

I John 2:3-11

Week 8

Reviewing chapter 2:1-2

1. What does it mean that Jesus is our propitiation?
2. Does Jesus atonement take away the sins of the whole world?
(Read J. Calvin's quote – p. 173.)

Verses 3-6

- **And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**
 1. What is obedience, and why is it essential to the Christian life?
 2. What words in the text speak to our assurance?
 3. What did John mean when he said that we must walk as Jesus did?

Verses 7-8

- **Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.** (See MacArthur's comments on "New." Calvin: "...John reminds us, that he taught nothing respecting love but what had been heard by the faithful from the beginning, and by long usage had become old." Also, people are always longing for something new.)
 1. When was the "beginning" that John is talking about?
 2. What is this "commandment" that is both old and new?
 3. What is causing this darkness to dissipate?

Verse 9-11

- **He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.**
 1. In verses 9 & 10, John presented another test of true fellowship. What is it?
 2. Can we love God and hate our brother? Why or why not? What is hate?

Application

1. How do we live out our lives so Christ is seen in us?
2. What can we do to move from darkness into the light?
3. What can we do to both improve and show our love to our brothers and sisters?

Next week: Read 1 John 2:12-17 & read Going Deeper and consider the questions.