

OUR FAITHFUL ADVOCATE

(1 John 2:1-2).

I. John reveals his purpose for writing.

- A. The phrase "little children" is unique to John.
 - 1. When John wrote this he was on up in years.
 - 2. He was writing to people who were much younger than himself, and about whom he cared very much.
 - 3. The phrase indicates a relationship between one who has taught the gospel to someone else and feels spiritual concern for them because of this relationship.
 - 4. Much like Paul calling Timothy his son in the faith.
- B. He writes to encourage those for whom he feels this deep care not to sin.
 - 1. John knew that they were going to sin.
 - 2. He said as much in verses 7 and 9 of the first chapter.
- C. He wrote so that they would understand who God was and His characteristics.
 - 1. He is One in whom is no darkness.
 - 2. God the Father cannot stand sin and John's readers, being affected by Gnosticism, needed to know this.
- D. John's warning is against even isolated commissions of sin.
 - 1. Our fellowship with God and Christ rests on the fact that our sins are forgiven and that we continue to confess sins when they occur.
 - 2. When a sin is committed that relationship is in jeopardy if the sin is not dealt with as quickly as possible.
- E. John's purpose for writing is to get us not to sin or be influenced by sin so that our relationship with God is not hindered.

II. John describes the Person who partners with us.

- A. Knowing that we all have and will sin, there has to be some way for these sins to be dealt with to expunge them from our record.
- B. John reveals to us that Jesus is the Person that fills this role for us.
- C. God has not made this situation a one and done type situation.
 - 1. He has not said you have been forgiven and sins washed away at baptism and now if you mess up there is no recourse for you.
 - 2. No one would be saved if this were the case.
- D. Something that is great about John is he used the word "we."
 - 1. He did not say "you have an Advocate."
 - 2. He did not say "I am your Advocate."
 - 3. He showed his need for an Advocate by using we.
- E. The word "have" is interesting.
 - 1. It is in a tense meaning we keep on having.
 - 2. As long as we are walking in the light, repenting and confessing our sins, we have this Advocate.
- F. The word for "advocate" generally means to call to one's side, especially to call to one's aid.
 - 1. Specifically, it means one who pleads another's case before a judge.
 - 2. It is literally a counsel for defense or a legal assistant.
- G. The word "with" is important as well.
 - 1. It means, at, near, beside.
 - 2. Jesus is right there beside the Father, pleading our case as we repent of our sins.
 - 3. It shows His ability to immediately provide representation for us.
- H. Not only is He and Advocate but He is a righteous Advocate.
 - 1. Not just any advocate would do.
 - 2. There is no way that one who needs pleading done on his behalf could plead the case of others with God.
 - 3. Only the One who has not been stained by sin could plead with the Father on our behalf.

III. John reminds us of our Propitiation.

- A. Their must be a price paid for sin.
 - 1. If a law is broken, there is to be a price paid.
 - 2. Something has to be done to appease the one whose law is broken.
 - 3. If it is the city, state or federal government, there are fines or other sentences meted out to pay for the breakage of law.
- B. There has to be a price paid for sins as well.
- C. The word "propitiation" means appeasement.
 - 1. God's justice had to be appeased one way or the other.
 - 2. It could be appeased by our deaths or it could be appeased in some other way.
 - 3. God gave the appeasement in the sending of His Son.
- D. In the pagan world, the one seeking to appease his idol would make an appeasement offering.
 - 1. With God, He made the appeasement offering for us.
 - 2. This shows how much He wants to have a relationship with mankind.
 - 3. He seeks us out through the giving of His Son.
- E. There is nothing that you and I can bring to God that will appease His wrath over our sins.
 - 1. The offering of Christ has been made by Him.
 - 2. This is the only means of appeasing God.
- F. This appeasement was made for the whole world, not just for a certain group of people.
 - 1. This is another staggering blow to Calvinism.
 - 2. That false doctrine says that only Jesus died for only a select group of individuals.
 - 3. This verse tells us that Jesus died to appease God for the sins of every person that has lived, is living or will live.
- G. This appeasement is there for all, but we can neglect the aid given us by Jesus by refusing to be in fellowship with Him.