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1 John

**Chapter 02:03-07**  
**IF IT WALKS LIKE A DUCK**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. We didn't get very far in **1 John Chapter 2** last week, but we did get to hear that wonderful word "propitiation" a couple of times!
1. I would like to remind us all – what word propitiation means.
    - a) And I don't think it can be said any better than **Joh 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**
      - (1) YES, **Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
      - (2) But our gracious Father has not left us in that place – helplessly lost. He provided Jesus and it is by His stripes we are healed – He is our propitiation!
        - (a) ...Our Advocate – our defense attorney.
  2. We stopped at **verse 3** last week and that is where I would like to pick it up our study.

**II. 1JN 2:3 NOW BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**

- A. What John is telling us here is not new news! We have heard this before.
1. **Mat 19:17** So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But **if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**"
  2. **1Co 7:19** Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, **but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.**
  3. **Luk 6:46** "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"
  4. **Rev 22:14** Blessed **are those who do His commandments,** that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.
    - a) So what John is saying is that we are able to "perceive" by the way a person lives from day-to-day whether they know Jesus by the importance they place on His commandments.
      - (1) *"The Christian no longer loves sin; it is the object of his sternest horror: he no longer regards it as a mere trifle, plays with it, or talks of it with unconcern . . . Sin is dejected in the Christian's heart, though it is not ejected. Sin may enter the heart, and fight for dominion, but it cannot sit upon the throne."* (Spurgeon)

III. **1JN 2:4 HE WHO SAYS, "I KNOW HIM," AND DOES NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.**

A. Again, this word “know” = Greek - ginōskō

1. *To learn to know, to come to know, get a knowledge of, to perceive, to feel, to understand:*
2. It is also a Jewish idiom for the intimate physical relationship between a husband and a wife:
  - a) As in **Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.**
    - (1) So – when someone says, “I know Jesus”, or “I am a Christian” – they are expressing that they have an intimate knowledge of Him.
    - (2) But if that is not backed up by actions – then that person really DOES NOT know Jesus. John is telling us that person’s “perceived” relationship is false.
      - (a) Now – is that lie intentional or simply self-delusion?
      - (b) I think James gives us that answer:
        - (i) **Jas 1:22-25 But he doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (25) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**
          - (a) But whether it is intentional or forgetfulness – the result is the same! “Knowing” Jesus is much more intimate than just saying that we have knowledge Him!

IV. **1JN 2:5-6 BUT WHOEVER KEEPS HIS WORD, TRULY THE LOVE OF GOD IS PERFECTED IN HIM. BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ARE IN HIM. (6) HE WHO SAYS HE ABIDES IN HIM OUGHT HIMSELF ALSO TO WALK JUST AS HE WALKED.**

A. The word “keeps” means:

1. Thayer Definition:
  - a) *To attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, to observe, to reserve*
    - (1) So, for the person that carefully guards and observes God’s “word” – **the love of God is perfected in him.**
    - (2) If we are going to say that we “abide” in Him – we should walk as He has walked!

B. The word “abide”:

1. Thayer Definition:
  - a) *To remain, in reference to place*
  - b) *To tarry, to not depart*

- c) *To continue to be present*
- d) *To be held, and kept, continually*
- e) *To last, to endure*
- f) *To survive, live*
- g) *To remain as one, not to become another or different*
- h) *To wait for*

(1) Wow! So “By this we know that we are in Him – if we continue and endure and last and not become something “other or “different” than what Jesus represented”!

(a) With this in mind **Joh 8:35** has special meaning: **And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever.**

(b) I think it is safe to say that “some” Christians are more like slaves to their faith than sons and daughters.

(i) A slave cannot wait to be set free and get out of his master’s house, but a son or daughter “abides” forever. In other words, they will be sons and daughters forever!

(c) **Joh 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

2. A beautiful word – that word “**abide**”! And do you know why?

a) Because it places all the glory back on Jesus and ALL I have to do is just “abide” in Him.

(1) He said that “He” is the vine and that we are the branches!

(a) The life of the branch ONLY EXISTS because of the vine.

(b) If you break off the branch it dies, the tree goes on living.

(c) And the branch that produces fruit, does so because of the life-source that comes from the tree.

(i) It doesn’t do anything except “abide” – it just stays connected, it remains as one – with the tree (or vine) and when the time is right it begins to blossom and bear fruit.

(a) **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit**

(2) But occasionally you get what is called “sucker branches”.

(a) I use to get those on my fruit trees.

(i) You might have one or several of these branches that just begin to grow better and shoot up faster and further than any of the others.

(ii) It looks like real growth and seems identical to the other branches, and if left alone to grow they will get huge.

(a) The only problem is that they will never bear fruit. They are fakes.

(b) The only choice you have is to cut them off, because they suck the life out of the other fruitful branches and take the nutrients that

could be going to them.

- (i) John, is simply saying that we need to be the real-McCoy and fruit will be the evidence of abiding in Him.

## V. CONCLUSION

A. **1Jn 2:7** Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

1. The meaning of this verse could be entirely different depending on whether John meant this to be the ending of his previous thoughts or the beginning of his next.
  - a) If it is the former – then it has to do with Christians walking as Christ walked and abiding in Him so that they bear much fruit.
  - b) If it is the later – then it has to do with what the Apostle John is about to tell us about love being the “trademark” of our faith!
    - (1) I have a tendency to believe it is linked to what John has just told us!
      - (2) As far back as the Garden, man has had trouble doing what the Lord asked him to do!
      - (3) So, John’s exhortation for those of us who say that we love Jesus, to do what He asks, would be nothing new!
  - c) But in a very real sense, John could be talking about both:
    - (1) We KNOW that we should be walking as Jesus walked, but exactly what does that mean?
      - (a) There is only one, and there will only EVER be one Messiah and you and I are not Him!
      - (b) We can never walk in His perfection and sinlessness so what does John mean? How did Jesus walk?
        - (i) **Joh 5:30-31** I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. **31** "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.
        - (ii) **Joh 4:31-34** In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." **32** But He said to them, **"I have food to eat of which you do not know."** **33** Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?" **34** Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**

- (c) So if we are going to walk as He walked, it will be a walk of love and humble submission to Him!
  - (i) And the “proof” as they say will be in the “pudding” or in this case the fruit!