

“Do You Know Him?”

1 John 2:3-6

September 22, 2013

CONTEXT: Jude 3ff & Revelation 2-3 & Parable of the Sower

Last Week: 1 John 2:1-2: = [1My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.]

Attitude toward sin = see Pharisee vs. Tax Collector

CRITICAL: vv. 3-6 Define, Describe, and Defend the recipients of v.2!

1 John 2:3-6

*And by this we **know** that we have come to **know Him**, if we **keep His commandments**. **Whoever says “I know Him” but does NOT keep His commandments is a LIAR, and the truth is NOT in him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is PERFECTED.** By this we may **know** that we are **in Him**: **whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He/Jesus walked.***

“by this” = 2X (v.3 & v.6)

“but” = 2X (v.4 & v.5)

“know” = 4X (v.3 = (2); v.4; v.5)

“keep” = 6X “total” 3X (v.3; v.4; v.5)

PLUS

(1) “abide”

&

(2) “walk”

“His commandments/word” = 3X (v.3; v.4; v.5)

“in Him/in which He” = 3X (v.5 & v.6 (2X))

“know Him” = 2X (v.3 & v.4)

“That many Christians in our day are lukewarm... will not be denied by anyone with an anointed eye, but the cure is not to stir them up to a frenzy of activity. That would be but to take them out of one error and into another. What we need is a zealous hunger for God, an avid thirst after righteousness, a pain-filled longing to be Christ-like and holy. We need a zeal that is loving, self-effacing and lowly. No other kind will do.

That pure love for God and men which expresses itself in a burning desire to advance God's glory and (which) leads to poured-out devotion to the temporal and eternal welfare of our fellow men, is certainly approved by God; but the nervous, squirrel-cage activity of self-centered and ambitious religious leaders is just as certainly offensive to Him and will prove at last to have been injurious to the souls of countless millions of human beings.

- A.W. Tozer

Today's Text: 1 John 2:3-6

3 *by this* = (what has been said thus far AND what is to be forthcoming...)

we know = (Gk: ghin-ocē'-koe... “to recognize or understand completely”)

that we have come to know = (Gk: ghin-ocē'-koe [again] I know, that I know!)

Him, if = (the Lord is implied from context... the “if” announces a “condition”)

“to know Him” verses =

1. **Psalms 103:7** = He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
2. **Galatians 4:8-9** = ...formally, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?
3. **1 Corinthians 8:1-3** = Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.
4. **Romans 1:16 - 25** = 16For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^e just as it is written: “The

righteous will live by faith.” f 18The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. **For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.**

5. **Romans 8:12ff** = So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
6. **John 17:3** = "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

we keep = (Gk: tay-reh'-o... “to watch over; to preserve... to heed or obey”)

His commandments. = (Gk: en-tol-ay'... God’s authoritative prescriptions)

To KNOW... is to Obey... is to Walk

Unpack the 12 spies...

4 *Whoever says* = (the emphasis is on “assertion” by word, deed, or attitude)

“I have come to know = (Gk: ghin-ocē’-koe... one who asserts: “I KNOW”)

Him” but does not keep = (Gk: tay-reh’-o... BUT does not heed or obey)

His commandments = (Gk: en-tol-ay’... God’s authoritative precepts)

is a liar, = (LIAR! used 10X in the Bible: John 7X & Paul 3X)

To KNOW... is to Obey... is to Walk

Pharisees vs. the Follow Me’s

Live vs. Dead churches (Rev. 2-3)

Children of the Devil vs. Children of God

and the truth = (conforming to reality; “truth in its fullness & scope”)

is not in him, = (the Gk word denotes an all inclusive “whomever”)

5 *but whoever* = (the Gk word denotes an all inclusive “whomever”)

keeps = (Gk: tay-reh'-o... “obeys”)

His word, = (Gk: log'-os... the divine word & will of Almighty God)

in him the love = (Gk: a-gap-e; unconditional Christ-like love)

of God = (Gk: theh'-os... the One True God)

has truly = (denotes assurance: reality is being restated/reinforced)

been perfected. = (to fulfill; to be consummated & consecrated)

To KNOW... is to Obey... is to Walk

Shad/Me/Abed...

Matthew & Zacheous vs. Rich Young Ruler

By this = (the Gk. has a direct linkage back to a previous designation: “obey”)

we know = (Gk: ghin-oc'e'-koe... to understand completely – again)

that we are in Him: [6](#) whoever says = (those who truly know... say so)

“in Christ” or “in Him” =

Being “in Christ Jesus” is a stupendous reality. It is breathtaking what it means to be in Christ. United to Christ. Bound to Christ. If you are “in Christ” listen to what it means for you:

1. In Christ Jesus you were given grace before the world was created. [2 Timothy 1:9](#), “He gave us grace *in Christ Jesus* before the ages began.”

