

God is for Us

I John 2:1-6

6/10/07

Intro

Little children, John writes in chapter 2. And with these tender words he then writes strong words of instruction about how we should live our lives.

It is in this chapter we learn some important insights in our faith regarding our relationship with God; that God is for us, even if we sin, for example. John gives specific insights into how Christ is our Advocate with the Father so that we who are sinners can have a relationship to God through Christ.

If Christ has made a way for us to have a relationship to God, then we must take full advantage of the opportunity and grow in it so that we see the changes in our lives that we need.

**These are insights into our relationship to God
and how our lives can be changed.**

I. God is Still Changing Lives

A. God wants us to choose life

- John says he is writing so that we do not sin.
- We were discussing recently that we have provision for changing our lives. This is what God wants; He doesn't want us to be hurt when we don't need to be.

- In truth, sin brings death, but God changes our lives for the better, for our good.

Illus – Recently I heard a radio program and an author was on who had written a book about how religion was bad for the world. Speaking only for Christianity, I know so many people who would tell you that they would be destroyed if it weren't for Christ.

It reminds me of a parable I heard from Ravi Zacharias. If you decided to take a shortcut home one night and your car broke down in the bad part of town, and then out of a nearby house come 8 or 9 burly guys, would it or would it not make any difference if you knew they were coming from a bible study?

- Literally, what John is saying is that he is writing that we not miss the mark and the result is death.
 - We can die to self,
 - Or we can die because of self.

Romans 6:21, Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days.

B. We have an advocate

- This is one of the most amazing aspects of our faith, that Christ is our Advocate with the Father.

- The work advocate is ‘paracletos’ and it means, ‘one who comes alongside.’
- In addition, he comes alongside for our good. He is for us.

App – Many people are convinced that God turns away from them when they falter and that He works against them.

- But this verse tells us that nothing could be further from the truth, Jesus ‘represents us’ to the Father and reconciles us to God.

Illus – If one my children gets into trouble, I want them to come to me and I will be their advocate. I refuse to throw them under the bus.

Romans 8:33-34, Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

II Corinthians 5:18-19, Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- On what basis does He advocate for us? On the basis of His work on the cross, He is the propitiation for our sins.

- It means that He ‘satisfied’ the requirements of God’s righteous judgment.

App – Someone once suggested that when Jesus paid for our sins, he paid the debt to Satan in order to purchase us from his hold on our lives. No way! Jesus paid the debt to God whose righteous judgments must be fulfilled.

II. How You Know that You Know God

A. If we willingly keep His Word

- As our Advocate, Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God the Father, now we need to take full advantage of that opportunity and fully enter in.
- But the relationship is based on the fact that He is God and therefore is the Lord, the One who directs our lives.
- Keeping His Word is supposed to be a thing. God has the best in mind and keeping His Word brings that about in our lives.

Illus – a father was working with his young son on how to hit a baseball. Every Sunday afternoon they would work together, “watch and wait,” he kept saying.

Finally, at their first game his son was up to bat. He hit a great shot over the third baseman and ran home. The dad was there to celebrate, “You did what I said! You did what I said!”

Luke 6:47-48, “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”

- In John 2 at the first miracle of Jesus, we see an example of listening to the Lord in anticipation that He is about to do something.

John 2:3-5, When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

B. May God’s love be completely in us

- In verse 5 we get a sense that there is a growing of God’s love in us as we grow in our relationship to the Lord.
- The key is in understanding that what He asks is not a heavy burden. “My yoke is easy, my burden is light,” Jesus said.

I John 5:3, For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

- Without love, we are nothing, the scripture says, but then God is building something when the love of God increases.

I Corinthians 13:1-6 The one who is patient, kind, etc is truly something.

C. Walk as He walked

- In verse 6 John writes that the one who abides in Him ought to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- The idea is that it is not enough to understand the theory of what God says, we must do it; we must put it into practice.

Illus – What makes an artist? We can study concepts, but we must put the color to the canvas, and anticipate that we increase as we continue.

- He is our example, John writes, and we must live in the same qualities and the same heart as He lived.

John 13:15-17, “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

Illus – The African pastors and I went to the Calvary Chapel Senior Pastors conference this last week. The trip down and back tested our patience and grace, but we were constantly reminded of how we should respond – as Christ.

These lessons were as important as anything we learned at the conference.