

1 John 2 – Faithful Instruction to God’s Church

1. The first two verses of 1 John 2 have as their immediate context the three previous verses. Remind yourself what 1 John 1:8-10 says before wrestling with these verses. What do these verse (1 John 2:1-2) add to our understanding about sin, forgiveness and righteousness that the previous verses did not? What promises are given in these verses that give believers hope and a desire to continue serving God even if we stumble and fall? (See Pr 24:16 for additional help on this). To whom are most of these verses addressed to? What do the last verse here remind us of? (See John 3:16 for additional help). (v. 1-2)
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2. These four verses are a great example of Hebrew parallelism. In other words, these verse all say the same thing with different language and different emphasis. What is the main message John is seeking to bring out in these verses? What does it mean “to know Him”? “that we are in Him”? “to “abide in Him”? What should be the result of this according to these verses? (v. 3-6)
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3. What is the ‘old’ commandment John is referring to? (See Lev 19:18). Why does John refer to this commandment as new? (See Mt 5:43-48 & Mk 12:28-24). What is the new aspect of the old command? (See Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:12; 1 Jn 3:11). Can we convince ourselves that we love our brother or sister and yet be very deceived? How shall we know? What can we do to change our attitudes? (v. 7-11)
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4. What is the message John is seeking to convey to the flock? Why does John address little children, fathers and young men in that order? Is he addressing those of an age bracket or those of a certain Christian maturity? Is he purposely excluding young and older women? Does the message he gives to each group correspond in some way to their age or maturity of understanding? Why does He say “I write to you” to some groups, and then “I have written to you” to other groups? Why does he repeat the same message twice to fathers? (v. 12-14)

5. Why does John warn us against loving the world of the things of the world? What is the root of the issue (See Matt 22:36-38; Jam 4:4)? What three categories does John outline as being worldly (See Gen 3:6; Gal 5:16-17; Pr 27:20; Mk 7:20-23)? What alone will stand and abide long after this world is destroyed (Isa 40:6-8; 1 Pet 1:22-25)? (v. 15-17)
