

## *That You May Know*

Sin and Salvation — 1 John 2:1-2  
January 27, 2019

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. **-1 John 2:1**

### I. DO NOT SIN...BUT IF YOU DO

- John does not want us to consider sin lightly (John 8:34; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:56).
- At the same time, John does not want us to live a defeated life. The goal is not to sin, but when sin enters the picture, Jesus is there to plead our defense (Rom. 8:33-34).
- The second and third Persons of the Trinity are advocates for us (John 14:15-17; 16:7-11; Rom. 8:26-27).

### II. PROPITIATION FOR A WORLD OF SIN

- Propitiation: a sacrifice that both appeases the wrath of God and inclines Him toward us in favor.
- John has told us that in the blood of Jesus lies cleansing and forgiveness. Now he tells us how that took place. There is clear O.T. imagery here (Lev. 16:30; Heb. 9:22; Eph. 2:13; 1 John 1:7-10).
- The differences between pagan sacrifices and the redeeming work of Christ are numerous:
- Christ's sacrifice was not a human arrangement but a divine gift (Lev. 17:11).
- The action was initiated by God (John 3:16; Rom. 8:3-4).
- It is an act of love by God toward humans, not humans trying to appease an angry God (1 John 4:10).
- We are saved from the wrath of God by the love of God through a gift from God (Ps. 78:38; 85:1-3; Micah 7:18-19; Eph. 2:8-9).
- Salvation is available to all. The work of Jesus on the cross is sufficient for all humankind. Christ is the general Savior of the world, and the particular Savior of all who believe (vs. 2; John 1:9, 29; Rev. 7:9).

**KNOW:** Sin is real and it must be dealt with. For those who are in Christ, it was dealt with, is being dealt with, and will be dealt with in the work of Jesus, who now speaks as our Advocate.

**DO:** Do not sin, but when you do, look to your Advocate.

### Suggested Reading:

*Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus* by D.A. Carson  
(LifePoint Library #230 CAR)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read 1 John 2:1-2

1. John tells us the reason for why he is writing "these things." What is that reason?
2. Is it fair for John to call us to stop sinning?
3. Talk about the "advocacy" of Jesus. What is it about?
4. Talk about "propitiation." What is it about?
5. If Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, why isn't everyone saved?
6. What challenges you in John's words from our text from Sunday?
7. What application will you make in your own life from this text?