

~1 John~

Lesson 11- Knowing that we are Abiding in Him

We are continuing our discussion on “Knowing that we know Him”, the assurance of being in Him and having Fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Last week we spent some time laying the foundation of what it means to “know that we know Him” or as the original Greek text says, “that we know we have come to know Him”. We learned that our assurance is in Jesus Christ, the Word of Life. Faith in Jesus as our Advocate and Propitiation. That in Him we can abide in the place of Mercy and have Fellowship with God. And then out from this assurance by faith, God has given us manifested proofs so that we can “know that we know” that we are in Fellowship with God unto eternal life, and not just eternal life, but eternal life with eternal glory.

Let’s begin by reading our text today. Last week we got through verse 3, and today we will continue studying verses 4-6. Let me read you these verses in my own translation including verses 1 and 2 since they tie together with our assurance of being in Him...

1 John 2:1–6-¹ *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins* [because we will], *we have an Advocate, with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous* [our Eternal High Priest who always lives to make intercession for us, granting us mercy from the wrath of God because] ² *He Himself is the propitiation* [the satisfying sacrifice of atonement to appease God’s Righteous Judgment] *for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world* [to all who would believe in Him]. ³ *And in this* [the fact that Jesus is our Savior] *in this... we know that we have come to know Him*, [and the condition and the manifested proof of knowing Him is that] *we continue to hold fast* [as precious] *His commandments* [which is to believe in the name of Jesus, who is the Word of God, and to love the brethren] ⁴ *He who says, “I know Him,” and does not hold fast His commandments* [as precious, and does not have these outward manifested proofs of knowing Him], *is a liar, and, in this, the truth is not existing.* ⁵ *But whoever holds fast His Word* [as precious], *truly, in this, the love of God is perfected. In this, we know that we are in Him.* ⁶ *He who* [is claiming to abide in Him] *ought himself also to walk just as* [this One] *walked.*

In this section, we are learning what it means to know Him and abide in Him, and John is giving us tests of Truth, manifested proofs of our assurance of being in Him. But as I pointed out last week, these proofs of assurance are only evident to those who are being sanctified. Because it is only in sanctification that we bear fruit, John 15:1-5; Romans 6:22, and the fruit is the manifested proof of our assurance in Him. In chapter 1, John gave us 4 proofs of those who are abiding in Him. Walking in the Light as He is in the Light, 1:7; we have Fellowship with the brethren, 1:7; the blood of Jesus is continually cleansing our soul of sin 1:7; and the faithful Christian is continually confessing his sin, 1:9. And in this section in chapter 2, verses 3-6, he gives us 4 more proofs, namely, we are holding fast His commandments as precious, 2:3; we love the brethren; we are holding fast His Word as precious, 2:5; and we walk just as He walked, 2:6.

Now in this section in chapter 2, verses 3-6, he gives us 4 more proofs. Last week we focused on verse 3, and we learned that keeping or holding fast His commandments as precious is a proof of our Fellowship in Him. And we learned that keeping His commandments is not a Legalistic means of keeping the Ten Commandments or an adherence to the Mosaic Law, but a loving obedience from the heart. Let’s read **1 John 2:3** and **5** again and compare these two verses with what John tells us in **1 John 3:23-24**. Keeping His commandments is...*that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

To gain more clarity, John circles around this idea of keeping His commandments many times. So just like the diagram of the inverted cone, each time he repeats a subject, he goes a little higher and a little wider. We will see the commandment come up again next week in 2:7-8; and then later in 4:21 and 5:2-3, each time giving us a little more clarity and understanding.

Keeping the commandments is the condition and the proof of eternal life. It is the condition because we believe in Jesus. It is the proof because, we love the brethren. And we will see many more proofs over the course of the remainder of the epistle, but this just shows how serious John is about making sure we have confidence and are assured in our everlasting life in Him.

Verse 4 begins by those claiming that they know God...

⁴ **He who says**, “I know Him,”...

