**Knowing Christ in His Commandments**

Based on [1 John 2](https://biblia.com/books/esv/1Jn2)

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Lenten Midweek 2

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First John is a profound and richly composed letter written by John the apostle. He writes, not just as a teacher, or as a leader of the church. **John writes and speaks to the church as a loving Father speaks to children.** He even calls them “my little children” and encourages them toward maturity in faith and teaches them how faithful children of God walk or “live” in the world. In chapter one he teaches that they walk in the light, that means confess their sins. In the second chapter, he teaches that as children, we walk in the same way Jesus Christ walked. Anyone who says they know Christ but do not walk in his way is a liar, and the truth is not in him. By keeping his word, we know that we are in him.

John writes, “**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 walked**.”

Jesus Christ is our advocate with God. We can walk in the light without fear, confessing our sins without fear, having assurance and comfort that our sins are paid for by his blood. His blood paid for not only our sins, but the sins of the whole world. Jesus blood is poured out for all people, but it finds purchase only in those who truly know him, and he is their advocate as they walk in the light.

Christ is our advocate if we come to know him. “**By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments**.” If we fail to keep his commandments we sin, and we confess and have an advocate with the father, because we know the Son and worship the Son and walk in the way of the Son. He who thinks he stand, take heed lest he fall. **Yet if we stumble when we walk we do not fall, because we know the Son and call upon the Son who comes to our aid, intercedes for us before the Father.** If we love his commands our sin does not condemn us, because to love his commands is to love him, and to love him is to have peace with the Father, and whoever has peace with God has eternal life.

Whoever says they know him, but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. And the command he gives his disciples is, “**Love one another, as I have loved you**.” Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother walks in darkness. Whoever says he loves his brother, but leaves his brother to die in his sin is a liar. Whoever will not forgive the sins of his brother, the love of the Father is not in him. Whoever will not rebuke his brother, hates his brother. Whoever loves his brother, in him the love of God is perfected.

But anyone who loves the world, or the things of the world the love of the Father is not in him. The world is passing away and everything in it. The desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions. The Son has said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” The apostle Peter has written, “**Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells**.” (2 Peter 3:11-13).

John writes, “**Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us**.” We know that it is the last hour, because many antichrists have already come. They are known because though they once walked with their brother, they now hate their brother. They hate their brother because they choose to leave the fellowship of the Son, rather than conform to his teaching and walk in the way he walked.

John writes, “**Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the son has the Father also.**” Jesus says, “**Whoever is not for me is against me. Whoever does not gather together scatters**.” The psalmist says, “**Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity**!” (Psalm 133:1).

Unity is found in Jesus the Christ; and Jesus the Christ is found in His Word and Commands. Brothers have the same Word and they have the same Jesus. Christ is not divided and His Word is not divided, therefore his brothers dwell in unity. Those who deny his words, deny that he is the Christ and do not have the Father. But those who confess the son, have the Father because they have been anointed by the Holy One who teaches all things.

John is writing to those who know the truth, “**I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you**.” Those who are anointed have been taught all things, and they have no need that anyone else should teach them deceitful doctrines. But no one who has the anointing of Jesus and abides in his knowledge will be deceived. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, but the anointing of Jesus teaches all things, because he has taught them to you and you receive his teaching and abide in it. **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 walked.**