



SERMON TEXT: John 1:7-2:2

Vs. 7 – But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood** of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from ALL sin.

Vs. 8 – If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Vs. 9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Vs. 10 – If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives.

2:1 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Vs. 2 – He is the **atonement** [- ἱλασμοσ - Propitiation / Expiation] sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for **the sins of the whole world.** -ολου του κοσμου -

GREETING: How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. (I John 3:1)

What do we know about John the disciple / Apostle of Jesus?

The Apostle / Disciple John is referred to as “**The one whom Jesus loved.**” (John 13:23-26)

- He had a brother named James. (Luke 5:10) - The name of his father was Zebedee. (Luke 5:10)

- He has five books of the Bible attributed to him as the writer. – The Gospel of John, I, II & III John as well as the book of Revelation.

- He was part of the inner circle of three disciples – Peter – James & John at the transfiguration of Jesus and again in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matt. 17:1 & Mk. 14:33)

- He was a fisherman before becoming a disciple of Jesus. (Luke 5:10)

- He was present at the cross of Jesus as Jesus said to Mary, “Behold your son, and to John, behold your mother” (John 19:26-27)

- John was a faster runner than Peter as he outran Peter to the grave on “The Day of the Lord’s Resurrection.” (John 20:2-8)

- John spent a night in jail with Peter. – (Acts 4:1-12)

- John was exiled on the island of Patmos because he preached the Word of God. (Rev. 1:9)

As we look at our text for today, *I John* is written to those whom the Apostle John refers to as: “My dear children” (I John 2:1)

As the Apostle John began this First of three letters / epistles he establishes the fact that Jesus is Risen from the dead as John points out that he was an eyewitness of the living and risen Savior Jesus.

I John 1:1 – “That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which we **have seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked at** and our hands have **touched**”

This event occurred when Jesus appeared to His disciples behind locked doors, not once, but twice. (Luke 24:36-42 & John 20:19-29)

And now, having established the fact that Jesus is Risen from the Dead, and that he also saw Jesus, the Apostle John now points out the **BENEFITS** of Christ’s Resurrection from the dead.

Vs. 7 – But if we walk in the light, as **He is in the light**, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the **blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from ALL sin**. Instead of being in the darkness of sin, we are now in the Light. Jesus is the Light of our Salvation. (John 8:12)

Instead of us being alone, we have fellowship with one another. Christian fellowship is important and a blessing as we encourage one another through this life in a world filled with wickedness and evil. [Just think about the latest shootings reported in the news and the way COVID-19 has affected the lives of many people.]

(Just this past week my cousin Doris died from COVID -19.) (Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:25)

- Instead of being filthy with our sin, we have been purified, cleansed. We have been cleansed from our sin by the BLOOD of Jesus.

The reason that the Blood of Jesus washes away our sin, is because His blood is God's Blood. (Acts 20:28)

Another BENEFIT of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead is that now as believers in Christ we are enabled to confess our sin to God. We are now able to admit, to humble ourselves to the Word of God and admit our sin and our need for a Savior.

Vs. 8 – If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Vs. 9 – If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Vs. 10 – If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives.

And again, the Apostle John reminds us that we are forgiven, and we are cleansed / purified from our sin.

The filth of sin has been scrubbed away, not with Scrubbing Bubbles or Ammonia or Comet [Even though these product work well for cleaning dirt off of earthly surfaces, they cannot wash away sin], but with the **Blood** of Jesus Christ.

When we do sin, we also now have an advocate, a Defense Attorney who intercedes for us and goes before God the Father on our behalf:

2:1 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have **One Who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**

Attorneys can be expensive. Jesus is FREE. [Yet as believers we take up our cross – Matt. 8:34]

The Resurrection of The Lord Jesus has far reaching effects / results.

Vs. 2 – He is the **atoning** [- ἱλασμοσ - Propitiation / Expiation] sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for **the sins of the whole world.** -ολου του κοσμου - When sin entered the world, we were separated from God, but now because of Christ Jesus and in Christ Jesus we are At-One With God. – (Atonement)

It cannot be said any clearer than the Lord God says it through these Inspired Words of the Apostle John. - Atonement / Payment for sin covers the ENTIRE world. All people, All sin, for All time.

Unfortunately, there are some people who take these words *too* far and say that this means EVERYONE will be in heaven *no matter what*. That is not true! It would be nice, but unfortunately only those who believe reap the benefits and blessings of the Universal atonement.

Only those who believe in Jesus as their One and Only Savior from sin, death and the devil have the forgiveness of sins and Eternal Life in heaven.

Those who reject the salvation that Jesus won for them on the cross of Calvary are like those people who refuse to take advantage of a bank account that never runs out of money.

“Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned / damned.” (Mark 16:16)

Thank the Lord that He has created faith in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace – the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

“**No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the power of the Holy Spirit.**” (I Cor. 12:3) AMEN

THEME: Are You At-One With God?