

# CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

## 1 John 2

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week we looked at the “Christian Confession”.
  - 1. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
  - 2. Recognize that in Christ we have the forgiveness of sins.
  - 3. When we confess our sins, His blood cleanses us.
- B. But how does the “great confession” impact our lives?

### I. THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER. Vss. 12-14

- A. Because Our Sins Are Forgiven.
  - 1. 1 John 1:7, 9
  - 2. 1 John 2:1-2
  - 3. Man’s greatest problem is sin – Jesus resolved the problem!
- B. Because We Have Overcome Sin and Satan.
  - 1. We overcome through Jesus Christ.
    - a. Philippians 3:9, “...not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, ...”
  - 2. Colossians 1:13-14
  - 3. Hebrews 2:14-15

### II. THE WORK OF SATAN. Vss. 15-23

- A. Sin. Three-fold Temptation of Man. (v. 16)
  - 1. Lust of the flesh.
    - a. Appetites and needs of the body.
    - b. “*Good for food*” – Gen. 3:6; Mt. 4:2-3 (bread).
  - 2. Lust of the eyes.
    - a. Eyes are the gateway to the soul.
    - b. “*Delight to the eyes*” – Gen. 3:6; Mt. 4:8-9 (kingdoms).
  - 3. Pride of life.
    - a. Selfish instinct; to do its own will; fulfill own desires; all about me.
    - b. “*To make one wise*” – Gen. 3:6; Mt. 4:5-6 (pinnacle of temple).
- B. The Anti-Christ. (v. 18-22)
  - 1. All false teachers who deny Christ, v. 22.
    - a. Matthew 24:4-5
    - b. Colossians 2:8 (9)
  - 2. The need to know God’s Word. 1 John 2:14
    - a. Colossians 3:16, “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you...*”
    - b. Instruction to Timothy (2 Tim. 4:2), “*...be ready in season and out of season;*”
- C. Rejection of Christ. (v. 23)
  - 1. Refusing to accept the “oneness” of God and Christ.
  - 2. Jesus is not “just” another man. John 1:1, “*In the beginning was the Word...*”
  - 3. Gnostics – natural son of Joseph, “Christ” descended on him at baptism and deserted him for the crucifixion. (Coffman)

### III. SO, WHAT DOES JESUS REQUIRE?

- A. Verses 12-14.
  - 1. Hold on to the truths we embraced when we became Christians.
    - a. Who Jesus was and what He has done for us. John 1:1; 1 John 2:2
    - b. Our sins are forgiven. Colossians 1:14
    - c. We know the truth. John 8:32
    - d. He abides in you and you in Him. John 15:4
    - e. We have overcome the evil one, 1 Jn. 2:13-14
- B. Verses 3-6.
  - 1. We must keep the commandments.
    - a. NOT feelings! We can know.
    - b. 1 John 2:5; 3: 24; 5:2 (*demands a knowledge of God's Word*)
  - 2. What commands? Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37
  - 3. Abiding in Him. 1 John 2: 5b-6; 1 Peter 2:21
  - 4. We cannot pick and choose.
    - a. John 14:15, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*
    - b. John 15:10, *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love."*
- C. Verses 7-11.
  - 1. We must love the brethren.
  - 2. A "new" command.
    - a. John 13:34-35
    - b. Matthew 22:39 (Leviticus 19:18)
- D. Verses 15-17.
  - 1. We must not love the world.
    - a. 1 John 2:15; Romans 12:2
    - b. Why? Because of the evil one, 1 John 5:19.
    - c. *"All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice to His blood."*
  - 2. The world is passing away.
    - a. 2 Corinthians 4:18
    - b. 1 John 2:17
  - 3. The one who does the will of God will live forever!