

# DO WE REALLY KNOW WHAT GOD KNOWS?

## 1 John 1:8 - 2:6

### ❖ Do we know God's attitude about sin?

#### ✓ Sin denied as guilt. vs. 8

- ♦ *1 John 1:8* If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- ♦ Sharing God's attitude towards sin begins with the realization of personal guilt.
- ♦ A denial of personal guilt deceives us, perhaps our friends, but not God [vs. 5].
- ♦ The colossal ignorance of denial of guilt removes the deceiver from all reality.
- ♦ *Rom 3:23* for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- ♦ The reality of personal guilt must be brought into the strong light of revealed truth.

#### ✓ Sin confessed as guilt. vs. 9

- ♦ *1 John 1:9* If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- ♦ The tense of John's verb "confess" indicates that the confessing of sin is not a mechanical ceremony or ritual. Rather, this confessing is a constant attitude toward self before God, which faces the reality of personal guilt in the light of divine revelation.
- ♦ *Homologeō*, [*homo=same; lego=speak*] here translated "confess" means literally "speak as one, or to speak the same thing". When our attitude toward ourselves is one of recognition of guilt; we are speaking as one, or agreeing with God about our sin.
- ♦ *Isa. 1:18* "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.
- ♦ It is through His blood that we have cleansing from sin. Just as we constantly maintain an attitude of personal responsibility for our guilt, so God, by Jesus' blood, is constantly cleansing us from all unrighteousness.
- ♦ *Romans 8:1* "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."

#### ✓ Sin denied as fact. vs. 10

- ♦ *1 John 1:10* If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- ♦ Facts are stubborn things, they just will not be dislodged.
- ♦ For the creature to dispute the Creator's knowledge of reality to the extent that he actually makes God out as acting according to that which is not real staggers the faculties of perception!
- ♦ In such an attitude, the word of God simply does not exist. His word is not in us, when we deny the fact that we sin.

#### ✓ Sin confessed as fact. vss. 2:1-2

- ♦ *1 John 2:1-2* My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; (2) and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

- ◆ It is only in the recognition of sin and the sinfulness of it that there is any hope of partially eliminating it from ones life. So, says John to those he considers as dear little ones in God's family.
- ◆ Advocate [*paraklete*] seems to be one who lends his presence to assist his friends.
- ◆ "He always lives to make intercession for them." [Heb 7:25]
- ◆ Propitiation is a wrath removing sacrifice as Jesus did for us while on the cross.

### ❖ Do we know that we know Him? vs. 3

- ◆ *1 John 2:3* And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments
- ◆ John, quite literally, says, " this we are knowing that we got to know, and still do know, Him; that we are keeping His commandments."
- ◆ The experiential knowledge of the Christian is far superior to the fake "special knowledge" of the Gnostic.

### ❖ Do we speak truth about knowing God? vs. 4

- ◆ *1 John 2:4* The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;
- ◆ Here is a terrible indictment. If keeping His commandments proves we *do* know God, failing to keep His commandments proves we *do not* know Him.
- ◆ *John 3:36* "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

### ❖ Do we know God's perfected love in our lives? vs. 5a

- ◆ *1 John 2:5a* but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.
- ◆ *2 Cor 5:14* For the love of Christ controls us [constrains us], having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
- ◆ *John 3:16* "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

### ❖ Do we know that we are in Him? vs. 5b

- ◆ *1 John 2:5b* By this we know that we are in Him:
- ◆ The habitual keeping of His commandments is an experience had only by those who walk in the light as He is in the light. Thus keeping His commandments becomes to the individual evidence that he is indeed " in Him."

### ❖ Do we prove our claim of knowing God through our moral lifestyle? vs. 6

- ◆ *1 John 2:6* the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- ◆ The knowledge of God by the sheer process of intellectual reasoning, argument and thought or by sheer emotional experience does not carry with it any necessary change in the moral and ethical life of the individual. The "Christian experience" which proves salvation is obedience!