

1 John 2

2:1. My dear children [John's non-face to face-congregation], **I keep on writing these things to you in order that you may not sin** [a minister should discourage sinning], **nevertheless, if anyone sins** [a volitional issue and always a potential], **we have a defense attorney before the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous.**

Τεκνία μου, ταῦτα γράφω ὑμῖν ἵνα μὴ ἀμάρτητε. καὶ ἐάν τις ἀμάρτη, παράκλητον ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν πατέρα, Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν δίκαιον·

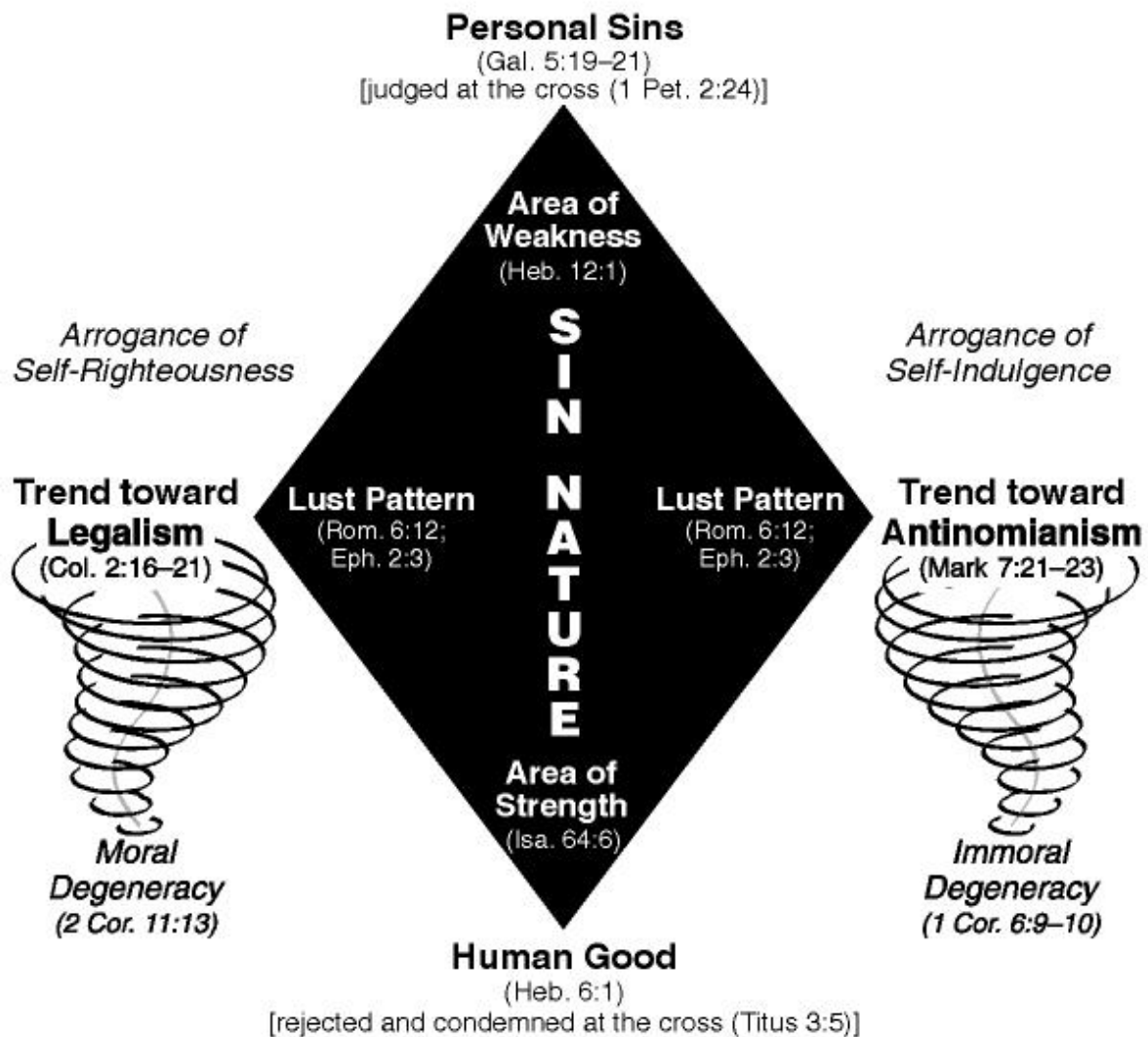
The Greek word '*teknon*' means child or student under authority. However, when one inserts the Greek iota as did John, the word '*teknion*' is formed. The meaning then becomes little or dear child or student under authority. Since John loved his congregation, he used the word *teknia*, the plural of *teknion*. By the way, John demonstrated his love by his teaching them the spiritual life.

