

²Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just.

2 And he is the ¹reconciliation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the ²whole world.

3 ¹And hereby we are sure that we ²know him, ³if we keep his commandments.

4 ¹He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 ¹But he that keepeth his word, in him is the ²love of God perfect indeed: hereby we know that we are in ³him.

6 ¹He that saith he remaineth in him, ought even so to walk as he hath walked.

7 ¹Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment, which ye have had from the beginning: this old commandment is that word, which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 ¹Again, a new commandment I write unto you, that ²which is true in him: and also in you: for the darkness is past, and that true light now shineth.

9 ¹He that saith that he is in that light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness, until this time.

CHAPTER 2

^a 1 John 3:14

10 ¹He that loveth his brother, abideth in that light, and there is no occasion of evil in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother, is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12 ¹Little children, ²I write unto you, because your sins are forgiven you for his ³Name's sake.

13 ¹I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. ²I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome that wicked one. ³I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 ¹I have written unto you fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome that wicked one.

15 ¹Love not this ²world, neither the things that are in this world. If any man love this world, the ³love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in this world, (*as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*) is not

² In that he nameth Christ he shutteth forth all other.

2:2 ¹ Reconciliation and intercession go together, to give us to understand that he is both advocate and high Priest.

² For men of all sorts, of all ages and all places, so that this benefit belongeth not to the Jews only, of whom he speaketh, as appeareth 1 John 2:7, but also to other nations.

2:3 ¹ He returneth to the testimony of our conjunction with God, to wit, to sanctification, declaring what it is to walk in the light, to wit, to keep God's commandments whereby it followeth that holiness doth not consist in those things which men have devised, neither in a vain profession of the Gospel.

² This must be understood of such a knowledge, as hath faith with it, and not of a common knowledge.

³ For the tree is known by the fruit.

2:4 ¹ Holiness, that is, a life ordered according to the prescript of God's commandments how weak soever they be, is of necessity joined with faith, that is, with the true knowledge of the Father in the Son.

2:5 ¹ He that keepeth God's commandments loveth God indeed. He that loveth God, is in God, or is joined together with God. Therefore he that keepeth his commandments, is in him.

² Wherewith we love God.

³ He meaneth our conjunction with Christ.

2:6 ¹ He that is one with Christ must needs live his life, that is, must walk in his steps.

2:7 ¹ The Apostle going about to expound the commandment of charity one toward another, telleth first, that when he urgeth holiness bringeth no new trade of life (as they use to do which devise traditions, one after another) but putteth them in mind of the same Law which God gave in the beginning, to wit, by Moses, at that time that God began to give Laws to his people.

2:8 ¹ He addeth that the doctrine indeed is old, but it is now after a sort new both in respect of Christ, and also of us: in whom he through the Gospel, engraveth his Law effectually, not in tables of stone, but in our minds.

² Which thing (to wit, that the doctrine is new of which I write unto you) is true in him and in you.

2:9 ¹ Now he cometh to the second Table, that is, to charity one towards another, and denieth that that man hath true light in him, or is indeed regenerate and the son of God, which hateth his brother: and such an one wandereth miserably in darkness, brag he of never so great knowledge of God, for that wittingly and willingly he casteth himself headlong into hell.

2:12 ¹ He returneth again from sanctification to remission of sins, because that free reconciliation in Christ is the ground of our salvation, whereupon afterwards sanctification must be built as upon a foundation.

² Therefore I write unto you, because you are of their number whom God hath reconciled to himself.

³ For his own sake: And in that he nameth Christ, he shutteth out all others, whether they be in heaven or earth.

2:13 ¹ He showeth that this doctrine agreeth to all ages, and first of all speaking to old men, he showeth that Christ and his doctrine are passing ancient, and therefore they be delighted with old things, nothing ought to be more acceptable unto them.

² He adviseth young men, if they be desirous to show their strength that they have a most glorious combat set here before them, to wit, Satan the worst enemies, who must be overcome: willing them to be as sure of the victory as if they had already gotten it.

³ Finally, he showeth to children, that true Father, from whom they have to look for all good things, is set forth unto them in the Gospel.

2:14 ¹ He addeth afterward in like order, as many exhortations, as if he should say, Remember your fathers: as I wrote even now, that the everlasting Son of God is revealed to us. Remember ye young men, that that strength whereby I said that you put Satan to flight, is given you by the word of God, which dwelleth in you.

2:15 ¹ The world which is full of wicked desires, lusts or pleasures, and pride, is utterly hated of our heavenly Father. Therefore the Father and the world cannot be loved together: and this admonition is very necessary for green and flourishing youth.

² He speaketh of the world, as it agreeth not with the will of God, for otherwise God is said to love the world with an infinite love, John 3:16, that is to say, those whom he chose out of the world.

³ Wherewith the Father is loved.