

Parish Presbyterian Church - Lesson 2 - Feb 22, 2020
1 John 1:1-2:2 - Lifeless or Living?

Review from last time - Christ is our Ultimate Assurance, The fruit of assurance is for our encouragement. But what happens when the evidences are absent? Ezekiel 37:23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Gotta Serve Somebody - Who's it gonna be?

1 John 5:20-21 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little Children, keep yourself from idols. esv. (cf John 17:3)

Psalm 115:3-9 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. O Israel, trust in the LORD!

1 John 1:1-4 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have contemplated and what our hands have touched concerning the word of life. 2 _and the life was made visible, and we have perceived it and we bear witness and we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the father and revealed to us_ 3 What we have perceived and we have heard we proclaim to you, in order that you also may have fellowship with us. And yet indeed our fellowship is with the father and with his son Jesus Christ. 4 And we write these things to you, in order that our joy may be fulfilled.

The Problem - What is the problem? _____ 1:1-2

Definition - 1) The worship of a physical object as a god. 2) Immoderate attachment or devotion to something. (cf Eph 5:5, Col 3:5-6)

Is this John's Polemic against false god's? Early christians were accused of being Atheists for not having many Idols. "We Become like them" - Spiritually Deaf & Blind. What are your Idols of the Heart? Pride? Lust? Anger?

John's Pastoral Concern - is our Fellowship with God and with One Another.

John's Pastoral Message - 1:5 - 2:2 - One truth statement v5, Five verses of contrasts, Three false claims of self deception v6,8,10. Two verses of Truth v7,9. An examination of fellowship with God.

Truth - V5

And this is the message which we have heard from him and that we proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Light is Righteousness. Light is Holiness. Darkness is sin. Sin and Righteousness can not fellowship together!

False Claim - V6

If we say that we have fellowship with him and we walk in darkness, we lie and do not do the truth.
(Claiming fellowship while walking in sin makes us liars and hypocrites. Gnostic Antinomianism)

Truth - V7

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son purifies us from all our sin. (Want fellowship with God? Make friends at Church :)

False Claim - V8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
(Claiming perfectionism is self deception. Pelagianism)

Truth - V9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

False Claim - V10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
(Claiming we have not sinned makes God a liar and we are devoid of the truth.)

The Prescription - How is my sin countered?

What two instructions does John give us to fight sin and idolatry? _____ 1:7, and _____ 1:9

The Person - Who and what deals with our sin and idolatry? _____ 2:2

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

The Promise -

2:1 My Little children, I am writing these things to you in order that you all might not sin. But if anyone does sin we have an advocate with the father Jesus Christ the righteous.

2:2 Also He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the entire world.

The New Covenant - Jeremiah 33:8

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

John 1:4 - In him was life, and the life was the light of men. What is the Promise? _____

Application Questions - What are the idols of our hearts? Ask God to show us the Idolatry of our hearts.

Why would we not confess?

Bryan Chapell - “Repetition of a sin is no reason to abandon confession.”

The other side of repentance is the promise of cleansing!

The more we see our sin, in the light of God’s truth it should drive us to Christ in confession. And when we confess it leads to greater fellowship!

Note -

John is not requiring sinlessness.

To be seen as righteous by God does not require sinless perfectionism.

Greek Tidbit - The first word of 1 John in the Greek is a neuter relative pronoun ὅ “ha” translated, “What” or “That Which”. The masculine translation of the relative pronoun would be ὁς “hos” translated “Who”. John is **not** using the Masculine. This grammar helps us identify what John is writing about. John is proclaiming the historical revelation of the eternal life, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**For Further Study - Zechariah 3, WCF Chap 6, 8, 15, Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 91-106, 146-153
Commandment 1 & 10, biblehub.com**

For Next Week - 1 John 2:3 - 2:17 - Christ our Commandment Keeper

All 1 John Passages are from my translation, BRG Translation / ben@parishpres.org