The apostles like Paul and John did much of their teaching through the writing of their epistles and other letters which did not become a part of the canon of Scripture. John probably wrote at least one letter per week which would be read before the congregation by someone with a good voice. This clearly implies that one does not require face to face teaching for spiritual growth. Today, many Christians listen to their pastor's teaching via MP3s and DVDs and successfully grow in their spiritual lives.

The communicator of God's word should discourage the members of his congregation from sinning for a number of reasons. Every time the believer sins, he has lost the opportunity to use one of the Problem-Solving Devices. Furthermore, rather than gaining momentum from the application of God's word to his experience, he comes to a complete halt in his spiritual life. Finally, rather than being blessed by God as he advances, he is being punished.

One of the first steps in discouraging sin is to teach the subject of the Sin Nature for if one doesn't know that he possesses one, how is he able to cope with it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIN NATURE



The lust pattern of the sin nature includes: Power lust, approbation lust and inordinate ambition, pleasure lust as per 2 Timothy 3:4, “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,” sexual lust which includes fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, lesbianism, necrophilia, the sexual sins of evil, such as the phallic cult, the sexual sins of crime such as rape, incest, pederasty, prostitution, and pandering. Then, there is social lust which manifest itself in a desire to dominate in social life, revenge lust, monetary lust which is greed, chemical lust, including drug addiction and the abuse of alcohol, crusader lust, which is Christian activism which includes civil disobedience, criminality, paramilitary organizations, vigilante activities, anti-Semitism, refusal to pay taxes, terrorism, utopian socialism) etc.

Principles related to lust: Lust destroys the motivation of the believer to execute the protocol plan of God. Lust is a distraction to the modus vivendi and modus operandi of the Christian way of life. Lust divorces the believer from reality, causing unrealistic expectation namely obtaining the object of a particular lust will make one happy. Functioning under lust eliminates understanding and using the problem-solving devices. Functioning under lust destroys spiritual self-esteem and replaces it with inordinate desire related to self-gratification.

Lust in itself is not sin.

James 1:14, 15, “But each one [analogy to a man being tempted to fornicate] is tempted when he is lured away [enticed] and entrapped by his own lust [analogy to a female seductress]. Then when lust has conceived [becomes pregnant: the believer makes the decision to sin], it gives birth to sin [the believer has committed the sin], and when the sin has become fully grown [the believer continues to involve himself in some sin over a long period of time], it brings forth death [the sin unto death].”

The analogy here is to a woman tempting a man into fornication or adultery. Metaphorically, lust is personified as a seductress. She tempts him by her seductive body and speech arousing in him, hope of great

pleasure and happiness. If the man listens to this Siren while gazing upon her form too long, he will soon be entrapped.

Temptation comes either from our own lusts or from people or from both. Lust always promises a person pseudo happiness. “Being carried or lured away” is the concentration on some lust. The believer becomes “entrapped” when the lust becomes overwhelming that there is no hope of escape.

Temptation from lust is not sin. Sin occurs after the believer consents to some lust. A believer may be tempted by monetary lust, but rejects that temptation. He has not sinned, but if he accepts that lust as his motivation and robs a bank, he has committed the sins of greed and robbery.

If a Christian does not learn the spiritual life and develop love for the God, he will never gain enough motivation to bring his sin nature under control. Each believer tends to have a favorite sin such as jealousy, worry, fear, gossip, fornication, self-pity etc. Year after year the believer commits that same sin without any regard for God and his plan (the believer’s favorite sin or sin grows into adulthood). God in his love for that believer will step by step increase his punishment of that believer. However, if the believer does not respond to the discipline and allows his sin to become fully grown, God will make a sovereign decision to take that believer to heaven; this is called the sin unto death (Rom. 8:13; Num. 21:6; I John 5:16)

Jesus Christ, our Advocate in Heaven:

The believer continues to sin after salvation, 1 John 1:8-10. Satan takes advantage of this by accumulating a sin-file on every believer and periodically accuses the believer in heaven. This is not a problem since Jesus Christ functions as the believer's defense attorney in the court of heaven. Our defense attorney has the integrity to handle these cases, “Jesus Christ the Righteous.” The basis for our Lord's defense is the fact that all our sins were judged on the cross by God the Father, 2 Corinthians

5:21, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin as a substitute for us that we might become the righteousness of God by Him.” Under the law of double jeopardy, those sins cannot be judged again, Rom 6:10a, “For the [substitutionary spiritual] death which he died, he died for sin once and for all.” Hence, every case that Satan brings against believers is thrown out of court by the Lord, Zechariah 3:1-2, “Then he showed me Joshua, the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him [regarding Joshua’s sins]. The Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebukes you. Is this not a brand plucked from the fire [a believer saved by my future work on the Cross]?’”

