

Lessons From I John

Walking With Jesus

(I Jn 2:1-6)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
 - a. Last week we noticed how to walk with God.
 - i. By walking in the light.
 - b. This week we will notice how to walk with Jesus.
3. John begins by giving us some vital information here in chapter two.
 - a. **I Jn 2:1-2** "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."¹
 - b. John is writing...
 - i. First that we may not sin.
 - ii. Second that if we sin we have an advocate, Jesus the righteous.
 - iii. Third Jesus is our advocate because He is the propitiation for everyone's sins.
4. So how is it that we can know we are "Walking with Jesus?"

I. By Knowing If We Know Christ

- A. Sounds simple enough doesn't it
 1. All we have to do is know we know Him.
 - i. However how many people "think" they know Christ but don't.
 - a. **Mt 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"
 - b. **Lk 13:25-27** "When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' 26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' 27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'"

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. Knowing Jesus means keeping His commandments
1. This is not a new concept from Christ.
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - ii. **Jn 15:10, 14** "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love....¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you."
 - a. This is something every Christians knows in principle.
 - iii. **I Jn 2:3** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments."
 2. Knowing something in principle and understanding its meaning are two different things.
- C. Some false concepts concerning "knowing Christ"
1. Knowing Christ & His commandments simply means following the "red letters."
 - i. This has been around for a very long time.
 - ii. I remember a young man one time telling me we didn't need to look at anything other than what Jesus specifically said, ie the "red letters."
 - iii. Are the red letters the only thing Jesus said?
 - a. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - b. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - c. **I Co 2:16** "'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?'" But we have the mind of Christ."
 - d. **Jn 16:13** "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."
 - e. **Mt 28:18** "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
 2. Knowing Christ means simply keeping His one commandment and looking to the rest of the "suggestions."
 - i. Had a man tell me one time "God only has one command, love your God with all your heart, the rest are suggestions."
 - a. **Mt 22:37** "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
 - b. **Mt 22:38-40** "This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these **two commandments** depend all the Law and the Prophets." (emphasis mine)
 - c. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my **commandments**." (emphasis mine)

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- ii. As easily seen this doesn't hold water. Here are two commands already.
- 3. Knowing Christ & His commands doesn't mean you have to defend Him.
 - i. Had a young lady one time tell me that she didn't have to defend what she thought and taught concerning Christ. This was actually what her preacher told her to tell me concerning the plan of salvation.
 - a. **I Pt 3:15** "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"
 - b. **Jd 3** "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
 - ii. How shall we make a defense or contend for the faith without "defending Christ." Remember the Christ is the "Word."
- 4. Knowing Christ & His commandments simply means having a personal & spiritual relationship with Him without even opening the Bible. It is between you and Him.
 - i. As one man put it "Why I hate religion, but love Jesus."
(<http://goo.gl/NW65W>)
 - a. **Mt 16:18** "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
 - ii. As one man put it a preacher I know, "I don't need to go to church to have a relationship with God or be encouraged by Him."
 - a. **He 10:24-26** "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins"
 - 1. By the way it doesn't say here which assembly is ok to neglect...which means none of them.
- D. Knowing & understanding "keeping His commandments"
 - 1. As mentioned before it is one thing to know this but another to understand it.
 - 2. So what does it mean to "keep His commandments" then?
 - i. It means understanding we need God's authority for everything we do.
 - a. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - b. This means having a thus says the Lord for everything we do.

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- E. So how do we walk with Jesus
 - 1. By doing "everything" He tells us to do ie following His word because His word is what will judge us one day.
 - i. **Jn 12:48** "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."

II. By Knowing We Abide In Christ

- A. This involves being "in Christ"
 - 1. **I Jn 2:5-6** "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." (emphasis mine)
- B. Being in Christ only happens one way
 - 1. Obeying God's plan of salvation.
 - i. Studying God's Word
 - a. **Ro 10:17; II Ti 2:15**
 - ii. Having faith that Jesus is the Son of God
 - a. **Jn 3:16; 14:15**
 - iii. Giving one's life over to Christ completely
 - a. **Ac 2:38; 17:30**
 - iv. Confessing Jesus as the Son of God
 - a. **Mt 10:32; Ro 10:9-10**
 - v. Being immersed/baptized into water for the forgiveness of sins
 - a. **Ro 6:3; Ga 3:27; Ac 22:16; I Pt 3:20-21**
- C. Walking with Christ, in Christ, only happens with a proper understanding
 - 1. First by abiding by what we talked about before, keeping His commandments.
 - i. **I Jn 2:3, 6** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments...6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."
 - 2. Second by having the right mentality.
 - i. **Mt 5:48** "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (NASB95)

CONCLUSION

- 1. J. C. Ryle wrote, "Let us learn to live the life of faith in Jesus more than we have up to this point. Ever to be found by the fountain side—ever to be eating Christ's body by faith, and drinking Christ's blood by faith—ever to have before our minds Christ's dying for our sins—Christ's rising again for our justification—Christ interceding for us at God's right hand—Christ soon coming again to gather us to Himself—this is the mark which we should have continually before our eyes. We may fall short—but let us aim high. Let us walk in the full light of the Sun of righteousness, and then our graces will grow. Let us not be like trees on a cold north wall—weak, half-starved, and unfruitful. Let us rather strive to be like the sunflower—and follow the great Fountain of Light wherever He goes, and see Him with open face. Oh, for an eye more quick to discern His dealings! Oh, for an ear more ready to hear His voice!" (<http://goo.gl/s05bE>)
- 2. Let us stand in Christ, for Christ, that we may stand beside Christ one day.

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**