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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

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Are we abiding in Him?

August 30, 2009

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

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I John 1:10, 2:1-6

I John 1

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

I John 2

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:

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

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

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

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

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

John has been speaking about some different things and writing about some different things. However, here in this particular portion, he is addressing sin. He is addressing all of us. He said in the 10th verse:

I John 1

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

The reason John could say that and make that statement was that the Bible, the Word of God declares that we are all sinners. Every one of us are sinners tonight.

If you really want to upset someone today, and talk about religion or talk about going to church or whatever; if you ask someone if they have been born again and they say they haven't been and you mention "Sir, or Madam, you're a sinner." That upsets a lot of people. There are a lot of people that even though they don't go to church or even though they may go to church; if they have never been born again—you can call them a lot of different things, but don't tell them that they are sinners. "Don't tell me I'm a sinner. Don't tell me that." There are many people who believe that. There are all kinds of

people that believe that because of who they are, how they live, what they do, what they give and all kinds of different things; they believe that they are not sinners.

The Bible declares that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. The Bible says that.

John has within his audience of people, those that felt very highly of themselves because had he not had them in his audience then he probably would not have said what he said here. There are probably people there that felt that they did not need a Savior. There were people there who felt like they did not need to be born again, or they did not need to be changed. They probably felt like they were good enough. However, the Bible declares that we all have sinned. The Bible declares that we are sinners.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

What he is saying that if we say we are not sinners, if we say that we have not sinned then we are calling God liar because God has already said that we have sinned.

That's what we are—whether we are saved or whether we are lost; if we are saved, we are a sinner, we was sinner, we have been saved by the grace of Almighty God. We have been born again. We have renewed. We have been regenerated or whatever word you want to term or whatever terminology you want to put on it. However, it is all because of the grace of God that we are saved tonight.

When we were born into this world, we were born a sinner. That is all that we were. We have been declared righteous because of what Jesus Christ has done. We didn't work our way into this thing. We did not buy our way into this thing. We have all sinned. Every one of us is a sinner tonight. From the White House to the outhouse; we are sinners. Everywhere that we go, and everywhere that we look; people are sinners tonight.

There is no body that was ever born into this world that was not a sinner. We are all sinners. We are all sinners. We forget that sometimes. We think that because we belong to a church, been baptized and sometimes we want to exalt ourselves, but we are sinners. We live in a world that is filled with sin on every side. Everywhere that we look there is sin. Everywhere that we turn there are people committing all kinds of sin and doing all kinds of acts everywhere. You see it in your jobs, in your homes and everywhere you look people are sinning. You and I today, even though we are saved; we live in a world that is filled with sin. There are going to be times in our lives that we are going to mess up. We are going to sin. Why? We are going to sin because "by nature" we are sinners.

Since that is the case and since John knew that is the case that people are sinners; even though we have been saved. We have been born into the family of God. We have a brand new nature. We still yet have the adamic nature that we were born with. Do you why I know that? I've been around some of you. Do you know what we do? We still get mad and we throw things. We say things that we shouldn't. We are mean and hateful. Do you know why we do that? That is the adamic nature that we had when we were born. That is not the nature of Almighty God. That is not the nature that has been placed within us when we are saved. That's not the nature of God, but that's the adamic nature that we were born with.

In our lives, even after we get saved there is warfare. The Bible tells us there is a warfare going on inside of us. Many times even though we are saved, it seems like there is just a little bit of light on the inside of us and a whole lot of darkness sometimes. That's true. Do you know why? It's true because we still yet have the adamic nature. We still have that nature. Even though we have been saved, we have been born again, we have been declared righteous; we still have the adamic nature that we were born with and if we don't keep it beat down with the Word of God, it will get out of control. That is the way it is.

Quit reading your Bible for about a week or two and see how it works out for you. Quit praying for a week or two and see where you get to in life. Do you know what will happen? The human side of us, the natural side of us will get a lot stronger than the spiritual side of us then he'll become dominate in our lives. That is what happens. Every one of us are sinners.

Don't think that because you have been born again that you are better than somebody else because you are not. Don't think that you do this or that, or God is using you in some way that you are better than somebody else. The Bible says that we are all sinners.