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

καὶ αὐτὸς ἱλασμός ἐστιν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν, οὐ περὶ τῶν ἡμετέρων δὲ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ περὶ ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου.

The work of Propitiation has been accomplished on the cross but this work must be appropriated by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the Father was propitiated by the work of Christ on the cross, he is free to impute to anyone his righteousness. So, at the point of personal faith in Christ, the person receives imputed righteousness, and then is declared righteous (justified) by the Father and so is qualified to enter into an eternal relationship with the members of the Trinity.

Romans 3:20-28, “Because by means of the works of the Law no flesh will be justified [declared righteous] in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the Law, the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the [imputed] righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ (for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God), being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God has publicly displayed by His blood [the work of propitiation is in

view] as the mercy seat [a propitiation] through faith for a demonstration of His righteousness [the Father has perfect integrity], because of the passing over of previously committed sins [the sins committed by the human race before the cross], because of the delay in judgment from God [the cross occurred many thousands of years after the beginning of humanity]; I say for a demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, in order that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? Definitely not, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law.”

Propitiation was depicted on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement, the day of covering). On that day and only on that day, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies twice carrying a small pot of blood gathered from slain animals. One time for himself and his family; the second time for the sins of Israel. Each time he entered, he would sprinkle the blood between the Cherubim on top of the Mercy Seat, the propitiatory seat. The Cherubim represented the integrity of God namely his righteousness and justice. Inside of the Ark, Moses placed the Tablets of the Law, Aaron’s rod which budded and a pot of Manna. These three represented the sins of Israel. The cherub representing the righteousness of God as it were looked down upon these three items in the Ark and demanded punishment. Then the other Cherub representing the justice of God executed punishment. The punishment is represented by the blood namely the future work of Jesus on the cross which blood had been sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat. Then, the Cherub of righteousness was satisfied (propitiated).



Even though God knew that many would not believe in Jesus Christ, it did not change the principle namely salvation is for the entire race, 1 Timothy 2:3, “This is good and acceptable before Our Savior, God who desires all mankind to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of truth”. Therefore, Jesus Christ was punished for the sins of everyone. 1 John 2:2, "And He is the propitiation for our sins, but not for our sins only, but also for the entire world." 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also died [a substitutionary spiritual death] for our sins once and for all, the righteous as a substitute for the unrighteous [the entire human race] that He might bring us to God having been put to death in the flesh [his physical death], but made alive

by the Spirit [Holy Spirit participated in providing Him a resurrection body.”

2:3. And by this we know that we have known him [the mature believer] **if** [3rd class conditional sentence: maybe we do and maybe we don't] **we keep on guarding his mandates** [all of them].

Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν, ἐὰν τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ τηρῶμεν.

The verb in the phrase, “that we have known Him” is in the perfect tense. The process of this perfect tense began at salvation and continued up to this present point. The perfect tense views the results namely we have learned his mandates one by one and obeyed them over the years. We now have arrived at a point where we have learned all His mandates. The obedience of all these mandates is the sign that we love the Lord Jesus Christ.

The phrase “having known Him is a synonym for loving Christ. John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will guard [keep] my mandates.

2:4. The one who says that I have known him [having a great relationship with Christ namely the mature believer], **and does not keep his mandates is a liar and the truth is not in him.**

ὁ λέγων ὅτι Ἐγνώκα αὐτόν, καὶ τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ μὴ τηρῶν, ψεύστης ἐστίν, καὶ ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστιν·

No Christian can say that he loves Christ (having known Him) if he is disobeying the Lord's mandates as found in Scripture. It would be like a woman alleging to love her husband, but neither knows him nor obeys him. It would be absurd!

There is a difference between someone who is a liar and someone who occasionally tells a lie. The Christian who does not execute the spiritual

life under the two power options lives a lie. He constantly functions under the arrogance skills such as self-justification, self-deception and self-absorption; a Christian with no truth in his soul and so no application of truth.

2:5. Whoever keeps his word, truly in this one [the mature believer] **the love for God has been brought to completion. By this we know that we are in him** [in fellowship with Christ as per John 1:3].

ὅς δ' ἂν τηρῇ αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον, ἀληθῶς ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ τετελείωται. ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκουμεν ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐσμεν·

Friends have fellowship with each other. Christ does not call too many believers his friend. He called Abraham his friend in 2 Chronicles 20:7, “Did you not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people, Israel and give to the descendants of Abraham, Your friend forever.” James confirms this accolade, in James 2:23b, “and he [Abraham] was called the friend of God.”

