

## OUR FAITHFUL ADVOCATE

(1 John 2:1-2).

### I. John reveals his purpose for writing.

- A. The phrase "little children" is unique to John.
  - 1. When John wrote this he was on up in years.
  - 2. He was writing to people who were much younger than himself, and about whom he cared very much.
  - 3. The phrase indicates a relationship between one who has taught the gospel to someone else and feels spiritual concern for them because of this relationship.
  - 4. Much like Paul calling Timothy his son in the faith.
- B. He writes to encourage those for whom he feels this deep care not to sin.
  - 1. John knew that they were going to sin.
  - 2. He said as much in verses 7 and 9 of the first chapter.
- C. He wrote so that they would understand who God was and His characteristics.
  - 1. He is One in whom is no darkness.
  - 2. God the Father cannot stand sin and John's readers, being affected by Gnosticism, needed to know this.
- D. John's warning is against even isolated commissions of sin.
  - 1. Our fellowship with God and Christ rests on the fact that our sins are forgiven and that we continue to confess sins when they occur.
  - 2. When a sin is committed that relationship is in jeopardy if the sin is not dealt with as quickly as possible.
- E. John's purpose for writing is to get us not to sin or be influenced by sin so that our relationship with God is not hindered.

### II. John describes the Person who partners with us.

- A. Knowing that we all have and will sin, there has to be some way for these sins to be dealt with to expunge them from our record.
- B. John reveals to us that Jesus is the Person that fills this role for us.
- C. God has not made this situation a one and done type situation.
  - 1. He has not said you have been forgiven and sins washed away at baptism and now if you mess up there is no recourse for you.
  - 2. No one would be saved if this were the case.
- D. Something that is great about John is he used the word "we."
  - 1. He did not say "you have an Advocate."
  - 2. He did not say "I am your Advocate."
  - 3. He showed his need for an Advocate by using we.
- E. The word "have" is interesting.
  - 1. It is in a tense meaning we keep on having.
  - 2. As long as we are walking in the light, repenting and confessing our sins, we have this Advocate.
- F. The word for "advocate" generally means to call to one's side, especially to call to one's aid.
  - 1. Specifically, it means one who pleads another's case before a judge.
  - 2. It is literally a counsel for defense or a legal assistant.
- G. The word "with" is important as well.
  - 1. It means, at, near, beside.
  - 2. Jesus is right there beside the Father, pleading our case as we repent of our sins.
  - 3. It shows His ability to immediately provide representation for us.
- H. Not only is He and Advocate but He is a righteous Advocate.
  - 1. Not just any advocate would do.
  - 2. There is no way that one who needs pleading done on his behalf could plead the case of others with God.
  - 3. Only the One who has not been stained by sin could plead with the Father on our behalf.

### III. John reminds us of our Propitiation.

- A. Their must be a price paid for sin.
  - 1. If a law is broken, there is to be a price paid.
  - 2. Something has to be done to appease the one whose law is broken.
  - 3. If it is the city, state or federal government, there are fines or other sentences meted out to pay for the breakage of law.
- B. There has to be a price paid for sins as well.
- C. The word "propitiation" means appeasement.
  - 1. God's justice had to be appeased one way or the other.
  - 2. It could be appeased by our deaths or it could be appeased in some other way.
  - 3. God gave the appeasement in the sending of His Son.
- D. In the pagan world, the one seeking to appease his idol would make an appeasement offering.
  - 1. With God, He made the appeasement offering for us.
  - 2. This shows how much He wants to have a relationship with mankind.
  - 3. He seeks us out through the giving of His Son.
- E. There is nothing that you and I can bring to God that will appease His wrath over our sins.
  - 1. The offering of Christ has been made by Him.
  - 2. This is the only means of appeasing God.
- F. This appeasement was made for the whole world, not just for a certain group of people.
  - 1. This is another staggering blow to Calvinism.
  - 2. That false doctrine says that only Jesus died for only a select group of individuals.
  - 3. This verse tells us that Jesus died to appease God for the sins of every person that has lived, is living or will live.
- G. This appeasement is there for all, but we can neglect the aid given us by Jesus by refusing to be in fellowship with Him.