ὁ λέγων Ἐγνωνκα αὐτόν

These impostors were saying that they “knew” God, ginosko, γινώσκω, to know Him intimately, but have no outward fruit to correspond with their confession. In fact, its not that they aren’t bearing any fruit, it is they are bearing bad fruit. They say one thing but are behaving differently. Now in 2:4 he brings this up again,

⁴ **He who says**, “I know Him,”...

and does not hold fast His commandments [as precious], is a liar, and, in this, the truth is not existing.

καὶ τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ μὴ τηρῶν, ψεύστης ἐστί, καὶ ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστιν.

He who says I know God intimately, He who says I have an intimate Fellowship with the Light, but walks in darkness, he is a liar, and not committed to the Truth. He doesn’t hold fast as precious His commandments; He doesn’t believe on the name of Jesus and he doesn’t love the brethren. This person is a liar, and the Truth does not even exist in a person like this. And how can it? Jesus is the Truth, His Word is Truth, He is the Word, if you aren’t holding his Word as precious, if you are not holding Jesus as precious in your life, but instead denying Jesus, the Truth cannot not exist in you. 2:22- *Who is a liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ.*

These are the “if we sayers” from chapter 1: 1 John 1:6- *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth [are not committed to the Truth].* 1:8- *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* 1:10- *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

These impostors were known as the Gnostics specifically led by a man named Cerinthus in Ephesus during John’s time and John is making a rebuttal against these Gnostic heresies. We spoke about these people and their false teachings back in lesson 5. They were claiming that they could have a perfect, intimate fellowship with God, and still live any way they wanted in this physical life. That the spirit and the flesh were completely separate. And their behavior in the flesh, in this physical life, had no bearing or consequence on their eternal soul and fellowship with God. They believed they could gain a perfect intimacy with God if they only elevated themselves to a higher knowledge of God. And in fact, their heresies even claimed that they could achieve this higher level of knowledge through experiencing hedonistic euphoric levels of pleasure on the is earth in this life. The Gnostic doctrine is simply the doctrine of demons, led by demonic spirits. There is no purity, no sanctification, no denying the flesh, no call to holiness. This is why Jesus said, “you will know them by their fruit”. They might claim they “know” God, but they are as Paul says in Titus 1:16- professing to know God but in works deny Him...

A major part of this letter is to expose these deceiving spirits. In 2:26 he tells us this is one of the reasons he is writing this letter. So far we have seen the comparisons with these deceivers in verses 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, and we will see another comparison later in chapter 2, verses 9-11, 15. In verses 2:18-19, John exposes these “antichrists”, those who oppose Christ. And later in the book we see John mention them again. Throughout this letter, John continually circles around this topic for two reasons: 1) to expose the darkness, and 2) to assure believers in the Truth.

And now almost 2,000 years later, we still see the effects of Gnosticism in our world and even within the modern church. The Gnostic heresies made a big surge in the West in the late 19th century with the age of innovation and discovery. This gave rise to a higher level of thinking and created a mindset of selfishness. False religions such as Mormonism and New Age thinking stemmed from Gnosticism. Darwinism and evolution was invented and people

began claiming that they were gods themselves. Gnostic manuscripts of the New Testament were discovered, and this led to our New Testament being re-written in 1881 by Westcott and Hort.

This gnostic, liberal thinking rejects the Truth. There is no standard for Truth, and they say Truth is whatever you make it to be. It has created a false mindset of selfishness. And they try to deceive Christians and sway them away from the Truth. This is what Satan has been trying to do from the beginning; to get us to doubt God's Word. "Has God really said?" and she saw the tree was desirable to make one wise, to be like God, Gen 3:1-6. This is self exaltation. Trying to become like God without God.

But those who are rooted in the Truth will not be deceived. We can't be swayed away from the Truth. This is why John is writing this letter. To expose the darkness and give faithful Christians the confidence to endure and persevere through the deceptions of the enemy, *so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming*, 2:28.

