

As He Walked

1 John 2:1-6

- We have a passage of scripture to address today that is essentially about obedience
 - But it is not focused on the kind of obedience that is meant to gain favor with God
 - It is not just a series of encouragements to obey in order to gain something
 - Or to look good to others
 - This is an obedience that comes about because the one obeying knows Christ
 - Accepts Him as their Savior
 - And, therefore, wants to become more like Christ day by day
 - The disciple of Jesus has a desire to walk even "As He Walked"
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- And that is our theme today
 - From 1 John 2:1-6
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- The Christian life is often referred to in the New Testament as a "walk"
 - It is pictured as a journey, one in which we walk with our Savior
 - This "walk" has some very specific characteristics
 - A few of which we will find in our passage of the day
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- We primarily learn some things about the person with which we walk
 - Our Savior
 - The One we not only journey with
 - But the One we journey to be like
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- Let's begin our passage about this walk...

1 John 2:1

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

- The first priority, of course, is to avoid sin
 - God has given us the tools to avoid sin
 - He has provided us with everything we need to have victory
 - But we do make wrong choices
 - And that's why we are so thankful for Christ
 - Who is described as our advocate
 - That means He is ever pleading our case before God
 - A constant reminder that His sacrifice on the cross paid the penalty for our sin
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- When we have faith in Him
 - His righteousness is imputed to us
 - That is, we have a righteous standing before God, through no action of our own
 - He is declared Jesus Christ the righteous
 - And His blood washes away sin

- Yes, avoid sin
 - But we must be encouraged
 - And remind ourselves that we have an advocate
 - One that is righteous
 - Our Savior
- That which He has done for us is described in the next verse...

1 John 2:2

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

- This word "propitiation" means reconciliation with God by atoning for sin
 - It means He was our sin offering
 - We could never have saved ourselves by doing
 - His sacrifice is done
 - It is our acceptance of Him and what He has done that saves us
 - By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone
- And while we rejoice in what He has done for us
 - We are reminded that it was not for our sins alone that He died
 - But for the sins of the whole world
 - And while His atoning sacrifice may be limited in its application
 - Meaning, not everyone will be saved
 - It is never limited in its potential
 - All men have an offer of salvation from Him
 - But they must come to Him in faith
- There is some evidence that a person has come to Him in faith
 - We find it in the next verse...

1 John 2:3

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

- Again, this is not a keeping of commandments to obtain salvation
 - It is not a keeping of commandments that makes us righteous
 - He is righteous and when we are in Him, we are made righteous
- It is not a keeping of commandments to earn His favor
 - The Son of God has favor with His Father
 - And He is our advocate
 - The Father's favor is turned to us because we accept Him
 - And we are reconciled to God through Him
- The commandment keeping a saved person does comes forth of thankfulness
 - And of a desire to please the One who has provided eternal life
 - He is the Savior that we love because He first loved us

- And we therefore maintain a desire to follow Him
- To do His will
- To walk worthy of that to which He has called us

- When we act in this way
- In this kind of obedience
- We show that we are one of His

- But there is an alternative...

1 John 2:4

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

- It is possible to say that we know Him, but be lying
- It is possible to remain in slavery to sin
- Not capable of having victory through Christ
- But to maintain an assertion of salvation and even an outward appearance to obey
- Neither of which are genuine or authentic

- Those who know Him are obedient to Him
- But those who know Him not remain in their sin
- And have no ability to obtain victory over it
- For this comes only through Christ

- Growth comes to the heart and life of God's child that obeys...

1 John 2:5

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

- To say the love of God is perfected in the obedient is to say it is made complete
- There is a growth and sanctification - a setting apart - that happens in the life of the truly saved
- One who has trusted Jesus and Him alone
- And is living according to His teachings
- When this growth is taking place, it is evidence of being "in Him"

- Those who abide in Him, walk like Him
- That theme is in the next verse...

1 John 2:6

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

- He is our model for everything
- When we know Him and His gift of salvation
- We understand that He is our example

- We are His follower
- His disciple
- All of us is devoted to Him
- And to becoming like Him

- How are we to walk?
- Not by a list of rules that makes us acceptable
- But in relationship with Him
- Knowing Him better day by day
- And becoming like Him

*Christopher Harper, **Take Note** 2024*