

I John 2:3-11

- Intro.**
- After reading these verses, how would you explain the primary theme that John is addressing?
 - How do these verses (2:3-11) correspond with 1:5–2:2?
 - Can you find a similar triad in these verses as in the previous paragraph? (cf. 1:6,8,10; 2:4,6,9)
 - Can you detect a polemic or adversarial setting in these verses?
- Vs. 3**
- Does “by this” refer to the preceding or following statement(s)?
 - What does it mean to “know God”?
 - to have fellowship with the Father and the Son? (1:3)
 - to have eternal life? (5:13)
 - to be “in Christ” (2:5)
 - to be saved?
 - to be a Christian?
 - How does a person “know” if he/she “knows God”?
 - confessed Christ? (4:2,15)
 - hears God?
 - led by Spirit? (Rom. 8:14)
 - pray and God hears? (5:14,15)
 - does not sin? (3:6; 5:18)
 - keep His commandments?
 - loves others (3:14; 4:7)
 - disciplined by God? (Heb. 12:6)
 - Is “keeping His commandments” a contingent condition for “knowing God”?
 - How can we explain a new covenant understanding of “keeping His commandments”?
 - What are the “commandments” that are to be kept?
 - to do the will of God? (2:17)
 - to listen to the Teacher? (2:20,27)
 - to abide in Christ? (2:28)
 - to live in love? (4:16)
 - to walk as He walked? (2:6)
 - to bear fruit (John 15:5,8)
- Vs. 4**
- What did those saying, “I have come to know Him” mean by that claim?
 - “I know about God.”
 - “I know what God wants.”
 - “I know how God really works.”
 - “I know how to get in touch with God.”
 - “I am in union with God.”
 - How does the failure to “keep His commandments” create a denial of “knowing Him”?
 - When John refers to the one with inconsistent behavior as “a liar”, is he implying that...
 - he has false or inadequate understanding of the character of God?
 - he contradicts the reality he claims to know?
 - he is not in touch with the spiritual reality of Jesus Christ?
 - he is deriving his function from the “father of lies”? (cf. John 8:44)
 - Does “the truth is not in him” mean...
 - he does not understand new covenant teaching?
 - he does not have the indwelling Person of Jesus Christ, the Truth? (cf. Jn. 14:6)
 - he does not allow the Spirit of Truth (I Jn 4:6) to function consistently in his behavior?

- Vs. 5**
- Is “keeping His word” equivalent to “keeping His commandments” in vss. 3,4?
 - Does “the love of God” refer to...
 - man’s love for God?
 - God’s love for man?
 - Can the “love of God” be “perfected”?
 - How is the “love of God perfected” by our “keeping His word”?
 - God’s love for man in His Son is perfected in regeneration?
 - God’s love is brought to its intended objective in the behavioral expression of Christians?
 - God’s love will be perfectly experienced in the future?
 - Does “by this” refer to the preceding or following statement(s)?
 - Does “in Him” refer to...
 - a right relationship with God?
 - spiritual union with Christ?
 - functioning by deriving one’s behavioral character from God?
 - How can we be sure we are “in Him”?
- Vs. 6**
- Who is “the one who says he abides in Him”?
 - What does it mean to “abide in Him”?
 - to enter into a higher consciousness of spirituality?
 - to remain intimately united to Christ?
 - to persevere through trials by Christ’s strength?
 - to function by deriving character from Christ?
 - If we “ought to walk in the same manner as He walked,” does this mean that we are obligated to imitate the performance of Jesus?
 - Is this the same as walking “in His steps” and asking, “what would Jesus do?”?
 - If we are to “walk as He walked”, how did “He walk”?
 - Is the “walk of Jesus” prototypical of modeled action or of receptive means of action?
- Vs. 7**
- How does the “new commandment” that John denies writing of relate to the “new commandment” that Jesus referred to? (cf. John 13:34)
 - What is the “old commandment” that is not “a new commandment” that John is writing about?
 - the traditions of the apostles?
 - the faith that was delivered to the saints? (Jude 3)
 - that which was not an innovation of new revelation.
 - the dynamic of the gospel in Jesus Christ?
 - The “old commandment” they “had had from the beginning” – of what?
 - of time?
 - of Old Testament teaching?
 - of Christ’s ministry with His disciples?
 - of their Christian instruction by John?
 - How is the “old commandment” equivalent to “the word”?
- Vs. 8**
- Does John change his mind in asserting that it is a “new commandment”, after saying in the previous verse that it was “not a new commandment”?
 - In what way is the commandment “new”?
 - new as part of the “new covenant” as contrasted with “old covenant”?
 - new as energized by grace rather than performance of the law?
 - new in the “newness of life” that we have as “new creatures” in Christ?
 - new in the ever-unique and spontaneous expression of the life of Jesus in each Christian?

- How is the new commandment “true in Him and in you”?
 - accurate doctrine taught by Christ and Christians?
 - true as opposed to false teaching?
 - the reality of divine character expressed in Christ and Christians?
 - the integral oneness of spiritual condition and behavioral expression?
- How is “the darkness passing away”?
 - the world-order of evil is on its way out?
 - Satan is a defeated foe and his time is limited?
 - the dark cloud of false-teaching is being overcome?
 - the darkened understanding of the false-teachers is fading?
 - the “flesh” patterning in the Christian is being overcome by the Spirit?
- How is “the true light already shining”?
 - Christ, as truth and light, has come to fallen mankind?
 - Christians, are the “light of the world”, as the reality of Christ’s life is expressed through them?

- Vs. 9**
- Who is it that “says he is in the light”?
 - Explain the contradiction of being “in the light” and “hating one’s brother”?
 - What does it mean to be “in the darkness even now”?
 - spiritual ignorance of being “in the dark”?
 - dwelling in the realm of darkness?
 - spiritually united “in the Evil One”? (5:19)
 - functioning by expressing character contrary to character of God? (1:5,6)

- Vs. 10**
- How does a person “love his brother”? (cf. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22)
 - Who is the “brother”?
 - Is “abiding in the light” the cause or consequence of “loving one’s brother”?
 - Who is required to “abide in the light”?
 - Who is given “no cause for stumbling”?
 - the Christian abiding in the light?
 - other Christians?
 - others who are not Christians?

- Vs. 11**
- What is the difference between being “in the darkness” and “walking in the darkness”?
 - Does his failure to “know where he is going” mean...
 - he is aimless, directionless and lost?
 - he doesn’t understand the objective of life?
 - he is headed for a destiny in “outer darkness”?
 - How has the “darkness blinded his eyes”?
 - he is night-blind and cannot adjust to the light?
 - the satanic prince of darkness has “blinded his eyes”? (cf. II Cor. 4:4)

- Conc.**
- What is John’s primary point in these verses?
 - the proof is in the pudding?
 - there must be consistency between claim and conduct?
 - if character is not lived out then the source is not in you?
 - behavioral expression will of necessity correspond with spiritual condition?