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1 John 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 John 2 Paraphrased

Introduction

† John continues speaking as a spiritual father to believers. His purpose isn't only to warn about sin, it's to reassure the church that forgiveness and life come through Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:7-9)

† At the same time he warns the church about deception that had already begun spreading among believers. False teachers were denying Christ and leading people away from the truth. (1 John 4:3)

† The chapter shows two clear paths, those who truly know God and walk in obedience, and those who claim to know Him but live in darkness. (John 13:34-35)

1 John 2:1

My children, I'm writing these things to you so you won't continue in sin. But if anyone does sin, we have someone who speaks on our behalf before the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one.

† John isn't teaching sinless perfection, he's reminding believers that Christ stands as our advocate before the Father. (Romans 8:34)

† The word advocate describes one who speaks for another. Christ represents believers because His righteousness covers our sin. (1 Timothy 2:5)

† Forgiveness doesn't come from our performance but from Christ's finished work. (Hebrews 7:25)

1 John 2:2

He himself is the sacrifice that deals with our sins, and not only ours but for people throughout the whole world.

† Christ's sacrifice satisfied the requirement for sin and opened the way for forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:26)

† The phrase whole world shows the gospel wasn't limited to Israel but extended to the nations. (John 1:29)

† Through Christ the message of forgiveness spread to all people. (Acts 10:43)

1 John 2:3

This is how we know that we've truly come to know Him, if we keep what He commanded.

† Knowing God isn't just intellectual knowledge, it shows itself in obedience. (James 2:17)

† Jesus taught the same principle, those who love Him keep His commandments. (John 14:15)

† Obedience is evidence of a genuine relationship with God.

(Matthew 7:21)

1 John 2:4

The person who says I know Him but doesn't keep His commands is lying, and the truth isn't living in that person.

† John confronts empty religious claims that aren't backed up by a changed life. (Titus 1:16)

† True faith produces fruit that can be seen in a person's conduct. (Matthew 7:16)

† Claiming faith without obedience reveals a false profession. (2 Timothy 3:5)

1 John 2:5

But whoever lives by His word shows that God's love has truly reached maturity in that person. This is how we know we belong to Him.

† God's love grows and matures in the believer who follows His word. (John 15:10)

† Spiritual maturity means living according to the truth God has revealed. (Philippians 1:6)

† Obedience demonstrates that someone truly belongs to Christ. (John 17:21)

1 John 2:6

Anyone who says they remain in Him should walk the same way He walked.

† Remaining in Christ means living the way He lived. (John 15:4)

† Jesus showed perfect obedience to the Father, and believers follow His example. (1 Peter 2:21)

† The Christian life is modeled after the character and conduct of Christ. (Philippians 2:5)

1 John 2:7

Beloved, I'm not giving you a new command but one you've had from the beginning. The old command is the message you already heard.

† The command refers to loving one another. (John 13:34)

† This teaching existed from the beginning of the gospel message. (2 John 1:5)

† Love has always been central to God's people. (Leviticus 19:18)

1 John 2:8

Yet in another sense I'm writing a new command to you, one that is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

† Christ revealed the fullest meaning of love through His life and sacrifice. (John 8:12)

† The darkness refers to the fading influence of the old covenant age. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The light of the gospel was already shining through the church. (Colossians 1:13)

1 John 2:9

The person who claims to be in the light yet hates a brother is still living in darkness.

† Hatred contradicts any claim of living in God's light. (1 John 3:15)

† Love for others proves fellowship with God. (John 15:12)

† Darkness represents spiritual blindness and separation from God. (John 3:19)

1 John 2:10

Whoever loves a brother remains in the light, and nothing in them causes others to stumble.

† Love keeps believers walking in God's light. (Romans 12:10)

† Loving others prevents division and stumbling within the body. (Galatians 5:14)

† Love is the clearest evidence of a life transformed by Christ. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

1 John 2:11

But the one who hates a brother is in darkness, walks in

darkness, and doesn't know where he's going because darkness has blinded his eyes.

† Hatred blinds people spiritually. (Matthew 6:23)

† Without love the truth becomes hidden from a person's heart. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

† Hatred reveals that someone still lives under the influence of darkness. (John 12:35)

1 John 2:12

I'm writing to you children because your sins have been forgiven for the sake of His name.

† Forgiveness comes through the authority and work of Christ alone. (Acts 4:12)

† Believers stand before God forgiven because of Jesus. (Ephesians 1:7)

† This assurance strengthens the believer's faith. (Hebrews 10:22)

1 John 2:13

I'm writing to you fathers because you've come to know Him who existed from the beginning. I'm writing to you young men because you've overcome the evil one.

† John recognizes different stages of spiritual growth in the church. (Hebrews 5:13-14)

† Overcoming the evil one refers to resisting deception and temptation. (James 4:7)

† Knowing Christ strengthens believers against spiritual opposition. (John 1:1)

1 John 2:14

I've written to you children because you've come to know the Father. I've written to you fathers because you've known Him who existed from the beginning. I've written to you young men because you're strong, God's word remains in you, and you've overcome the evil one.

† Strength comes from God's word living within believers. (Psalm 119:11)

† Victory over evil comes through truth and faith. (Ephesians 6:17)

† Spiritual maturity grows as believers remain in God's word. (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)

1 John 2:15

Don't love the world or the things that belong to the world. If someone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in that person.