2:6. The one who says that he abides in him [has fellowship with Christ] **ought himself to walk** [advance in the spiritual life] **just as That one walked** [advanced in the spiritual life].

ὁ λέγων ἐν αὐτῷ μένειν ὀφείλει καθὼς ἐκεῖνος περιεπάτησεν καὶ αὐτὸς περιπατεῖν.

Jesus executed the spiritual life for Luke states in 2:52, “And Jesus kept on increasing in wisdom and stature and in grace before God and men.” Isaiah 11.2 states, “And the Spirit of the Lord [the Holy Spirit] will rest on him [providing the power] the Spirit of wisdom [the Holy Spirit provided the power to develop wisdom] and of understanding [perception of doctrine], the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge [a reference to the Lord’s ability to interpret the trends of history] and of the fear of the Lord [awe, respect and love for God the Father].” Jesus

Christ during his 1st Advent was able not to sin (*posse non peccare*) because he had the spiritual life just mentioned above, and He was not able to sin (*non posse peccare*) since He was God. Though His humanity was able to sin, but didn't, he reached the cross perfect and so was qualified to be judged for the sins of the world "the righteous as a substitute for the unrighteous." So, as Jesus functioned under His spiritual life as mentioned above, so we should execute the spiritual life given to us.

1 John 2:7-29

2 Chronicles 7:14, "And if my people [a client nation] who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven; will forgive their sin and will heal their land." We need to pray for our president, our military and civilian leaders every day.

Leading causes of death in the United States per year:

- Heart disease: 647,457
- Cancer: 599,108
- Accidents (unintentional injuries): 169,936
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 160,201
- Stroke (cerebrovascular diseases): 146,383
- Alzheimer's disease: 121,404
- Diabetes: 83,564
- Influenza and pneumonia: 55,672
- Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis: 50,633
- Intentional self-harm (suicide): 47,173
- Fatalities from car accidents: 36,000
- Murders: about 17,000
- Covid-19 Pandemic: about 4,000

This worldwide hysteria is ridiculous over what may happen, but has not

happened. If his nonsense continues, more will die from suicide and starvation than by this virus. Christians should know better since they should understand that the Lord Jesus Christ chooses the manner, place and time of our death (1 Corinthians 15:57). For the unbeliever, it presents a perfect opportunity to turn to the Lord and believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior. However, when the Government plays the role of God, people seek after government for their security rather than the Lord.

2:7. Beloved I do not write to you a new command [regarding personal love for God and unconditional love toward people] **but an old command that you had from the beginning** [Jesus Christ taught this same subject in John 15:9-17]. **The old command is the word which you heard.**

Ἀγαπητοί, οὐκ ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ἐντολὴν παλαιὰν ἣν εἶχετε ἀπ' ἀρχῆς· ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ παλαιὰ ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος ὃν ἠκούσατε.

The deity of the Lord has always loved us. For trillions and trillions of years the Lord has had infinite love for each believer. Therefore, it is the responsibility, the duty and the privilege of each Christian to return that love, to reciprocate that love. “We ourselves [the mature believer love [God is understood] because he himself first loved us [in eternity past], 1 John 4:19.” Now, that love is based on knowing Him (John 15:15), and if we know and obey the Lord, we not only love Him, but share His happiness (John 15:11) and we become His friends (John 15:15).

John 15:9-17, “Just as the father has loved me also, I have loved you. Abide in the sphere of my love. (10) If [maybe you will; maybe you won't] you keep my mandates, you are abiding in my love just as I have kept the mandates of my father and abided [historical present] in his love. (11) These things I have communicated to you so that My happiness may be in you [metabolized doctrine in the soul], and that your happiness

might be brought to completion [by becoming a mature believer]. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another [impersonal love toward other believers motivated by personal love toward God], just as I have [personally] loved you. (13) No one has greater love than this that he lay down his life for his friends. (14) You are My friends [way less than 1%] if [maybe you will] you do what I command you. (15) No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you [the believer who is will take the time to learn the spiritual life from a prepared pastor]. (16) You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit [the execution of God's plan], and that your fruit would remain [will have eternal repercussions], so that whatever you [the mature believer knows how to pray] ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (17) I command these to you in order that you may love one another.”

2:8. Again, I write to you a new command which is true in Him [in Jesus Christ in hypostatic union] and in you that darkness is passing away, and the truth already shines.

πάλιν ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν, ὃ ἐστὶν ἀληθὲς ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν, ὅτι ἡ σκοτία παρὰγεται καὶ τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινὸν ἤδη φαίνει.