Even when Jesus was here on earth there were people that thought they didn't sin. When you look at the scribes and the Pharisees; they were very religious people but they were lost. Jesus could not convince them that they were lost.

There are people in this world today; some of them are my family and some of them are your family that we will never convince that they are a sinner. That's truth. They think they are good enough. They think that because they are a good person, or they have been a good neighbor, they have been a good father to their children, paid their bills and they have never stolen anything from anybody; they think that because of all those things that they are not a sinner. However, the Bible declares, the God of heaven declares that we are all sinners. When we say that we have no sin then we are calling Almighty God a liar. I don't think we want to take that trip. Do you?

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

When we say that we have not sinned, and we are not a sinner; then His Word is not in us. When we say that we don't need to be born again, we don't need to be saved, and we don't need to be changed because we are already good enough; then it is an evident fact that His Word is not in us. We are not living by His Word. If we say that we don't need to be saved, and we don't need to be born again; His Word is not in us. If we say that we don't need the salvation that comes from Almighty God because we are already good enough then we are saying something about ourselves in that we are not living by His Word and His Word is not in us. If His Word is in us then His Word will teach us, and manifest itself in our lives and show us that we are unsaved. It will show us that we are sinners. It will show us that we need to be changed. The Word of God will tell us that and show us that. Won't it?

Since that is the case...

I John 2

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:

When John looks at his congregation that he was writing unto, he looks at them as his spiritual children, as being their pastor, their shepherd. As he looks at these individuals that he is speaking unto; he is looking at them as their shepherd or as their pastor—as his dear spiritual children.

If you have a pastor who doesn't care anything about the flock, about the sheep then you need to change pastors. If you are going to a church that doesn't care anything about the sheep then you need to change churches. I don't care to say that. If you have a pastor that don't care anything about the people that he is talking to then you need to go somewhere else. Truth!

John looks at these people here as "My little children..."

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:

What things? You are a sinner. You live in a world filled with sin. There is darkness all around you. There is wickedness and corruption on every hand. These are the things that he is talking about here. We live in a world filled with darkness.

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:

So he is reminding them here that they are living in a world of sin. They are sinners. When they were born, they were born into the world in sin. He was telling them that there is darkness all around them. He was reminding them of that. He was telling them this so that they would not sin. In other words, he was telling them some things here that should motivate them to keep them from sinning.

Friend, listen. I know that we talk and hear people all the time talking about they couldn't help from doing this or that. If we want to live as we should live then we don't have to sin. We don't have to give into temptation. We don't have to give into all the things the devil wants us to do. Even though we are living in a world filled with sin; you and I don't have to sin. That's true! We want to blame our sinning on all kinds of stuff. You blame it on everything.

John says here, "...I write these things to you that you sin not..."

We live in a world full of sin and sin all around us but we don't have to sin. We don't have to commit sin. We don't have to everyday, fall into the traps of sin. We don't have to do that. Are we going to sin from time to time? Yes. We are going to make some mistakes and we are going to sin, but we don't do it every day. That's truth! We need to understand that.

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:

He is giving them some instruction and warning them that they sin not.

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:

He is saying that we are sinners. We are living in a world full of sin. He is saying that there is sin all around us. He is telling us that here. He says here that I am writing some things unto you that you sin not. I'm giving you some instructions so that you don't sin and teach you not to sin, but if any man sins, we have a provision for our sins. Isn't that wonderful to know that? Isn't it wonderful to know that we are not perfect while living on planet earth? We are not sinless while living here. We are not living here above everything else. We are in a body of flesh. We are tempted and those things happen as we talked about the other night. However, he is saying here "if any man sin, we have an advocate..." We have a provision. He is saying that God has made a provision.

So many young people, so many people that go to church; I've seen them over the years. They have come and they got saved and it wasn't very long until the enemy came along and jumped on their back and tempted them drawing them away. They committed some kind of sin. Do you know what they did? The first thing is that they just want to throw up their hands and quit. They think that because I've committed this sin or because I've did this then God could never love me again. I'm glad that when I mess up that I have an advocate. When I sin, when I do things that I should not do; I am glad that there is one that is sitting on the right hand side of God. He defends His people.

