

## 1 JOHN 2

### LOOK at the Text

#### 1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

- Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.
  - Jesus
  - God the Father
  - The recipients of the letter - Part 1. (In this section, just list the names that John gives to them throughout this chapter. What does he call them?)
    - What do these "names" reveal about John's heart towards the people he is writing to? How does he feel about them?
  - The recipients of the letter - Part 2. In this section list what John says is true about them.
    - V 12-14
    - V 20-21
    - V 27
    - What does this mean??? We'll discuss this in our teaching time, but try to figure it out 😊
  - The Antichrist(s)

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In his letters (1, 2 and 3 John), John, the apostle, is addressing false teaching within the church. Some people are claiming to be Christians but it's all just words - they aren't bearing any 'fruit'. Others are leaving the church to follow different ideas; they aren't believing what the apostles have been teaching about who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are. As people leave the church, the 'true' Christians are wondering whether they have somehow misunderstood, and if they need to re-adjust their thinking. So John is writing to tell them...

- 1) That people who say they are Christians should 'test' themselves to see whether or not their faith is genuine.
- 2) That true Christians can be assured of their right standing before God.

Both of these emphases are evident in 1 John 2, and the rest of the chapters we will study.

As we continue on in our study, we will see John repeatedly tell the believers to evaluate themselves on the basis of 3 tests:

- 1) The moral test - do you obey God's commands?
- 2) The doctrinal test - do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God
- 3) The love test - do you love God and his children?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Gospel Transformation Bible (2013), p.1705

We begin to see these themes of testing and proof in 1 John 2.

- What is the proof...
  - That we have come to know him?
  - That we are in him?
  - That we are in the light?
  - That someone is in the darkness?
  - That it is the last hour?
  - That someone is not "one of us"?
  - That someone has been born of him?
    - How does this list convict and challenge you?

What questions do you have about this list?
- What are the commands of John in this text, and Why is he giving each command? (*hint: you don't have to come up with the 'why' answer on your own! The authors of scripture usually tell us why they are giving us specific commands in the verses right before or after a command*)
  - Command #1 - (v 15)
    - Why?
  - Command #2 (v 24, v 27)
    - Why?
  - Command #3 (v 28)
    - Why?

John says that he is not teaching people a new command.

- When did people first receive the command?
- Why is John writing to them? He gives several reasons in this chapter.
  - v 1
  - v 12-14 ( you don't need to write down all the individual reasons in this section because you did this earlier under "what is true about the recipients). If you think about the reasons that John is writing this book (which I outlined earlier), why do you think he's writing these things to them?
  - v 21
  - v 26

Pulling this all together, then...

- What are the main ideas recorded in this chapter? How would you summarize each section?
  - 1 John 2:1-6
  - 1 John 2:7-11
  - 1 John 2:12-14
  - 1 John 2:15-17
  - 1 John 2:18-27
  - 1 John 2:28-29

## 2. LEARN from God's Word

- Whole Bible Connections - Look up the following verses from other parts of scripture and note how they relate to 1 John 2. What do they affirm about what John is saying in this chapter?
  - About Jesus being our advocate and the atoning sacrifice for our sins?
    - Romans 8:31-34
    - Hebrews 7:23-25
    - 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (Read 1-7 for context and then focus on v 5)
    - Colossians 1:15-22 (Read 15-22 for context and then focus on v 20)
  - About the "tests of love"
    - Leviticus 19:9-18 (Read 9-18 for context and then focus on v 18)
      - Does this help you answer the "when" question asked earlier??
    - John 14:18-24
  - About remaining in Jesus
    - Read John 15:1-17
      - What is the benefit of remaining in Jesus? Why should we do this?
      - What happens to those who do not remain in him?
      - How do we remain in him? What do we need to do according to these verses?

## 3. LIVE in light of the Text

- What is God saying to us in this passage about His purpose for our lives?
- How do the main ideas in this passage strengthen or challenge me to repent and change?
  - My Head - thoughts; beliefs; frameworks
  - My Heart - desires; emotions
  - My Hands - behaviours; deeds
- How should these main ideas influence and change my prayers?
  - Adoration - What can I praise and thank God for?
  - Confession - What do I need to repent of?
  - Supplication - What will I ask God for?