As we move through history, Satan's system of darkness is slowly passing away, and as we are getting closer to the millennial reign of Christ and the Eternal State, we can already see with our soul the truth of the light shining. Thus, the believer knowing this should focus not on what is fading away, but what will last forever, the eternal shining truth.

Furthermore, when the believer departs this world, he enters into the presence of the God of Light.

Psalms 23:4, “Also when I [David as a mature believer] walk through the death-shadowed valley [David is dying in the valley made pleasant by the

evening shadow], I cannot fear adversity [evil] since you are with me [reciprocal love]. Your rod [divine discipline to motivate the Recovery of Fellowship] and your staff [used for protection and guidance] they comfort me.” When David emerged from the valley, he entered the Light of Eternity. So, it is with the believer. When he dies, he leaves Satan’s cosmic system of darkness and enters into the eternal state.

A dear friend of R. B. Thieme Jr, and a mature believer wrote the following the year before he died; “I have been called to take my journey. The exact date is not set, but the celestial is definitely on. I have a tremendous feeling of excitement building around me. I feel comfort, joy and true inner happiness. I am preoccupied with preparation for the trip. My focus is forward. The things I will leave behind are becoming less and less significant. I am beginning to feel a tremendous source of energy filling my soul. I feel no remorse or self-pity, no anger for having to leave behind the career, the achievements, and the material things. I feel no envy, no jealousy of others planning their lives and being occupied with important things we all strive for in the living phase, but I do feel a real deep and genuine sadness for the wonderful and dear people around me giving all they have from the bottom of their souls and their very beings to comfort me. I know that some I will never see again, and some will be with me again for we are all going on the same journey that I have been scheduled to take.”

2:9. The one who says that he is in the Light [in fellowship with God] and is hating his brother, he is in the darkness until now [out of fellowship and walking in darkness].

ὁ λέγων ἐν τῷ φωτὶ εἶναι καὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ μισῶν ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ ἐστὶν ἕως ἄρτι.

Mental sins such as hatred are a sure sign that the believer is out of fellowship. In fact, the believer cannot sin if he is in the Light that is under the authority of the Spirit. Today, in the USA most Christians do not understand the spiritual life; they are not using the two power options.

Look at the fear and hysteria occurring in the States. Doesn't it remind one of the Exodus generation. The only difference I see is the difference in leadership. They had Moses who emphasized freedom, we have a government that is stripping the American people of their privacy, freedom and property.

2:10. The one who loves his brother, abides in the Light, and there is no stumbling in him [Since he is walking in the light, he can see where he is going. He is not blinded by darkness].

ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ φωτὶ μένει, καὶ σκάνδαλον ἐν αὐτῷ οὐκ ἔστιν·

2:11. But the one [the believer] **who hates his brother is in darkness** [in Satan's plan] **and walks in darkness** [his lifestyle], **and he does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes** [the believer without truth in his soul cannot understand God's plan].

ὁ δὲ μισῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ ἔστιν καὶ ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ περιπατεῖ, καὶ οὐκ οἶδεν ποῦ ὑπάγει, ὅτι ἡ σκοτία ἐτύφλωσεν τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ.

Ephesians 4:17-19. Therefore, I communicate this and because of the Lord, I insist that you no longer walk [have a lifestyle] even as the gentile's walk in the vacuum of their thinking [Because the unbeliever has very little truth in his soul, he cannot defend against false concepts],

Ephesians 4:18. Having been darkened [by a lack of light (truth)] in their understanding and having been alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them [in their souls], because of the hardness [callousness, scar tissue] of their hearts [of the mentality of their souls].

Ephesians 4:19. Because they having become calloused by scar tissue, and they have given themselves over to licentiousness [lasciviousness, debauchery, unrestrained sinfulness] resulting in the practice of every

kind of immorality and with greediness and insatiable lust [there is never enough],

2:12. I write to you, dear students [his unseen congregation] **that your sins have been forgiven because of His person.**

Γράφω ὑμῖν, τέκνία, ὅτι ἀφέωνται ὑμῖν αἱ ἁμαρτίαι διὰ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Our pre-salvation sins along with our post-salvation sins are forgiven by the Father because of the work of Christ on the cross. Because Christ bore the punishment of all sins on the cross, God the Father is able to forgive the person of all of his pre-salvation sins as part of the salvation package. Then, after salvation, every time the believer names his sins, the Father forgave him in grace.