Do you know what the word advocate means? It means someone that is along side of someone to help them. Do you what I'm glad of? I'm glad that He is there to defend me. When I sin and when I do and you do too; I'm glad that Jesus Christ is there to defend me. You should be thankful of that too.

I don't have good eyes, but I've got four of them and there isn't anyone with halos over their head here tonight. Nobody is sitting there shinning their crowns. Do you know what's going to happen? Even though He don't want us to sin, even though we should not sin, even though that God does not want us to sin; we are going to sin from time to time. He says since that is going to happen, we have someone that will defend us.

The word advocate means a defense attorney. If you were going to go to court, in this day and time you need a lawyer. You need someone that will go and stand before the judge that will plead your case. That is what Jesus said.

When I sin, do you know what Jesus Christ does not do? When He stands before God the Father and pleads my case; do you know what He does not do? He does not say, "Father, He did not really do that." He doesn't do that. He doesn't say, "Father, What he did wasn't really that bad." He doesn't do that at all. God the Father already knows what I've done. He already understands what I've done. Do you know what He can do? He can plead my case on the basis of what He did at Calvary. Not only did He shed His precious blood to forgive me of my sin, but He forgives me of my sins even today when I sin. Do you know what He does? He pleads His own righteousness. That is what it says here. He is the righteous one. Jesus Christ the righteous. Do you know what we should say? Hallelujah to that! If He

did not defend us then we would be in a world of hurt. We have someone that will stand beside of us. We have someone that will plead our case. We have someone that will stand with us. He doesn't forget about us. He doesn't run off and leave us. He is there to plead our case before God the Father.

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:

We have someone that will defend us before the Father and with the Father and that person is Jesus Christ the righteous. When He pleads our case, He will plead it exactly right. He is truth. He is righteous. He can do that because of who He is. No other man could do that. No other man is righteous as Jesus Christ is righteous. There is only one Son of God.

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

Do you know what that means? He is the covering. He is the sacrifice for our sins. When I sin and when you sin and when we do sin then we need to understand that God demanded something. When mankind sinned, God demanded something. Do you know what that was? That was the death of His Son. When Jesus Christ died at Calvary He appeased Almighty God. He satisfied the demands of Almighty God. When Jesus Christ died at Calvary, He satisfied the demand that God made when God said that I want my Son to die, it is going to take blood for this nation, world, people to be saved. When Jesus Christ died at Calvary and shed His blood then that appeased Almighty God. That satisfied Almighty God's demands. Man cannot do that. Man could not satisfy God's demand. However, Jesus Christ did satisfy God's demand. He says that He is the propitiation for our sins. He's the One that is the sacrifice for our sins. He is the One that appeases Almighty God, but not for our sins only—talking about those that are saved—but he says here for the sins of the whole world.

Do you know what everybody can do tonight? Everybody can be saved. Wherever you are at, whatever you have done, wherever you went or how far you have been doesn't matter; Jesus Christ is the sacrifice for you sin tonight. He is the One; He is the only One.

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

If you want to know you are saved tonight, there is a test that you can take. There is something you can do that is very simple. If you want to know whether you are really saved or not saved, this something you can do in your own house. You don't have to do it at church. This is something you will do at your house. This is a test you will take on the job. This is a test you will take at the school where you are at. This is a test that when you go down the road and someone cuts you off. This is a test you will take at the grocery store when somebody that is running into your heels or when you are sitting in line. This is a test you will take there. Do you know what this test is?

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

Do you know what that means? If we are keeping what the Bible says and doing what the Bible says then that means that we have Him. In other words, that means we are saved. If we are keeping His commandments; we know Him. Is that what that says? That is a test that we take.

Many times we fail that test, but that is something that we can look at. If we are keeping and we are doing what the Bible tells us to do then that means that we know Him. The word "know" means something that we have experienced. We have a personal relationship with Him. This is proven by us keeping what the Word of God says. If you are not obeying the Word of God then you don't know Jesus Christ. Truth?

