

Proof of Life: Christ in the Everyday

1 John 2:1-6

Introduction

- John's first stated purpose for writing this letter is found in 1:4
- Today we have the stated second purpose – that sin would be avoided

Christ in the Everyday Deals with Sin (vv.1-2)

- **First of all, don't sin... (v.1a)**
 - We overlook this because of its apparent impossibility
 - We are to be so sure of Christ's work on our behalf that we want to live a different life, including simply sinning less
 - We must face the reality of why not to sin (at least in 1 John)
- **Only by Having Christ before us daily can we hope to sin less**
 - John tenderly states his second purpose in writing, that the readers would not sin – "My little children..."
- **If we do sin, Christ before us daily reminds us of the completed atoning work of our sufficient Savior (vv.1b-2)**
 - He also speaks comfort if they do sin
 - Comfort is found in Christ
 - Upon conviction and subsequent confession (1 John 1:9)
 - The advocate (for it is God we have offended)
 - The propitiation (for sin deserves wrath)

Christ in the Everyday Provides Assurance of Salvation (vv.3-6)

- **Let it first be said that the Gospel is the cure for doubts – We must revisit the gospel again and again and again!**

- **Obedience to Christ's commands provides assurance (v.3)**
 - Obedience is rooted in knowing. This "knowing" is basic, but overlooked in a society (and church culture) where knowing information is equated with growth.
 - This "knowing" is a kind of knowing that seeks to understand and practice what is known – basically, a moral application of what's (who's) been understood.
- **Conduct, not confession, reveals the truth of what we believe (vv.4-6)**
 - Nature of God...Nature of Sin are always on display (v.4)
 - If we are pursuing the Christ of our belief, as imperfect as our pursuit may be, we can be certain of being born again (v.5)
 - Pursuit is marked by the presence of the Word
 - Pursuit is marked by the presence of Love
 - Pursuit is marked by the presence of an abiding Walk (vv.5b-6)

Application

- Is your confession of Christ matched by your obedience? Do you realize that Christ stands even today as your only relief from the deserved wrath of God?
- Christian, do you find legitimate comfort in the advocacy of Jesus Christ for you? Do you remember the gospel regularly, or is it a distant memory? Are you stumbling along, tripped up by sin? Remember, He has delivered you from God's wrath, given you His righteousness and turned you into a child that God looks upon with favor!