2:13. Fathers [mature believers], **I write to you that you have known Him from the beginning** [The perfect tense emphasizes the results of a process which began at beginning of their salvation with emphasis on the result: They are now mature believers.]. **Young men**, [advancing believers who understand God's plan] **that you have overcome the evil one** [They are defeating Satan and his plan by advancing in the spiritual life].

γράφω ὑμῖν, πατέρες, ὅτι ἐγνώκατε τὸν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς. γράφω ὑμῖν, νεανίσκοι, ὅτι νενικήκατε τὸν πονηρόν.

2:14. I have written to you, dear children [new believers] **that you have known the Father** [They have learned about God's attributes and a few other things]. **I have written to you, fathers** [mature believers] **that you have known him** [harmonious relationship with the Father and his plan] **from the beginning** [The process of learning God's word began at their salvation]. **I have written to you young men that you are strong** [in doctrine], **and the Word of God abides in you** [in your souls], **and you have overcome the evil one** [they understand their objectives and

destiny; have gotten good control over their sin nature and in general have rejected Satan's plan].

ἔγραψα ὑμῖν, παιδιά, ὅτι ἐγνώκατε τὸν πατέρα. ἔγραψα ὑμῖν, πατέρες, ὅτι ἐγνώκατε τὸν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς. ἔγραψα ὑμῖν, νεανίσκοι, ὅτι ἰσχυροί ἐστε καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν μένει καὶ νενικήκατε τὸν πονηρόν.

2:15. Stop loving the cosmic system [Satan's plan] and the things in the cosmos system [all that Satan offers to distract the believer]; if anyone keeps loving the cosmic system, the love for the Father is not in him [lost his motivational virtue].

Μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν κόσμον μηδὲ τὰ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ. ἐάν τις ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κόσμον, οὐκ ἔστιν ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ πατρὸς ἐν αὐτῷ.

Cosmic thinking emphasizes arrogance and preoccupation with self which represents Satan's arrogance and thinking at his fall. After the fall of man, Satan's philosophy as the ruler of the world took on a new dimension. In proving that he was as great if not greater than the Lord, he developed great animosity, hatred, and antagonism toward God and His plan, and does everything he can to destroy it. The Christian who rejects the Father's plan will develop this same hatred etc. and antagonism of the Father's plan while simultaneously developing a love for Satan's cosmic plan and system.

Satan has many ways of promoting unbelievers and Christians. He promises wealth and riches without integrity; love and romance without capacity; promotion and authority without concern or responsibility; power and approbation without humility; achievement and recognition without happiness etc.

Satan counterfeits everything in God's plan.

Religion is the creation of Satan's genius to counterfeit the plan of God. His religion includes the following counterfeits:

1. Gospel, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, “Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in those who are perishing. In whose case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbeliever that he might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2. Ministers, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, “Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their deeds.”

3. Doctrine, 1 Timothy 4:1, “some will fall away from the faith paying attention to deceitful personalities and the doctrine of demons.”

4. Communion table, 1 Corinthians 10:19-21, “they sacrifice to demons...you cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons.”

5. Spirituality, Galatians 3:2-3, “This is the only thing that I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

6. Righteousness: Matthew 19:16-28 tells us about the proud rich young ruler. The Mosaic Law is distorted into self-righteousness, which self-righteousness rejects faith in Christ. Gal 2:16, “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.” Matthew 23:13, “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of Heaven against men [teach the way of salvation incorrectly]. For you neither go in [they do not believe in Christ], nor do you allow those entering [a person positive at God consciousness] to go in [blinded by religion].”

7. Power and dynamics (miracles, healing, tongues) 2 Thessalonians 2:9, “whose presence [the dictator of the revived Roman empire] shall be

according to the modus operandi of Satan with all power signs and false wonders.”

False teachers are a part of his strategy, 1 John 4:1-3.

1. They have a phony, hypocritical facade. They are bleeding-heart do-gooders, who “love” everyone, being all things to all men apart from any standards based on Bible doctrine, Matthew 7:15. They seek to stimulate your ego, Rom 16:18.

2. They promote idolatry. Habakkuk 2:18-19, “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood for its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols.” Woe to him who says to a piece of wood ‘awake!’ To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’ and that is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it.”

3. False teachers make assertions about things they know nothing about which assertions usually deal with some form of false teaching. 1 Timothy 1:6, 7, “For some men straying from these things have turned aside to fruitless discussions, wanting to be teachers of the Law even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.”

4. They possess a false spirit, 1 John 4:1-3, “Beloved, do not believe every personality, but test the person to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have come out into the world. By this you know the person from God: every person that acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every person that does not acknowledge that Jesus is from God: this is the person of the antichrist of which you have heard that he is coming, and now he [a false teacher] is already in the world.”

Satan has a strategy to control nations.