This leads us into verses 5 and 6. Lets look at verse 5: *But whoever holds fast His Word [as precious], truly, in this, the love of God is perfected. In this, we know that we are in Him*. The one who is rooted in God's Word. The one who is rooted in Jesus Christ.

Remember last week I showed you how John is using this ἐν τούτῳ, statement to link his thoughts together. We see John use ἐν τούτῳ, twice in verse 5. *In this we know that we are in Him*. How do we know? Because the love of God is perfected. And how is the love of God perfected? In the fact that *he who hold fast His Word as precious, truly, in this the love of God is perfected*.

<p>1 John 2:3-6-³ Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν, ἐὰν τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ τηρῶμεν. ⁴ ὁ λέγων "Ἐγνώκα αὐτόν, καὶ τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ μὴ τηρῶν, ψεύστης ἐστί, καὶ ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστιν. ⁵ ὃς δ' ἂν τηρῇ αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον, ἀληθῶς ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ τετελείωται. ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐσμεν.</p>	<p>1 John 2:1-3-¹ ... we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins... ³ And in this we know that we have known Him, if we hold fast His commandments. ⁴ He who says "I know Him" and does not hold fast His commandments, he is a liar, and in this, the Truth does not exist. ⁵ But he who holds fast His Word, truly, in this, the love of God is perfected. In this we know that we are in Him.</p>
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⁵ But whoever holds fast His Word [as precious], truly, in this, the love of God is perfected.

ὃς δ' ἂν τηρῇ αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον, ἀληθῶς ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ τετελείωται.

In verse 5, John places the emphasis in the Word of Life. That's the foundation of this entire epistle. Notice this special Greek word, logos, λόγος. This is the Word, logos, λόγος, that was in the beginning with God, John 1:1, the Word, logos, λόγος, that became flesh and dwelt with us, John 1:14, the Word, logos, λόγος, that which was from the beginning that John heard and saw and beheld and he handled with his physical hands. That Word, logos, λόγος, of Life that came so that we might have everlasting life in Him. This is the Word He is speaking of.

And the faithful Christian that holds fast this Word as precious, truly, in this, the love of God is perfected, ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ τετελείωται. Some scholars say this is an objective genitive, and they translate this to say, "the love **FOR** God is perfected", not "the love **OF** God". And they do this because it doesn't fit with their theology, because they say God's love is already perfect and we, as fallen beings can't perfect God's love. But that is not what John intends. Yes, God's love is perfect, but this word, τετελείωται, means completed, to execute fully, to reach its end, to be brought to the goal. This is John's intentions. The idea is that God's perfect love has reached its end, it has been brought to its goal when the faithful Christian willingly and lovingly holds fast as precious the Word, who is Jesus Christ. This is when

love has reached its final end. This is True koinonia Fellowship and Fellowship is the final goal of the Father. 1 John 4:9–10-⁹ *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.* ¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* Love was manifested toward us when God sent His Son and when we hold fast Jesus as precious, then His love has reached its perfect goal, and His love has been perfected in us. And this is for the purpose that God might have an eternal family that loves Him freely and willingly.

This is what Paul spoke of in Ephesians when he prayed that we might be rooted and grounded in love, **Ephesians 3:14-21**. Christ dwelling in our hearts is the perfection of His love. Then we will know, ginosko, γινώσκω, intimately know the love of Christ. John 14:23- ... *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”* This is the one-ness that Jesus prays in John 17:20–23-²⁰ *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect τελειώω in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.* This is the love that passes all knowledge, that God loves me just as much as He does Jesus and our loving Him in return and choosing Him and holding fast His Word as precious is the completion of this love. This is True Fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. It is Fellowship that completes the goal of love.

⁵ ...In this we know that we are in Him.

ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐσμεν.

Again, John gives us the assurance. In this... because love has been perfected in us, because we are holding fast His Word as precious... In this we know we are in Him and have Fellowship with Him.

⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

ὁ λέγων ἐν αὐτῷ μένειν ὀφείλει, καθὼς ἐκεῖνος περιπάτησε, καὶ αὐτὸς οὕτω περιπατεῖν.

