

Elizabeth Presbyterian Sermon
“Old and New”
June 22, 2025

Old Testament Reading: (from English Standard Version)

Proverbs 30:5-6

5 Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

Proverbs 20:9

9 Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”?

Proverbs 27:20

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.

Proverbs 30:15

15 The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough”

New Testament Reading: (from English Standard Version)

1 John 2:1-17

Christ Our Advocate

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.

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

The New Commandment

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

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- 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.
- 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.
- 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
- 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- 12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
- 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.
- 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
- Do Not Love the World*
- 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
- 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

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Opening

As I read through 1 John he often mentions “old commandments and new commandments. I thought I would begin today’s sermon with some “old” wisdom.

Proverbs 30:5-6

5 Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

John is doing this by refuting the false teachings.

Proverbs 20:9

9 Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”?

This refutes false teachings we talked about last week. I.E. men cannot sin and have not sinned.

Proverbs 27:20

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.

Proverbs 30:15

15 The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough”

This is talking about worldly desires we read about in today’s scripture.

Last week we talked about false teachings.

This week’s scripture John is writing about Christ being our advocate and a new commandment from Jesus.

He addresses his readers as “my little children”, a very loving way. Not as a teacher to a student; an expert to a novice; more like a grandparent to a new grandchild.

John knows that followers of Christ will continue to sin (remember “human nature” from last week)

Jesus Christ is our advocate. He is the atoning sacrifice for us. “Propitiation” Greek word means “a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath and turns it to favor” the meaning is similar “the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone or something”

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Christ did the work (was the sacrifice) that restored our “goodwill” with God.

< Revelation Chapter 20:11-15 Judgement scene story> <Book of Life>

The proof that we are following Jesus, and we truly love God is in the way we live. The love of Jesus shows through us. We treat people as Jesus would. His love flows through us.

John goes on telling his readers:

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

What is John talking about

Buried in sundry laws between commands not to be a stumbling block to the blind and using different materials in garments is

Leviticus 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The new commandment John is referring to is

John 13:34

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

John 15:12

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

We see that the old commandment and the new commandment are the same, The Gospel message given to them. Jesus had radically redefined the commandment given in Leviticus.

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John reiterates (preacher’s trick) the proof that we are following Jesus, and we truly love God is in the way we live. The love of Jesus shows through us. We treat people as Jesus would. His love flows through us.

John lists various groups that he is writing to Little children, Fathers, Young people

Little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake and because you know the Father

Fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

Young people, because you have overcome the evil one and because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

John is encouraging all believers, the new Christians (Little children), those who are growing in Christ (Young people) and the spiritually mature (Fathers).

Then John reminds his readers not to love the things of this world.

That the love of the father is not from this world.

He mentions the Desire of the flesh, the Desire of the eyes, and the Pride of Life (riches).

These start as worldly attitudes (not from God).

Little sins but can grow.

All focus on the temporary.

This world is passing away but the love of the father endures forever.

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Thoughts that we can take from this scripture for our lives today.

1. John models how we can relate to each other. More of a horizontal model versus a vertical model.
2. Jesus is there for us.
3. Our lives are changed by a relationship with Jesus. His love shows through us.
4. Love one another.
5. Do not focus on the world.
6. Can you think of others?