So, therefore, we sin which means that we obviously have not kept all the commands of the Lord. It is a good thing that Jesus answered this paradox for us when He responded to the Scribe who asked Jesus what is the greatest commandment.

**Mark 12:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;

<sup>30</sup> AND **YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD** YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

<sup>31</sup> "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**' There is no other commandment greater than these."

<sup>32</sup> The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM;

<sup>33</sup> AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE'S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

Jesus sums up the ability to keep His/God's commandments is empowered by LOVE of God and neighbor.

### John 15:9-12

<sup>9</sup> "Just as the Father has loved Me,

I have also loved you; abide in My love.

<sup>10</sup> "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;  
just as I have kept My Father's commandments  
and abide in His love.

<sup>11</sup> "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

<sup>12</sup> "This is My commandment, that you love one another,  
just as I have loved you

### Abiding in Jesus' Commandments

Keeping the commandments of Jesus is empowered by LOVE.

John writes in John 15:9-2 that **abiding (staying) in the LOVE** of Jesus gives us the ability to keep the Father's commandments. Consistent with this teaching, 1 John 2:5 proclaims that whoever keeps His word that **in him the LOVE of God has truly been perfected**. Jesus does give a number of commandments during His ministry years. In **Matthew 5:21-48**, Jesus makes seven commands of which six are correcting (*you have heard ancients were told, but I tell you*) the Jew's misunderstanding of the Law. The seventh command in this teaching is Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**."

The old/new commandment is part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus corrected Jewish understanding of the Law (**Matthew 5:21-22**). Like Jesus, John ties Love, Light and perfection together.

**Matthew 5:14-16** <sup>14</sup> "You are the **light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* **light** a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives **light** to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> "**Let your light shine**

before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Here in Matthew 5 Jesus talks about light. Then in the giving of the sixth “commandment correction” (Matthew 5:43-47), in this series, He brings in *love* and the *love of your neighbor* which is part of the greatest commandments (Matthew 22:33-40). So, Believers are the light to the world who love our friends and our enemies. This is the love of God perfected in us. This is how we become perfect. Not by our works in us, but by God’s love-light working in and through us. This is abiding in Jesus. Those is John 6 thought they were abiding in Jesus until He asked them to drink His blood and eat His flesh. They were abiding in their temporal concept of Messiah. However, Jesus, the Christ Messiah, who came to defeat sin and death, and give His flesh and blood for the atoning sacrifice for our sins, is not of this world (John 8:22-24 18:35-37). We who abide in the real Jesus of the Bible, and not make Him into our own version, abide to the end.

Matthew. 5:43-48 <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.**' <sup>44</sup> "But I say to you, **love your enemies** and **pray** for those who persecute you,

<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> "**For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?** Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

<sup>48</sup> "**Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

## TEXT OF 1 JOHN 2

**1 John 2:1** My **little children**, (Little children or children 5)

I am writing these things to you that you may not **sin**.

And if anyone **sins**, (sin or sins 4)

we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

<sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our **sins**;

and not for ours only,

but also for *those of* the whole world.

<sup>3</sup> And by this we **know** that we have come to **know** Him,

if we **keep His commandments**.

<sup>4</sup> The one who says,

"I have come to **know** Him," (KNOW 14)

and does **not keep His commandments**,

is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him;

<sup>5</sup> but whoever **keeps His word**,

In him the **love** of God has truly been perfected. (love 6)

By this we **know** that we are in Him:

<sup>6</sup> the one **who says he abides** in Him (abides 6)

ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

86 commandment + 147 commandments (NAU)

In its primary meaning, the [Hebrew](#) word **mitzvah** ([/'mitsvə/](#);<sup>[1]</sup> meaning "commandment", מצוה, [\[mits'va\]](#), [Biblical](#): *mišwah*; plural מצוות *mitzvot* [\[mits'vot\]](#), [Biblical](#): *mišwoth*; from צוה *šivvah* "command") refers to precepts and commandments commanded by God.

It is used in [rabbinical Judaism](#) to refer to the [613 commandments](#) given in the [Torah](#) at [biblical Mount Sinai](#) and the [seven rabbinic commandments](#) instituted later for a total of 620. The 613 commandments are divided into two categories: 365 negative commandments and 248 positive commandments. According to the [Talmud](#), all [moral laws](#) are, or are derived from, [divine commandments](#). The collection is part of the larger Jewish law or [halakha](#).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzvah>

### **Christian Assemblies International, "Pentecostal" influence**

There are **1,050** commands in the New Testament for Christians to obey. Due to repetitions, we can classify them under 69 headings. They cover every phase of man's life in his relationship to God and his fellowmen, now and hereafter. If obeyed, they will bring rich rewards here and forever; if disobeyed, they will bring condemnation and eternal punishment.

<https://www.cai.org/bible-studies/1050-new-testament-commands>



## Continued Text of 1 JOHN 2

<sup>7</sup> Beloved,

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.

<sup>8</sup> On 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. ( Light 3)

[ NEW COMMANDMENT ]

<sup>9</sup> The one who says he is in the **light** and yet hates his brother

is in the **darkness** until now. (darkness 5) ([Matthew 5:21:22](#))

<sup>10</sup> The one who **loves** his brother **abides** in the **light**

and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

<sup>11</sup> But the one who hates his brother ([Matthew 5:21:22](#))

Is in the **darkness** and walks in the **darkness**,

and does not know where he is going

because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children,

because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers,

because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

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.

