

## 1 John 2 -The Cosmic Battle

1st May 2022 -1 John 1:5-2:2

Jeremy introduced John, showing him as an authentic witness to all that Jesus came to do and His good news. We begin to unpack the authentic message of God for us through John.

John's message is very unique because:

- (1) he walked with Jesus for three years
  - (2) witnessed his crucifixion and resurrection
  - (3) was a witness to the fulfilment of Jesus' prediction re the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Of the 12 apostles, John - the last man standing.

As God's children, we are in a cosmic lifelong battle. We must never forget that the devil is hard at work. In this era, the pursuit of pleasure is valued above all else. Old values and traditions are being torn down and the meaning of the word 'normal' is being twisted. We must be careful. We cannot pretend we don't see. So, what do we do with what we see?

**Implications of God is light** John uses a metaphor in vs5-God is light

- He is absolute light. No lurking shadows, no hidden agenda/secrets, no small print.

- God is absolutely perfect & pure -No sin within Him- flawless –without any fault. Everything God does is perfect Matthew 5:48b

-God is holy- There is no dark side of God because He is perfect light. *Light shines in the darkness & the darkness has not overcome it.* John 1:5; 1 John1:5.

Christians continue to battle with sin. We all fail sometimes. Continually living in sin and not turning away from it, is what John refers to as "*walking in darkness*" in v6.

Verses 6, 8 & 10 start with claims by false teachers while verses 8 & 10 describe the life of true Christians.

**John exposes the false message of the Gnostics**- they claimed to have a special revelation of God, but their lifestyles and creed, didn't agree resulting in immoral living. No godliness in their lives. John says such teaching is a lie. He points to the fact that true followers of Christ walk in the Light resulting in a Christ-like life. And this life is shared by all those who belong to the true LIGHT.

Some people claim that they're good & obey the laws of the land, so they are not sinners. They fail to see that we are all born with a nature of sin that can only be made clean when we come to Jesus for cleansing.

**Walking in the light means living to please God.** Ps 119:105 describes a life in which God's Word is the guide. Walking" involves progress = Christian growth and maturity.

**Where do you/ stand in walking in the light of God?**

v9 If we confess our sins, *He forgives & purifies us*; describes the life of the true child of God. Such a person's lifestyle agrees with their testimony - a life demonstrating Christlikeness.

In Ch 2:1-2 We are encouraged to resist the temptation to sin. But if we do take the wrong step and our fellowship with God is broken, what can we do?

John's solution points us to Jesus. He calls Jesus two names that are incredibly important for us to understand: **Advocate and Atoning Sacrifice.**

**Advocate** applied to lawyers. It literally means “one called alongside.” Jesus finished His work on earth by sacrificing His life on the cross for our sin. But He is presently representing us in heaven before God’s throne as our High Priest and our Advocate. We can come to God in repentance and confession for forgiveness. and because of Christ’s advocacy God forgives us.

Jesus also the –**Atoning Sacrifice** (Propitiation) for our sins. A holy God can uphold His own justice and also forgive sinners only through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. At the cross, God judged sin. In His love, He provided a way for sinners to be forgiven.

**Application**-Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power, are you washed in His blood? Are you conscious of Jesus as your advocate walking alongside you daily?