2. In Christ Jesus you were chosen by God before creation. [Ephesians 1:4](#), “God chose us *in Christ* before the foundation of the world.”
3. In Christ Jesus you are loved by God with an inseparable love. [Romans 8:38–39](#), “I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God *in Christ Jesus our Lord*.”
4. In Christ Jesus you were redeemed and forgiven for all your sins. [Ephesians 1:7](#), “*In Christ* we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins.”
5. In Christ Jesus you are justified before God and the righteousness of God in Christ is imputed to you. [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), “For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that *in him* we might become the righteousness of God.”
6. In Christ Jesus you have become a new creation and a son of God. [2 Corinthians 5:17](#), “If anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” [Galatians 3:26](#), “*In Christ* Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”
7. In Christ Jesus you have been seated in the heavenly places even while he lived on earth. [Ephesians 2:6](#), “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*.”
8. In Christ Jesus all the promises of God are Yes for you. [2 Corinthians 1:20](#), “All the promises of God find their Yes *in Christ*.”
9. In Christ Jesus you are being sanctified and made holy. [1 Corinthians 1:2](#), “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified *in Christ Jesus*.”
10. In Christ Jesus everything you really needed will be supplied. [Philippians 4:19](#), “My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory *in Christ Jesus*.”

11. In Christ Jesus the peace of God will guard your heart and mind. [Philippians 4:7](#), “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds ***in Christ Jesus.***”
12. In Christ Jesus you have eternal life. [Romans 6:23](#), “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life ***in Christ Jesus our Lord.***”
13. And in Christ Jesus you will be raised from the dead at the coming of the Lord. [1 Corinthians 15:22](#), “For as in Adam all die, so also everyone ***in Christ*** shall all be made alive.” All those united to Adam in the first humanity die. All those united to Christ in the new humanity will rise to live again

How do we get into Christ?

At the unconscious and decisive level it is God’s sovereign work: “From God are you in Christ Jesus” ([1 Corinthians 1:30](#)).

But at the conscious level of our own action, it is through faith. Christ dwells in our hearts “through faith” ([Ephesians 3:17](#)). The life we live in union with his death and life “we live by faith in the Son of God” ([Galatians 2:20](#)). We are united in his death and resurrection “through faith” ([Colossians 2:12](#)).

This is a wonderful truth. Union with Christ is the ground of everlasting joy, and it is free...

- John Piper

he abides = (Gk: men-o... remain in; dwell; endure; unify, etc. – see John 15)

- "abide" = 28X by John

Gospel of J = 6X

1 John = 19X

2 John = 3X

What it means to “abide”

The exhortation to “abide” has been frequently misunderstood, as though it were a special, mystical, and indefinable experience. But Jesus makes clear that it actually involves a number of concrete realities.

First, union with our Lord depends on His grace. Of course we are actively and personally united to Christ by faith ([John 14:12](#)). But faith itself is rooted in the activity of God. It is the Father who, as the divine Gardener, has grafted us into Christ. It is Christ, by His Word, who has cleansed us to fit us for union with Himself (15:3). All is sovereign, all is of grace.

Second, union with Christ means being obedient to Him. Abiding involves our response to the teaching of Jesus: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you ...” ([John 15:7a](#)). Paul echoes this idea in [Colossians 3:16](#), where he writes, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,” a statement closely related to his parallel exhortation in [Ephesians 5:18](#): “be filled with the Spirit.”

In a nutshell, abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. In other words, our relationship to

Christ is intimately connected to what we do with our Bibles! Then, of course, as Christ's Word dwells in us and the Spirit fills us, we will begin to pray in a way consistent with the will of God and discover the truth of our Lord's often misapplied promise: "You will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" ([John 15:7b](#)).

Third, Christ underlines a further principle, "Abide in My love" (15:9), and states very clearly what this implies: the believer rests his or her life on the love of Christ (the love of the One who lays down His life for His friends, v. 13).

This love has been proved to us in the cross of Christ. We must never allow ourselves to drift from daily contemplation of the cross as the irrefutable demonstration of that love, or from dependence on the Spirit who sheds it abroad in our hearts ([Rom. 5:5](#)). Furthermore, remaining in Christ's love comes to very concrete expression: simple obedience rendered to Him is the fruit and evidence of love for Him ([John 15:10-14](#)).

Finally, we are called, as part of the abiding process, to submit to the pruning knife of God in the providences by which He cuts away all disloyalty and sometimes all that is unimportant, in order that we might remain in Christ all the more wholeheartedly.

Excerpt from [In Christ Alone](#) by Sinclair Ferguson

"Abide" = OBEY

(see Parable of 2 Sons...)

in Him ought = (“in Him” is contextually implied; “ought” depicts validation)

himself = (note the emphatic personal accountability / responsibility stressed)

to walk = (Gk: “per-ee-pat-eh’-o”... to do and BE what one says and claims)

in the same way = (links the *walk* to a standard previously stated – “abiding”)

In Him = Adopted, Authorized, & on the Account!

In Him = you are a co-signing benefactor on Christ's account (duel meaning intended), thus your signature needs to match his (OR, at the very least, it must match the authenticating list)...