1. His strategy is based on conspiracy and deceit, which explains the basis of war, Revelation 12:9; 20:3, 8.
2. He is the author of every world peace movement.
3. He is the chief opponent of the laws of divine establishment related to the individual's privacy, property, freedom; also, he attacks marriage, family and seeks to breakdown the sovereignty of any nation where establishment, evangelism, and Bible Christianity is functioning.
4. Internationalism is Satanic in any form.
5. His policy is power politics: violence, tyranny, and change. Part of his function is to malign the proper function of law and order such as attacking the honorable policeman, the judge who is properly interpreting and executing the law.
6. He sponsors religious liberalism. He is anti-free market, anti-correct military function, but pro socialism and the welfare-state.

Satan has a specific policy--evil.

1. This was first seen in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then when the original parents ate from that tree, they committed sin. So, these three are related.
2. Chafer's Systematic Theology, Vol. II, pp. 100, 108-110, gives a fantastic description of Satan's system of evil.

2:16. Because all which is in the cosmic system: the lust of the sin nature [throws up temptation], the lust of the eyes [motivational evil] and the arrogant pattern of life [functional evil] is not from the Father, but is from the cosmic system [Satan's system].

ὅτι πᾶν τὸ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἡ ἐπιθυμία τῆς σαρκὸς καὶ ἡ ἐπιθυμία τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν καὶ ἡ ἀλαζονεία τοῦ βίου, οὐκ ἔστιν ἐκ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀλλὰ ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου ἐστίν.

2:17. The cosmic system and its lusts will pass away [at the end of human history] **but the one who does the will of the Father keeps residing forever** [eternal reward for executing the Father's will].

καὶ ὁ κόσμος παράγεται καὶ ἡ ἐπιθυμία αὐτοῦ, ὁ δὲ ποιῶν τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

2:18. Dear children [those positive] **it is the last favorable time** [the client nation is in danger and so it may be difficult to listen to the Word under normal conditions], **and as you have heard that the antichrist will come** [in the Tribulation] **even now** [in the Church Age] **many antichrists have come** [anyone in the cosmic system]. **This is how we know it is the last time** [the client nation is going down].

Παιδιά, ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν, καὶ καθὼς ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἀντίχριστος ἔρχεται, καὶ νῦν ἀντίχριστοι πολλοὶ γεγόνασιν· ὅθεν γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν.

2:19. They went out from us [believers left the local Church], **but they did not really belong to us** [not interested in the truth] **for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us, but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.**

ἐξ ἡμῶν ἐξῆλθαν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἦσαν ἐξ ἡμῶν· εἰ γὰρ ἐξ ἡμῶν ἦσαν, μεμενήκεισαν ἂν μεθ' ἡμῶν· ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῶσιν ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν πάντες ἐξ ἡμῶν.

2:20. But you have an anointing [the Filling of the Spirit] **from the Holy One** [Jesus Christ], **and all of you know** [the truth].

καὶ ὑμεῖς χρίσμα ἔχετε ἀπὸ τοῦ ἁγίου, καὶ οἴδατε πάντες.

2:21. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes out from the truth [every lie is outside of the truth].

οὐκ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐκ οἶδατε τὴν ἀλήθειαν, ἀλλ' ὅτι οἶδατε αὐτήν, καὶ ὅτι πᾶν ψεῦδος ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείας οὐκ ἔστιν.

2:22. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus [reference to his humanity] is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist- he denies the Father and the Son.

Τίς ἐστὶν ὁ ψεύστης εἰ μὴ ὁ ἀρνούμενος ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ Χριστός; οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ ἀντίχριστος, ὁ ἀρνούμενος τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὸν υἱόν.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4, “If our Gospel be hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost, in whom the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of those who believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

2:23. No one who denies the Son has [fellowship with] the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has [fellowship with] the Father also.

πᾶς ὁ ἀρνούμενος τὸν υἱὸν οὐδὲ τὸν πατέρα ἔχει· ὁ ὁμολογῶν τὸν υἱὸν καὶ τὸν πατέρα ἔχει.

2:24. See that what you have heard from the beginning [of their spiritual lives] remains in you [by continued growth]. If it does, you also will remain in [fellowship with] the Son and in [fellowship with] the Father.

ὁμεῖς ὃ ἠκούσατε ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἐν ὑμῖν μενέτω· ἐὰν ἐν ὑμῖν μείνη ὃ ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἠκούσατε, καὶ ὁμεῖς ἐν τῷ υἱῷ καὶ ἐν τῷ πατρὶ μενεῖτε.