John makes another contrast to those who are “saying” but not “doing”. Those who claim they are abiding in Him. This is the first time John introduces this word abide, meno, μένω. John has laid the foundation of what it means to have koinonia, κοινωνία, Fellowship with God, and from this point forward, John now references Fellowship with the word, meno, μένω, to abide. He uses meno, μένω, a total of 23 times in just 4 chapters, all of which relate to our Fellowship in God and His Fellowship in us. Jesus used this word many times as well in the gospels. A great example is John 15. Jesus uses this word 10 times in just that one chapter 15, always speaking of abiding in the Vine and in the Word.

John is refuting the Gnostic heresies again saying, “He who is claiming to abide in Him...” They say they have Fellowship with God, but yet they walk in darkness, 1:6; they say they don’t have sin, but they deceive themselves because everyone is born with sin, 1:8; they say they have never sinned, and with that claim they are calling God a liar, 1:10; they say they know Him intimately, but yet they do not hold fast His commandments, 2:3; and now they make the claim they are abiding in Him, but they do not walk as He walked.

Whoever abides in Him ought, has a duty, ὀφείλω, to walk just as this One, ἐκεῖνος, who is Jesus. This is another test of Truth. If you say you abide in God, then you have a duty to be Christ-like. That is what it means to be a Christian. We must put on Christ and be imitators of God. This is the same thing John said in 1:6, If you say you have Fellowship in the Light then you need to walk in the Light as He is in the Light.

This last statement in verse 6, *“to walk just as this One walked”*, καθὼς ἐκεῖνος περιπάτησε, καὶ αὐτὸς οὕτω περιπατεῖν. On the surface, this statement seems even too much for the holiest of Christians. How are we supposed to walk this life just as Jesus walked it? Is John telling us that we need to live a perfect life without sin? NO! John just told us multiple times that we are NOT perfect, and in fact if we say we are WITHOUT SIN then we are a liar, 1:8, 10. He is writing this letter so we may not sin... And if anyone sins, because we will, ...we have an advocate, a propitiation.

This is an issue of the heart, not a walk of perfection. John knows we will sin, so the issue isn't whether we will sin or not, but rather what are we committed to. He wants us committed to the Truth, committed to His righteousness, and committed to His Word, He wants us committed to Jesus Christ.

How did Jesus walk this earth? What was Jesus committed to?

John 6:38- *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

John 8:29- *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

Luke 22:42- *...not My will, but Yours be done*

Philippians 2:5- *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

How should we as faithful Christians be walking? What does that look like?

Romans 1:17- *For in it (the gospel of Christ) the righteousness of God is revealed out from faith unto faith; as it is written, "The just shall live (out from) faith."* ἐκ πίστεως

It is living out from the Vine. He is the source of Life, He is the Word of Life, and our entire life comes out from Him. This is living in Fellowship with Him and abiding in Him always.

What is the one word that demonstrates this?

LOVE

Colossians 3:14-16-¹⁴ *... put on love, which is the bond of perfection* τελειότης. ¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly ...*

John 14:15- *"If you love Me, keep My commandments"*

Ephesians 5:1-2-¹ *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.* ² *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us...*

2 John 6- *This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*

1 John 4:15-16-¹⁵ *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.* ¹⁶ *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

Walking as Jesus walked is walking in Love.

It is a humble, habitual manner of life of loving God and His will,
walking in Christ-likeness is committing our life to doing those things that please the Father;

It is living and abiding daily, continually in dependence and fellowship with our Savior.

It is walking in Love toward God and as a result this
love flows out toward one another

In conclusion, the 4 proofs of our assurance that we are in Fellowship from this section, 2:3-6, are: 1) we are holding fast His commandments as precious, 2:3; ...2) we love the brethren, 2:3; ...3) we are holding fast His Word as precious, 2:5; ... and 4) we are walking just as He walked by walking in Love, 2:6.