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By Dan Maines

1 John 2

1 John 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.

† John addresses believers tenderly as "little children," showing pastoral care.

† Christ is our Advocate, a legal defender before the Father.

† Philo (On the Special Laws 3.12) described advocates in

courts, making John's picture vivid to his audience.

1 John 2:2

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

† Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all, not limited to a single people.

† His blood removed wrath and reconciled us to God.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 18) affirmed that Christ's death was the ransom for the world.

1 John 2:3-4

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

† True knowledge of God is proven by obedience.

† To claim to know God while disobeying Him is self-deception.

† Josephus (Antiquities 4.6.12) noted that Israel's disobedience always brought judgment, confirming John's principle.

1 John 2:5-6

But whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, walk just as He walked.

† Obedience proves maturity in love.

† To remain in Christ is to imitate His life.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 33) exhorted believers to walk in holiness, echoing John's teaching.

1 John 2:7-8

Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The

old commandment is the word which you have heard. On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

† The command to love is both old and new, rooted in the law yet renewed in Christ.

† Darkness was already passing away in John's generation, showing fulfillment was near.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 1.9) contrasted light and darkness, imagery John applies to Christ.

1 John 2:9-11

The one who says that he is in the Light and yet hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother and sister remains in the Light, and there is nothing in him to cause stumbling. But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

† Hatred contradicts the Light, while love proves abiding in it.

† Darkness blinds those who reject love, just as it blinded Israel's leaders.

† Josephus (Wars 4.5.2) described Jerusalem's factions destroying one another in hatred, an example of walking in darkness.

1 John 2:12-14

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you on account of His name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God

remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

† John addresses every stage of faith, affirming forgiveness, knowledge, and victory.

† The repetition emphasizes their strength in Christ.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 2) praised the early church for its strength and knowledge, echoing John's affirmation.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.

† Love for the world excludes love for God.

† The world system of lust and pride was passing away in John's time.

† Tacitus (Histories 5.13) wrote of the collapse of worldly powers, confirming John's statement.

1 John 2:18-19

Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they were of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us.

† John identifies his own time as the last hour, marked by the rise of many antichrists.

† These antichrists were former members of the church who abandoned the truth.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.7.2) described heretics who left the church, confirming John's warning.

1 John 2:20-21

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

† Believers are anointed by the Spirit, granting knowledge of truth.

† John writes to affirm what they already know.

1 John 2:22-23

Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

† Antichrist is defined as denying Jesus as the Christ.

† To reject the Son is to reject the Father.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Trallians 9) condemned those who denied the reality of Christ, echoing John's definition of antichrist.

1 John 2:24-25

As for you, see that what you heard from the beginning remains in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

† Holding fast to the original gospel guarantees fellowship and eternal life.

† Apostolic teaching, once delivered, cannot be replaced.

1 John 2:26-27

These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing which you received from Him remains in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you, but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you,

you remain in Him.

† False teachers sought to deceive, but the Spirit's anointing preserved believers in truth.

† The Spirit ensures discernment and perseverance.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 59) prayed that God would preserve the church in truth, reflecting John's message.

1 John 2:28-29

Now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not draw back from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been born of Him.

† Remaining in Christ brings confidence at His appearing.

† Righteous living is the evidence of being born of God.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.23) noted how the early church lived in expectation of Christ's appearing in their generation, aligning with John's urgency.

How it applies to us today

† 1 John 2 reminds us that obedience, love, and fellowship prove true knowledge of God.

† The antichrists of John's time revealed the reality of the last hour and the urgency of holding to Christ.

† Today, we remain in the same truth, confessing the Son and walking in the Light.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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† Josephus, Antiquities 4.6.12 - disobedience brings judgment

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† Philo, On the Special Laws 3.12 - advocates in law courts

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