Do you know what you are not going to do? If you are saved and living in the will of God, you go down the road and someone cuts you off in the grocery line; you are not going to make an idiot out of yourself. What I mean by that is this. You are not going to start screaming, hollering, cussing and throwing things. Many church people do that. Are you guilty? Shame on you, if you are guilty. I'm not saying we are perfect. I'm not saying that we never mess up, but I am saying if we know Him, if we are living in His Word and His Word is abiding in us and we are keeping His commandments; then there are some things that we won't do. If somebody cuts us off in traffic, we are not going to show them that they are number one. Christian people don't do that. Many church people do.

It gets quiet when you talk about things like that. That means we are making some progress here maybe. We may need to talk about that here for a while.

It's a proof in our lives that if we know Jesus Christ then we are obedient to the Word of God. That is what that says. I didn't make that up. I didn't write it. I'm just telling you. If we live in the Will of God, if we are living as we should be living; we know Him. We do what we need to be doing.

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

Do we lose our temper sometimes? Sure, we do. Everybody gets mad from time to time. However, do you know what I don't do? I don't scream, holler, cuss and carry on. I used to do that before I got saved. I don't mistreat people. I don't do things like that. Why? I know the Word of God tells me that Christian people don't act like that. The Word of God will tell me that since I am saved, since I am representing the God of heaven then I don't need to act like that. Many people that go to church do. Christian people living in the Will of God, obeying the Word of God don't act like that.

We take the test. By our actions and reactions to circumstances; we take the test. Every one of us does.

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

The word "keepeth" is a good word. The word "keepeth" is an action word. It's a word that means continuance, keeping continually, doing habitually, and doing it every day. Whosoever keepeth His Word every day, not just one day a week. Keeping His Word every day, guarding His Word is another definition for the word "keepeth." We should be guarding His Word every day. We should have it hid in

our hearts. We should guard it every day. This church should guard and we do guard the Word of God to make sure it is preached and taught what truth is and what is in God's Word. Some people don't like that. Some won't come here because of that. If you don't want to listen to the Word of God then go somewhere else. I'm here to tell you the truth. Sometimes that makes us feel good and sometimes it doesn't make us feel so good.

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

If you know that you are in Him...Christianity, being saved is being in Christ. It is not about belonging to a church but it is being in Christ. If we are in Him tonight, there is no better feeling in the world than to know that we are in Jesus Christ and to know that we have all that we need to go to heaven. If life comes to an end tonight that we have everything that we need and there is no better feeling on planet earth than that. We don't live by feelings. We live by faith, but I am sure glad that I serve a God that is real. I'm sure glad that I serve a God that can manifest His presence in my life and in your life. He does that. I appreciate Him tonight for doing that.

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

He makes the statement here.

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

The word "walk" is also a word of action. It means that we are to walk continuously. Walk every day following Him in our manner of life, our behavior. That is what the word "walk" here means. He says here:

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

In other words, my behavior, if I am in Him or since we are abiding in Him; the word abides means to be at home. If we are at home in Jesus Christ, we are abiding in Him.

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

So if I am abiding in Christ and I am at home with Him; then my life—I should walk continuously as Jesus Christ walked. That's what that says. I should do that every day. Not just once a week or once a month but my behavior, my walk, my life should be a life that I'm walking the same steps that Jesus Christ walked when He was here. My life should reflect the light of the Son of Almighty God. When people look at me they should be able to see the God of heaven. When people see you, we should be living in a way and our walk should prove who that we are following. When we are in Him; it will. Many times we flunk the test.

The question tonight is this: The Bible tells us we are sinners. We all know that. Here is the question that we need to ask ourselves tonight. **Are we abiding in Him?** Are we at home with Him? Are we walking with Him? Is our life a reflection of Him? Do you know what friend? Jesus Christ is the sacrifice.

He is the answer. He is the covering. He is the One that can forgive us of our sin. He is the One that paid the penalty for our sins. Jesus Christ did that. Do you know what you can do? You can leave here tonight walking with Him.

The decision is yours tonight. If you are not ready to meet the Lord, you are not where you need to be with the Lord; while God is speaking and while God is calling, let's get things fixed up with God. While you have time, while you are still yet in your right mind; let's get things fixed up with God because you are going to meet Him one day.

Come—