

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 7 | LESSON 24b

Letters – The Promise Explained Through the KING’S Church




God is a PROMISE Completing God

JESUS as the 1) **PROMISED KING** has 2) **RESCUED** His people through His Perfect Law Keeping Life and Sacrificial, Substitutionary Death on the Cross, whereby 3) **DEFEATING** the enemy of sin and death, and is 4) **RESTORING** them to the PLACE OF REST where Heaven and Earth are rejoined and God reigns and abides 5) so that His people shall be with Him forever for their **JOY**.

“Confessing Our Sins and Jesus as Lord”

1 John 1:5-2:2

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know who Jesus is and you are trusting in Him alone for your salvation from sin and death. Q – Why is falsehood so easy to believe?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose Jesus over all falsehood. Q – Sin is deceptive; how can you see sin for what it is and Jesus for who He is and what He has done?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray you will trust and see Jesus only. Q – It is easy to be distracted by “white noise.” How can you stop hearing all of the falsehood surrounding you and listen only to Jesus?</p>

EMPHASIS

The EMPHASIS of this lesson is . . .

As God’s people, we agree with Him concerning our sin and concerning who Jesus is and what Jesus did. We openly confess, “We can’t, But God can, and Jesus Did!” This confession marks the Christian Life.

John’s message is very clear: God is light and in Him there is no darkness. **Just as** Jesus is without darkness at all, **so also** are His people. God’s people are those who recognize their own sin and Jesus as their only Savior.

LITERARY CONTEXT

John presents his material through a series of contrasts. Each one of his purpose statements raises a standard against which error is measured and found to be wanting.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This series of readings find us studying **THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN**. It is a short letter [shortest in NT], but packed with wonderful truth. The early church was visited by “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (Acts 20:28, 29; 1 John 2:19). Their presence agitated the flock. Like real sheep when intruders are present, there is a significant unsettling affect that takes place. Pastor John works to identify the wolf and bring peace to his people. His intent is to calm the people **NOT CAUSE THEM AGITATION**. First John is not a test. First John is a reminder of all one has **IN CHRIST**. It is my prayer that John’s words would worm there way into our hearts and minds and bring the peace that is ours **IN CHRIST JESUS**.

STRUCTURE

JOHN’S BIG IDEA (2:1-2)

¹ **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that** you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

I. TWO GROUPS

A. **THE ‘WE’ GROUP** (1:5-10)

⁵ This is the message **we** have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If **we** say that **we** have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, **we** lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if **we** walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, **we** have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses **us** from all sin. ⁸ If **we** say that **we** have no sin, **we** are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in **us**. ⁹ If **we** confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive **us** our sins and to cleanse **us** from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If **we** say that **we** have not sinned, **we** make Him a liar and His word is not in **us**.

B. **THE ‘MY LITTLE CHILDREN’ GROUP** (2:1, 2)

¹ **My little children**, I am writing these things to **you** so that **you** may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

II. JOHN’S THESIS (V. 5)

As the incarnate **CHRIST** (vv. 1-4),
He is **still without** darkness **AT ALL** (v. 5)

III. JOHN'S ASSUMPTION

Just as Jesus is without darkness at all, **so also** His people.

If Jesus is the **INCARNATE CHRIST**.

- You cannot walk in sin (v. 6)
- You cannot say you have no sin (v. 8)
- You cannot say you are not sinning (v. 10)

IV. REMEMBER

IN CHRIST is the **cause**.

WALKING in the LIGHT is the **consequence**.

The flow is always (and only) one way. Being IN CHRIST changes one's walk. One's walk cannot change being IN CHRIST. Those two ideas are irreversible and inseparable.

Walking (v.7), confessing (v. 9), sinning (2:1) cannot change one's relationship to God; but one's relationship to God **IN CHRIST** changes one's walking, confessing, and sinning.