<sup>14</sup> I 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.

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world, . . . nor the things in the world.

If anyone loves the world, . . . the love of the Father is not in him.

<sup>16</sup> For 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.

<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away,  
and *also* its lusts;  
but the one who does the will of God **abides forever**.

<sup>18</sup> **Children**, it is the last hour;  
and just as you heard that antichrist is coming,  
even now many antichrists have arisen;  
from this we **know** that it is the last hour.

<sup>19</sup> They 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*,  
in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all **know**.

<sup>21</sup> I 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.

<sup>22</sup> Who 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.

<sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son

does not have the Father;

the one who confesses the Son

has the Father also.

<sup>24</sup> As 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.

<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise which He Himself made to us:

eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> These things I have written to you

concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

<sup>27</sup> And as 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.

<sup>28</sup> And now, 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.

<sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous,

you know that everyone also who practices righteousness

is born of Him.

### [Encyclopedias - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia - Abide](#)

Old English word signifying progressively to "await," "remain," "lodge," "sojourn," "dwell," "continue," "endure"; represented richly in Old Testament (King James Version) by 12 Hebrew and in New Testament by as many Greek words. In the Revised Version (British and American) displaced often by words meaning "to sojourn," "dwell," "encamp." The Hebrew and Greek originals in most frequent use are yashabh, "to dwell"; meno, "to remain." "Abide (sit or tarry) ye here" ([Genesis 22:5](#)); "The earth abide (continueth) forever" ([Ecclesiastes 1:4](#)); "Who can abide (bear or endure) the day?" ([Malachi 3:2](#)); "Afflictions abide (await) me" ([Acts 20:23](#)). The past tense abode, in frequent use, has the same meaning. "His bow abide (remained) in strength" ([Genesis 49:24](#)); "There he abide" (dwelt) ([John 10:40](#)).

Abode, as a noun (Greek mone) twice in New Testament: "make our abide with him" ([John 14:23](#)); "mansions," the Revised Version, margin "abiding-places" ([John 14:2](#)). The soul of the true disciple and heaven are dwelling-places of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Dwight M. Pratt

### OVERCOMER~ OVERCOME

[1 John 2:13](#) -14 - I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning 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.

14 I 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.

### Overcomer Verses

[John 16:33](#) These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**"

[1 John 4:4](#) - You are from God, little children, and have **overcome** them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

[Hebrews 7:25](#) Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

### The FACT for Believers

[John 10:28-30](#) and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." I and the Father are one.

[1 John 5:4-5](#) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

[Ephesians 1:13](#) In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

[Ephesians 4:30](#) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (David grieved H.S.)

### Fate of the Overcomers

[Romans 8:37](#) - But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

[Romans 8:29-30](#) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

[Revelation 2:17](#) - 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches **To him who overcomes**, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

## **Proof of your salvation:**

### **Overcomers to The END will be saved.**

**Hebrews 3:6** but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are, **if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end**.

**Philippians 1:6** *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*

**1 Corinthians 1:3-8** <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> **who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Revelation 2:26](#) - 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

**Matthew 10:22** "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end **who will be saved**."

[Revelation 2:11](#) 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches **He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.**'



[Revelation 2:7-11](#) 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches **To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life** which is in the Paradise of God.' "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan

[Revelation 3:5](#)- 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

[Revelation 3:12](#) - 'He who overcomes, **I** will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

[Revelation 3:21](#) - 'He who overcomes, **I will** grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

[Revelation 12:11](#) - "**And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb** and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

### **From the Foundation of the World**

It is understood that many are frustrated because they do not know what God knows. The world is full of organizations and individuals who claim to be the gate-keeper to heaven. They claim to have the knowledge, the path to God. This is what the serpent challenged Eve with in the Garden. "*your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil*" (Gen. 3:5).

Eve said, “*and that the tree was desirable to make one wise,*” (Gen. 3:6). Man has since pursued being like God; knowing what He knows. Man wants to be wise like God. The biblical reality is that God is the only gate-keeper.

The reason we are predestined (Romans 8:29,30; Ephesians 1:5) is because He has known (All Knowing God) since the foundation of the world who will surrender to His Holy Spirit conviction. Believers are predestined to overcome; due to our exercise of *free-will-choice*. Thereby, surrendering to God. Again, God knows who will and who will not surrender. He then predestines us to complete the work He started in us (see list above: Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 1:8). We will have ups and downs, like Noah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David and the rest, but we will make it. We may grieve God’s Holy Spirit at times, like those in the above list, but we are sealed (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30) not to be snatched from His hand (see above - John 10:28-30). We bring our life practices to the light and have our lives examined (John 3:21).

**Matthew 25:34** "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from **the foundation of the world**."

**Ephesians 1:1-8** **1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the **foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons (Romans 8:29) through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

<sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

**Revelation 13:7-8** <sup>7</sup> It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

<sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from **the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb** who has been slain.

**Revelation 17:7-8** <sup>7</sup> And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

<sup>8</sup> "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, **whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

We therefore, have a loving God who keeps His Word even though we often fail on our end. However, our hearts are moving in the right direction. We are maturing through sanctification, with reverence and trembling at times, for it is God who is at work in us

(Philippians 2:12,13). For it is God who is faithful to forgive us (1 John 1:5-10).