

# Vision Sunday 2

(1 JOHN 2:1-2)

1 My 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.

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

## Introduction

Good vision comes from knowing who you are and where you are going.

Jesus Go but on the basis of all authority is mine.

In these vs John gives us some knowledge of who we are and what should motivate us to go for it.

Continue 1john I want to focus on first 2 vs of chapter 2

If you were to ask a non Christian what happens at church I am sure you will be told some tells you to stop sinning to do good etc.

So I will live up to that stereo type.

## 1. Do not sin

This letter is written to Christians, those who have a new nature, a new creation, dead but now alive. Not to the lost.

Not written to judge but to encourage and strengthen.

It highlights that sin is not our master as a result of the work of the cross.

Eg headmaster

## But why not sin

## It insults the suffering of Jesus

According to 3:8 "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." The reason Christ came into the world and suffered was to destroy sin. Paul said that Christ died to purify for himself a Bride (Ephesians 5:25-27). "He gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:14).

Therefore, whenever we sin we join those who call the cross foolishness. If the aim of the cross is the purity of the church and the victory over sin, we cannot honestly regard the cross as the wisdom of God when we sin. Sin says to Christ, "I do not regard your suffering as sufficient incentive to keep me back from this act. You may have died to prevent me from doing this, but I'm going to do it anyway." Thus sin insults the suffering of Christ. And that is very serious.

## It suggests we do not have a new nature

1 John 3:8 is very blunt on this score: "He who commits sin is of the devil." Verse 9 gives the opposite: "No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him." We don't take these verses to imply a perfectionism that would contradict 1:8-10 and 2:1b. The reference seems to be to a life of sin -- sinning that is unhated, unassaulted, and too often unconquered.

But the very least that you can say from these verses is that sin is very serious because it is the fruit not of God's nature in us but of Satan's nature. When you sin you are acting the way Satan does.

## It Jeopardises our assurance of salvation

1 John 2:3-4 says, "And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says 'I know him' but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

"Perhaps one of the reasons that sin is taken so lightly today and there is so little brokenness among God's people is that this truth is not taught in the church. Instead people are taught that your assurance of salvation has no relation to whether you obey God or not. We are taught that saving faith is such a weak and powerless thing that it cannot guarantee any changes in life, and therefore to look for those changes as the evidence of saving faith is wrong." John piper

If that is so, the First Epistle of John is going to have to come out of the Bible. Chapter 3:14 says, "We know (i.e., we have assurance) that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love remains in death." You cannot have assurance of having passed out of death into life if you are an unloving person. Persistence in sin destroys the assurance of salvation.

## Scripture helps us overcome sin

Can you think of a more arrogant thing that John could have said? -- If people listen to what I say, they are of God, if they don't, they are of the world. What I write to you is the ultimate test of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. That is the height of arrogance -- unless it's true!

## 2. Do not despair when you do sin

Then John adds, "But if anyone does sin we have an advocate with the Father." In other words don't despair when you sin. There is hope.

And the reason there can be sin that is not unto death is because we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. But not only that. We need to include the first

half of verse 2 in order to understand why we should not despair. "He is the expiation for our sins." More literally: He is the propitiation for our sins. To see clearly the basis of our hope as Christians who sin, we need to ask, What does it mean that Christ is the propitiation for our sins? and How is Christ an advocate for sinners?

## 2.1 What does it mean that Christ is the propitiation for our sins?

Propitiation is the removal of the wrath of God against sinners by the death of Jesus. The ultimate problem that all human beings face is that God's omnipotent wrath is against them. The ultimate good news is that there is a way to have the wrath of God averted -- and that God himself has made the way.

John said in his Gospel (3:36), "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him." In other words apart from obedience to the Son of God, the wrath of God remains the biggest problem a person will ever have. According to John's last book it will mean eternal torment (Revelation 14:9-11). That's how serious sin is to a holy God.

But there is Good News for the world. 1 John 4:10 says that God has made a way to propitiate (or remove) his own wrath against sinners. "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." God is not content to leave all people under his wrath. Nor can he simply sweep sin under the rug of the universe. Therefore his love and his justice conspire to make a way for sinners to be saved and God's justice to be vindicated. The answer is the death of Jesus Christ.

Notice in 1:7 that it is the "blood of Jesus his Son [that] cleanses from all sin." Jesus removed the wrath of God from us by dying for us. He became a curse for us, as Paul says (Galatians 3:13). "God put him forward as a propitiation by his blood" (Romans 3:25). There is no more wonderful news in all the world than that Christ has endured the wrath of God in our place so that our sins are no longer counted against us. That is what it means that Christ is the propitiation for our sins.

Josh McDowell satisfied

## 2.2 How is Christ an advocate for sinners?

if you put together verses 1 and 2 we see that Christ is our attorney and his portfolio is his propitiation. He stands before his Father in heaven and every time we sin he doesn't make a new propitiation. He doesn't die again and again. Instead he opens his portfolio and lays the exhibits of Good Friday on the bench before the Judge. Photographs of the crown of thorns, the lashing, the mocking soldiers, the agonies of the cross, and the final cry of victory: It is finished.

The advocacy of Christ and the propitiation of Christ are part of one saving work, because the portfolio of Christ the advocate is Christ the propitiator. What he pleads on our behalf in heaven is the on-going effects of his own death.

And John means for this double role of Christ to keep us from despairing when we fall into sin. We dare not say that we have no sin (1:8). But if we cannot claim to live sinless lives

then the only thing that can keep us from despairing before a holy God is that we have an advocate in heaven and he pleads our case not on the basis of our perfection but of his propitiation.

John's aim is that we not sin. His strategy to free us from sin is that unique Biblical combination of warning and consolation, threat and promise, caution and encouragement. Tough and tender -- just like his Master. We need to hear about the ominous danger of living in sin. And we need to hear the unspeakable good news that Christ our advocate has removed the wrath of God from those who trust in him. The warning guards us against presumption and instills vigilance in the Christian walk. The consolation guards us against despair and instills the courage of hope. And vigilant hope in God is the power that overcomes sin.

### **3. Do not hog Jesus for yourself**

With this wonderful truth and motivation we see that it should inspire us to share this great truth as widely and as wisely as we can.

The great commission Go

### **So this years**

Our call not just to ourselves but to others

Salvation

Welcome Sunday

Adrian Holloway 7th oct

Alpha lite 11th oct

8 gateway churches

Church planting course

Catalyst festival

Rhiwbina, Brynmawr, Cardiff, Swansea, Rhonda, the nations

Want a team to help TonyPandy,

A team to help in Ilanrumney

A mission team to Germany , Poland.

Foundation of prayer 5th half night, 14th Cardiff prayer

### **Conclusion**

John's message to us today is: Don't sin! It is tremendously and terribly serious. But if you do sin, don't despair because your attorney is the Son of the Judge. He is righteous and he makes his case for you not on the basis of your perfection but his propitiation. Be of good courage, don't hog Jesus for yourself alone, go and make disciples.