† Loving the world means embracing values opposed to God. (James 4:4)

† Loyalty must belong to God rather than worldly desires. (Matthew 6:24)

† The believer constantly faces the tension between the world and God's kingdom. (Galatians 5:17)

1 John 2:16

Everything that belongs to the world, the cravings of the flesh, the cravings of the eyes, and pride in possessions, doesn't come from the Father but from the world.

† These three temptations mirror the fall of humanity. (Genesis 3:6)

† Satan used the same temptations against Jesus. (Matthew 4:1-11)

† The world system feeds desires that pull people away from God. (Romans 12:2)

1 John 2:17

The world and its desires are passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever.

† Earthly systems are temporary and fading. (1 Corinthians 7:31)

† Those who follow God's will share in eternal life. (John 6:40)

† This verse contrasts temporary desires with lasting life. (Matthew 6:19-20)

1 John 2:18

Children, it's the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist

was coming, many antichrists have already appeared. That's how we know it's the last hour.

† John clearly says the antichrists already existed in his own time. (1 John 4:3)

† The last hour refers to the closing period of the covenant age. (Hebrews 1:2)

† These antichrists denied that Jesus was the Christ. (2 John 1:7)

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they didn't really belong to us. If they had belonged to us they would've remained with us. But they left so it would become clear that none of them truly belonged.

† False teachers often begin within the community of believers. (Acts 20:29-30)

† Their departure reveals that their faith wasn't genuine. (Matthew 13:21)

† The church has always faced internal deception. (Jude 1:4)

1 John 2:20

But you have received an anointing from the Holy One, and you all understand the truth.

† The anointing refers to the Holy Spirit guiding believers into truth. (John 16:13)

† Through the Spirit believers recognize deception. (1 Corinthians 2:12)

† The Spirit protects the church from false teaching. (Ephesians 1:17)

1 John 2:21

I'm not writing to you because you don't know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth.

† John's purpose is to reinforce truth already known. (2 Peter 1:12)

† Truth and deception cannot exist together. (John 18:37)

† Believers must remain grounded in the truth they've received.

(2 Timothy 1:13)

1 John 2:22

Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

† Denying Christ's identity is the mark of antichrist teaching. (1 John 4:2-3)

† Rejecting the Son also rejects the Father. (John 5:23)

† Early heresies centered around denying the true nature of Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

1 John 2:23

Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father. The one who acknowledges the Son also has the Father.

† A relationship with God depends on faith in Christ. (John 14:6)

† Salvation is found only in the Son. (Acts 4:12)

† Confession of Christ reveals genuine faith. (Romans 10:9)

1 John 2:24

As for you, make sure what you heard from the beginning continues to live in you. If it remains in you, you'll remain in the Son and in the Father.

† Believers must hold firmly to the original gospel message. (Galatians 1:8)

† The early church preserved apostolic teaching. (Acts 2:42)

† Remaining in the truth keeps believers united with Christ. (Colossians 1:23)

1 John 2:25

And this is the promise He Himself made to us, eternal life.

† Eternal life is the central promise of the gospel. (John 3:16)

† This life begins now and continues forever. (John 5:24)

† Faith in Christ brings participation in that promise. (Titus 1:2)

1 John 2:26

I'm writing these things to you about those who are trying to

mislead you.

† False teachers attempted to deceive believers even in the first century. (Matthew 24:24)

† John's letter guards the church against deception. (2 Peter 2:1)

† Awareness protects believers from error. (Ephesians 4:14)

1 John 2:27

But the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you don't need anyone to teach you. Instead His anointing teaches you about all things, and it's true and not a lie. Just as it taught you, remain in Him.

† The Holy Spirit confirms truth in the believer's heart. (John 14:26)

† The Spirit guides believers in understanding God's word. (1 Corinthians 2:10)

† Remaining in Christ keeps believers anchored in truth. (John 15:7)

1 John 2:28

Now children remain in Him so that when He appears we'll have confidence and won't shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

† Faithfulness produces confidence before Christ. (Hebrews 10:35)

† The early church expected Christ's coming judgment within their generation. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† Remaining faithful prevents shame when judgment arrives. (Luke 21:36)

1 John 2:29

If you know that He is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born from Him.

† Righteous living reveals spiritual rebirth. (John 3:3)

† God's character is reflected in those born from Him. (Philippians 2:13)

† A transformed life reveals the presence of God. (Matthew

5:16)

Historical References

† Irenaeus explained that those who denied Christ were already troubling the early church, confirming John's warning about antichrists.

† Tertullian wrote that heretics often came out of the church itself before spreading false doctrine.

† Eusebius recorded that apostolic writings like John's letters were used to defend the church against early doctrinal corruption.

How It Applies To Us Today

† True faith still reveals itself through obedience and love.

† The church must remain alert to false teaching that denies Christ.

† Believers must choose God's will over the temporary desires of the world.

† Remaining in Christ and His word continues to be the foundation for faithful living.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who were the antichrists John warned about?

A: They were people in the first century who denied that Jesus is the Christ and tried to deceive believers. (1 John 2:18, 22)

Q: How can someone know they truly know God?

A: John says the evidence is obedience to God's commandments. (1 John 2:3)

Q: Why does John warn believers not to love the world?

A: Because the world's desires are temporary and opposed to God's will. (1 John 2:15-17)

Q: What does it mean to remain in Christ?

A: It means continuing in the truth of the gospel and living in

obedience to Him. (1 John 2:24-28)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 John 2

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Tertullian, Prescription Against Heretics

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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