

1 John

Chapter Two

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter 2

SUMMARY: Verses 1-29

John continues the thought process of what true fellowship for the believer looks like. In this chapter he begins to bring out the reality that your fellowship with God should be evidenced by certain character traits.

1. John assumes that believers may sin but that Jesus is our **ADVOCATE**. The word Advocate means a 'go between'. An advocate is a person who stands for your defense and pleads your cause.
2. Jesus can plead the cause of sin in your life because He already paid the penalty for your sins. The reason you are able to fellowship with God is because Jesus became your 'propitiation' for sin. **PROPITIATION** means God can be merciful to you because Jesus' death appeased God's wrath that was on account of sin.
3. There are certain character traits you should possess as you fellowship with God: **OBEDIENCE , LOVE FOR OTHERS, HATRED FOR SIN, and TURNING FROM WORLDLY LUSTS.**
4. John exposes the work of Satan by stating Antichrist is coming and even know the spirit of such is here. This was a sign that the return of Jesus was getting closer. John brings clarity by telling us this spirit is **divisive, destructive, and deceitful**. These character traits are never to be associated with true believers. You cannot remain in fellowship and be divisive and destructive. That is the spirit of Satan / Antichrist. This spirit doesn't even allow there to be any hint of fellowship or relationship. The spirit of antichrist denies the Father and the Son.
5. John is letting his readers know that FELLOWSHIP plays a necessary role for the believer, and we cannot truly know God or overcome Satan's kingdom apart from fellowship with other believers.
6. 2 things protect believers in this end time living: **ABIDING IN TRUTH** and **THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLING YOU TO DISTINGUISH ERROR FROM TRUTH.**

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out the most to you? Why so?
2. How could you best explain ADVOCATE and PROPITIATION to a friend?
3. If Jesus took God's wrath then how come so many people think God is still angry?
4. Do you think it's fair that John says you should possess certain character traits as a Christian? How is Christianity different from just being a good moral person with good character?
5. If we should TURN FROM WORLDLY LUSTS then why do so many Christians flirt with such and embrace it as a normal part of Christian experience?
6. Why do you think the word DIVISIVE is so linked up with Satan's kingdom? Define DIVISIVE. Do you see Satan's character in the words DIVISIVE, DESTRUCTIVE, DECEITFUL?
7. Why is OBEDIENCE TO TRUTH and SPIRIT LED LIVING so key to living a successful Christian life?

APPLICATION

1. Do you expect God to give you mercy but you withhold such from others? Who do you need to extend mercy towards?
2. Are there attitudes or emotions you display that may be divisive or destructive? If so, confess those to Jesus now.
3. Of the character traits John brought out in this chapter OBEDIENCE, LOVE FOR OTHERS, HATRED FOR SIN, and TURNING FROM WORLDLY LUSTS which is your strongest and which is your weakest?
4. How do you practically abide in Truth and let the Holy Spirit enable you?