V. PROOF/EVIDENCE

- What Is True – The Thesis (1:5)
- What This Means – The Implications (1:6-2:2)
 - 6 GNOSTICS – the error | The Unbeliever
 - 7 THE LOCAL CHURCH – Truth | The Christian
 - 8 GNOSTICS – the error | The Unbeliever
 - 9 THE LOCAL CHURCH – Truth | The Christian
 - 10 GNOSTICS – the error | The Unbeliever
 - 2:1,2 THE LOCAL CHURCH – Truth | The Christian

Notice why 2:1, 2 complete the "**If/Then**" structure.

Each falsehood is met with a direct response.

Notice how it becomes intimate and pastoral ("My little children").

Q - "I am one of the confessors and yet I still sin, what am I to make of this?"

A - John answers that question in 2:1, 2.

PARALLEL IDEAS		
•ATTITUDE	•REALITY	•CONSEQUENCE
6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness	we lie	and do not practice the truth;
8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin,	we are deceiving ourselves	and the truth is not in us.
10 If we say that we have not sinned	we make Him a liar	and His word is not in us.

PARALLEL IDEAS		
•ATTITUDE	•REALITY	•CONSEQUENCE
7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light,	we have fellowship with one another,	and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
9 If we confess our sins,	He is faithful and righteous	to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2:1 ¶ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins,	we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;	2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

NOTICE THE PROGRESSION (1:6, 8, 10)

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet **walk in the darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth;

8 If we say that **we have no sin**, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that **we have not sinned**, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

6 Walking in darkness; practice darkness.

8 “NO SIN” - We have no personal guilt, no principle of sin.

10 “NOT SINNED” - Perfect active indicative. This is a denial of any specific acts of sin.

CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT

We run into significant problems, **IF** we do not keep this text in its historical context.

The sloppiness of verses 6, 8, and 10 are positions maintained by the Gnostics [i.e. the deceivers/liars].

The “attack” by John on the Gnostics is not directed at those within the local church.

The Church recognizes the truths of vv. 6, 8, 10.

1 John 2:1, 2 are the verses directed at those within the local church.

Notice 3 key words: **Practice** (v. 6), **Deceive** (v. 8) and **Liar** (v. 10).

Practice – synonyms in 1 John; walk, abide, keep, love

Deceivers and **Liars** are those who **deny** Jesus as INCARNATE CHRIST (Deceiver - 1 John 1:8; 2:26; 3:7; 4:6 / Liar – 1 John 1:6, 10; 2:4, 22; 4:20; 5:10)

3rd STRUCTURE

NOTICE THE PROGRESSION (1:7, 9, 2:1, 2)

7 but if we **walk in the Light** as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

9 If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And **if anyone sins**, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He

Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

THE ISSUE – 2 GROUPS

You either **confess** JESUS as the INCARNATE CHRIST

Or

You **reject** such a claim.

Thus, you are either **lost** without JESUS

Or

You are **saved** IN JESUS.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Jesus is the only one who brings us into the rest He provides. Because He is our Advocate, we need not fear agreeing with Him concerning our sins.

APPLICATION

THE ISSUE – 2 GROUPS

1. Do you recognize who you are in light of who He is? You are a sinner in desperate need of THE SAVIOR.
2. As believers we are not to sin . . . But when we sin we have an ADVOCATE and His name is JESUS.
3. JESUS is the only one who can satisfy God's justice against us.
 - The text does not call us to work backward, but to believe the Gospel. The "Fruit" cannot cause the "Seed." The "Seed" always causes the "Fruit."

VISUALS | CRAFTS

1. Make small 3x3 cards that match of the various contrasts in verses 1:5-2:2. Flip them over and then match them using a memory game idea.
2. Have cards describing what Christians do and cards describing what unbelievers do from 1:5-2:2. Flip them over and have the kids put the description in the right category [believer vs. unbeliever].

MEMORY VERSE

1 John 1:8-9

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and righteous** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

RESOURCES