Walk as He walked = signature on a check...

In Him = you are a co-signing benefactor on Christ's account (duel meaning intended), thus your signature needs to match his (OR, at the very least, it must match the authenticating list)...

Now imagine you are 3 people:

1. Local/foreign citizen about to accept one of those unauthorized, counterfeit checks...

2. A local bank teller at Christ's bank.... and this same counterfeit check writer walks into the bank and up to your teller's window... and wants to cash Christ's check...

NOTE: as an employee of God's bank you have a responsibility to

protect the integrity of the bank and the process of funds-distribution... CRITICAL POINT: this does NOT, however, mean that the teller is responsible for physically protecting the money in the vault... The security guard (Spirit) does that... The teller simply, but completely, is dedicated to ensuring the right-ness and the righteousness of the transactions of the bank...

3. Imagine you are an AUTHORIZED co-signer on the account...

And then...

A. You see the attempt to write and pass off the counterfeit check in the community (or out of the country)

B. You are in the bank and see that the person is going to attempt to write & cash a counterfeit check...

SHIFT...

Hold those thoughts...

Now, rather than you just being an "observer" ... or a bank teller... or even a fellow co-signer...

Lets say you are: (give personal portrait)

- you were a "still born" baby that, while dead upon arrival into this world, you were miraculously brought back into what could only be described as a born again experience...

- as great as that sounds, the reality is that your station in life was very, very difficult. Your parents basically fed you to the wolves of this world; sometimes thru their own direct sin and other times thru their sin of neglect... Either way, the reality is you experienced incredible hopelessness at times and heart-hardening anguish from your earliest of days.

- Enter social services... the world's best effort and fix-it factory... In your case, everyone is amazed at how "lucky" you are... You become the poster child for the world's fix-it factory... Your foster care family is well intended, well off, and welcoming to you in every way. They genuinely care *for* you & sincerely care *about* you... As a result, you have instantaneously gone from impoverished and abused to comfortable & catered to...

- And everyone says: Wow! That's great!

- As your new life continues to unfold... over time, you begin to sense something deep down inside... You are realizing that even with all the creature comforts and cultural advantages that are at your disposal, deep down inside you are still not at peace...

- For reasons that hardly anyone can understand, you begin the slow fade... out of the warmth of your familiar surroundings, into the fringe elements that offer you little more than "something different."

- What starts out as "different" is later revealed to be a disguise for what is, in reality, a deceptively destructive decline.

- Before long, and you have impetuously left the worldly abundance of home, in search of lasting "happiness" in the labyrinth of life.

- Like the proverbial Prodigal Son... (rags to redemption).

- Only this time...

- You didn't come running home
- You didn't have a home...
- Instead, in your story, you stayed in the pig pen

- You remained actively filthy, dying a slow death of deep desperation.

NOTE: not all pig pens look like pig pens...

- Then, suddenly, the same doc that delivered you & gave you new life when you were still-born... shows up at/in your pig pen...

- Found us...
- Rescues us...
- Cleanses us...
- ADOPTS us...
- Takes us home...
- Equips us...
- Re-assigns us.

Colossians 2:6-7 = *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live **in Him**, rooted and built up **in Him**, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

as He/Jesus walked. = (Gk: per-ee-pat-eh'-o / True Christians are Christ-like)

See... the Fruit of Spirit & Beatitudes

Galatians 5:22ff = *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

Matthew 5:1-13

1Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2**and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

3“Blessed are the *poor in spirit*,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Blessed are *those who mourn*,
for they will be comforted.

5Blessed are *the meek*,
for they will inherit the earth.

6Blessed are
those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

7Blessed are *the merciful*,
for they will be shown mercy.

8Blessed are *the pure in heart*,
for they will see God.

9Blessed are *the peacemakers*,
for they will be called children of God.

10Blessed are
those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are **YOU** when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **12**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

13“You are the salt of the earth. **But if** the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is **no longer good for anything**, except to be **thrown out and trampled** underfoot.

Additional “in Him” passages:

Ephesians 1:4 = *For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.*

Ephesians 1:7 = *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.*

Philippians 3:8-9 = *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found **in Him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith **in Christ** —the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

Parable of the Owner & the Hireling parallels this point.

I John 2's **Testimony Test**

=

What you **BELIEVE...**

AND

How you **BEHAVE!**

So... Do YOU KNOW Him?

Are you...

Spirit filled...

and living in

Faith-FULL *obedience*

OR

Merely "spiritual"...

and trying to ***fake it till you make it***

(with little more than)

Faith-LESS "*observation*"

God's test comes down to the contrast between...

Loving service

vs.

"Lip service"

Let's Pray...

"Lord, give me that 'zealous hunger for God,' that 'avid thirst after righteousness,' that 'pain-filled longing to be Christ-like and holy.' I want to give myself in 'poured-out-devotion' for Your glory. Use me as Your servant, for Jesus' sake, Amen." - **A.W. Tozer**