2:25. And this is what he promised us, even eternal life.

καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπαγγελία ἣν αὐτὸς ἐπηγγείλατο ἡμῖν, τὴν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

2:26. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

Ταῦτα ἔγραψα ὑμῖν περὶ τῶν πλανώντων ὑμᾶς.

2:27. As for you, the anointing [the Holy Spirit related to his teaching ministry] **which you received from him** [Jesus Christ cf. v. 20] **resides in you** [indwelling of the Spirit], **and you do not have need that anyone be teaching you** [caused to teach you], **but as his anointing teaches you** [the Holy Spirit teaches through the gift of the Pastor-teacher] **about all things** [related to God's word] **and as that anointing is true, not a lie-just as he** [the anointing: the Holy Spirit] **has taught you, remain in him** [in fellowship with the Son which implies also fellowship with the Father: verse 24].

καὶ ὑμεῖς τὸ χρίσμα ὃ ἐλάβετε ἀπ' αὐτοῦ μένει ἐν ὑμῖν, καὶ οὐ χρειάν ἔχετε ἵνα τις διδάσκη ὑμᾶς· ἀλλ' ὥς τὸ αὐτοῦ χρίσμα διδάσκει ὑμᾶς περὶ πάντων, καὶ ἀληθές ἐστὶν καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ψεῦδος, καὶ καθὼς ἐδίδαξεν ὑμᾶς, μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ.

The Holy Spirit who is resident in our bodies uses his power to make the Word of God understandable to us. The pastor communicates the Word; the Holy Spirit does the teaching and causes us through his power to learn. So, without the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we could not metabolize the messages of our pastor.

John 14:26, “But the paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” By interpretation, this applies to the Lord's disciples, by application, it applies to us.

The pastor must study under the filling of the Holy Spirit otherwise he could not learn the Word of God. When he has learned the word of God, he then teaches it to his congregation. If the members of the congregation are not filled with the Spirit, they can neither comprehend nor metabolize the Word. So, in effect who would you say is the real teacher, the Holy Spirit or the pastor?

If you believe that the Holy Spirit communicates the revelation of God directly to each believer without agents possessing the spiritual gift of communication such as prophets, apostles and pastor-teachers, then all these things in the Bible which were communicated by these men verbally and in written form would not be legitimate.

2:28. Now, dear students [children], keep on abiding in him [keep on having fellowship with God] that if He should appear [the imminency of the Rapture], we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame in his presence [at the Rapture]

Καὶ νῦν, τέκνιά, μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ, ἵνα ἐὰν φανερωθῇ σχῶμεν παρρησίαν καὶ μὴ αἰσχυνθῶμεν ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ αὐτοῦ.

The Greek says, “in order that if he should appear” which means that maybe it would occur during Paul’s lifetime and maybe it would occur after the time of Paul. This is a way of stating that the Rapture is imminent, but no one knows when it will occur.

Shame is defined as painful feeling originating from the consciousness regarding something dishonorable, wrong, and causes terrible regret. The shame of failure to fulfill God's plan under the principle of equal opportunity and equal opportunity. This is a very temporary shame; for there is no sorrow in the eternal state.

The believer in resurrection body at the Rapture who had failed to execute the spiritual life will experience shame during his evaluation by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:18-19, "For many believers [losers] keep walking, concerning whom I have communicated to you many times and now continue communicating even though weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ whose end is destruction [the sin unto death], whose god is their emotion, whose glory [human glory] is their shame [at judgment seat of Christ], who keep on thinking about earthly things."

2:29. If you know [something mastered] **that He is righteous** [3rd class conditional sentence of probability], **then know also that everyone who practices righteousness** [spiritual capacity righteousness developed through executing the spiritual life], **has been born out from Him** [God the Father: the 2nd birth requires learning a spiritual life].

ἐὰν εἰδῆτε ὅτι δίκαιός ἐστιν, γινώσκετε ὅτι καὶ πᾶς ὁ ποιῶν τὴν δικαιοσύνην ἐξ αὐτοῦ γεγέννηται

Your objective after salvation is to obtain spiritual capacity righteousness. This is your capacity for blessing. God never blesses the believer beyond his capacity.

By execution of the spiritual life, the believer avoids shame at the Evaluation throne of Christ. Furthermore, if he executes experiential righteousness in time, he would have capacity for blessing in time; if not, he would not have capacity for blessing in time.

Physical birth demands learning in order to develop one capacity for human life; spiritual birth demands a spiritual life in order to develop one's capacity.

Written by Claude M. Klein (Max)
Pastor of Grace Bible Church of Corpus Christi, TX
Contact: curlymaxk@hotmail.com

Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org