

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 6 – 1John 2:2)

### I. Week-5 Quiz

- A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
- B. Go over the answers by way of asking.

### II. Quick Review:

#### A. Walking in the light involves:

- 1. Recognizing God's holiness (God is light)
- 2. Fellowshiping with God (sharing His holiness, will, hatred for sin, etc.)
- 3. Acknowledging one's own sin and confessing them.
- 4. Making it one's goal not to "miss the mark" that God has ordained.

### III. 1John 2:1-2 – Walking In The Light (Part 4)

*ESV: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (2)He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*

#### A. "(2a) He is the propitiation for our sins

- 1. **Question: What does "propitiation" mean?**
- 2. Theologians tried to come up with a word to define the Greek word "*hilasmos*"
  - a. Revise Standard Version (RSV) uses "expiation"
    - i. "Expiation" emphasizes the "removal of guilt"
  - b. New International Version (NIV) uses "atoning sacrifice"
    - i. "Atonement" emphasizes reconciliation
  - c. NAS, KJV, ESV uses "propitiation"
    - i. "Propitiation" emphasizes the "removal of God's wrath".
- 3. The Greek word "*hilasmos*" as used in ancient times:
  - a. To sooth the anger of the gods
  - b. Many translators use "propitiation" because it best ties to how the word was used in ancient times
  - c. And since God's wrath is mentioned many times in the Bible, for example, Romans 1:18 and Romans 5:9, the word "propitiation" seems a more accurate word to use.

4. In either case, expiation, propitiation and atonement all relate to reconciliation
  - a. All these words point to the blood of Christ, which reconciles us to God!
  - b. Let's see how "hilasmos" connects to the blood of Christ
    - i. "Hilasmos" comes from "hilasterion" which translates into the word "mercy-seat"
      - Hebrews 9:3-5, "*Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, (4) having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. (5) Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat [hilasterion]. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.*"
        - The mercy seat was that solid gold piece that sat on top of the ark
        - In the ark were the tablets of the Law
        - The Law condemns all men (Romans 3:20)
        - But on top of that was the Mercy Seat and God could look at man, not because He had fulfilled the Law, but because of the blood that was sprinkled on that Mercy Seat
        - The High Priest would come in on the Day of Atonement, he would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on that Mercy Seat (Lev. 16:11-16)
        - Then reconciliation is made between God and Israel
      - Paul refers to Christ as being our "hilasterion" or "mercy-seat"
        - Romans 3:23-25, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God put forward as a propitiation [hilasterion; mercy-seat] by his blood, to be received by faith*"
          - a. It is through Christ and His shed blood that we can enter into fellowship with God.
    - Christ's blood is not just a payment for our sin, it reconciles us to God.
    - This destroys the Gnostic belief, since it taught that salvation came by a secret knowledge. Christianity says salvation comes by the blood of Christ.
  - ii. This is the good news of what it means to have Jesus as an advocate:
    - He is an intercessor, a consoler, a comforter who loves us.
    - He proved His love for us by dying for our sins!
    - He is now at the right hand of God, representing all of us.
    - When we confess our sins with sincere hearts, He steps in and makes a word for us with the Father, resulting in forgiveness!

**B. “(2b)...and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”**

- 1. Despite what the Calvinists say, Jesus did not die for a limited amount of people, but for the whole world!**
  - a. Calvinists teach that there is limited atonement, that is, the blood of Christ was only shed for the chosen few whom God will save.**
  - b. But John says that Christ is the propitiation for the whole world.**
- 2. Some take this verse to promote Christian Universalism!**
  - a. Christian Universalists believe that all men will be saved through Christ.**
  - b. This is not true because in order to receive this gift of salvation, one must hear, believe and obey the gospel! (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16; 2Thessalonians 1:8)**
- 3. John is basically saying here that forgiveness of sins is available to all!**
  - a. One must receive Christ through faith by the hearing and obeying the gospel!**
  - b. This principle is implied in Revelation 22:17, “*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*”**
    - i. The water of life is available to all! But will all come and drink of it? No!**
    - ii. Only those who are thirsty, who desires the water of life, will come and drink and reap the benefits!**
    - iii. In the same way, Jesus is the propitiation for the whole world, but only those who come to Him will reap the benefits!**