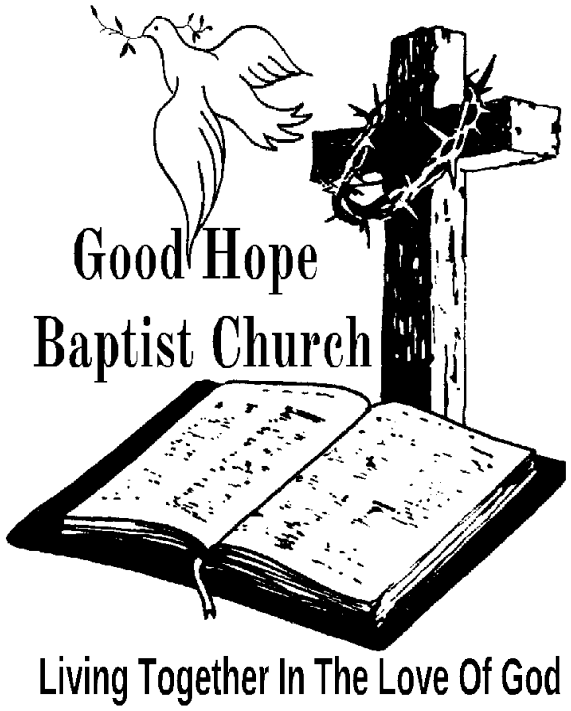
My Little Children

1 John 2:1-2

A Communion Message



4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively **1 John 2:1-2** 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.**

This past week we have had two deaths in our community. One was a young girl, and another a much older man. We need to remember these families in prayer as they adjust to the loss of their loved ones.

At last report there are 88,000 people reported missing in the aftermath of an 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck Japan on Friday, March 11 2011. CNN reports that the earthquake literally moved the main island of Japan by 8 feet and shifted the Earth on its axis by nearly 4 inches. It caused the formation of 30-foot walls of water that swept across rice fields, engulfed entire towns, dragged houses onto highways, and tossed cars and boats like toys. Some waves reached six miles (10 kilometers) inland in Miyagi Prefecture on Japan's east coast. It also appears that the earthquake triggered three volcanoes (two in Russia, one in Indonesia).

Life is so fragile. Each and every one of us have a tendency to take life for granted. One day slips into the next, and after a while we forget - and are brutally reminded that - this life was not and will not be forever. Life is more than the physical body you have been given. Life is more than your possessions. The Bible tells us that the God Who created everything you see has made a way that each and every person on the face of this earth can be with Him forever. This God has said that:

FOCAL 1 John 2:1-2 .... Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins ....

That word **"propitiation"** means He is the **"satisfactory payment for sin"**. When bad things happen in this world the first thing that people do is say, **"If there is a loving God, then why did He allow this to happen?"**. The question seems to put the burden on God. But the fact is,

the way the world is is not God's fault. God made the world perfect. He made it **"very good"**.

Genesis 1:31 (KJV) ... God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

In the midst of this **"very good"** place God put a **"very good"** Adam and a **"very good"** Eve. Everything was perfect. There was no earthquakes, no famine, no tombstones, no bad stuff. There was just Adam and Eve who were given the run of a perfect environment. They were told what their limitations were, and what they could do. Everything stayed **"very good"** up until the time that our forefather decided to step away from God and to - like Frank Sinatra sang - **"Do it my way"**. God made us in His image, and that means we have **free will**. We can choose to do right, or choose to do wrong. Adam chose to do wrong, and the Bible says

Romans 5:12 (KJV) ... sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men..

It was man who brought sin into the world. Someone once asked me, "Didn't God know that the man He created would do that?" Why yes He did. You can see the next question coming. "Well if He knew that, why did He make the man at all?" That's human thinking, not God thinking.

Love is a choice, invoked by free will. God could have made robots, but He didn't want robots. He wanted CHILDREN that would be part of His Kingdom.

I recently looked at the ultrasound pictures of our yet to be born grandson, **Micah Ethan Buffaloe**. We love that child, though he hasn't yet entered into this world. Many times in America parents are told by doctors that **the child they are going to have will be born with birth defects, and they then recommend abortion**. You see, we have come to so devalue life in America that we feel like - if that child's not going to be perfect - it would be "better" that they never enter this life at all. The doctors never use words like **"murder"**, but they say that it would be a **"surgical end to an unviable fetus"**. It's not up to our standards - it's not perfect - so just kill it.

Aren't you glad that God knew that Adam wouldn't be perfect, but for love's sake made him anyway? Aren't you glad that God knew that Eve would tempt Adam to do what he did, and yet God still allowed *love* and not perfection to guide His hand?

The Bible says that **God is love (1 John 4:8)**, and it was this loving God that made us. Listen Beloved, God is love, and He has made a way - through love - to bring

the whole world into His family if they would but listen. **Sin is in the world - and death by sin**. What we see going on around us - every bad thing - is there because one of the Children of Adam has made a bad free will choice. Yet God says:

FOCAL 1 John 2:1-2 .... 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.

Our hope is not in this life, but it is in **eternal life**. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. He was promised to Adam right after the fall of man. He was promised through the prophecies of the Old Testament. He was promised to a virgin named Mary. He was born as the promised payment for the sins of all who will believe in Him.

On Thursday, March 3rd, 2011, a 24 year by the name of **Stephen Lawayne Nelson killed the Pastor Clint Dobson** of **NorthPointe Baptist Church in Texas.** He had been convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in October 2010, and was sentenced to *eight years of probation*. He had also previously served time in jail for theft and burglary. Nelson's intent was to rob the Church, and he ended up smothering the Pastor to death. People have been asking *Where was God? Could God not have stopped it?* No one is asking or questioning the bad free will decisions that put a killer back on the street with just a slap on the wrist. But there's something even deeper than this. His friend and fellow Pastor **Dr. Dennis Wiles** said:

"You're going to be tested, but Christians need to learn how to endure and persevere. The only way to grow in endurance is to go through times of tribulation. The Bible teaches us that God can use those challenging times ... and bring about qualities inside of us that enable us to be better followers of Jesus. We've got to learn how to persevere and move past turmoil. Turmoil is not permanent. It's seasonal."

Trials are seasonal - pain is seasonal. Dear friends, this LIFE is seasonal. There is an eternity beyond what we see right now that we who believe shall one day enjoy. We will enjoy it not because we were good or because we went to Church, but because we made the right free will choice in accepting Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior.

1. Jesus Gave Us The Lord's Table For Self Examination

Illustrate I heard a comedian once say, **"One out of every three people is ugly. So look at the person on your right. Now look at the person on your left. If they look fine, then guess what?"**

I don't know how true the statement was, but I do know this: The Lord's Table is a time - not to examine your neighbor - but to examine yourself. The Bible tells us:

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 .... let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

We need to examine ourselves because the Lord warns that to partake of this Table **unworthily** will **bring damnation on the taker**. Those are pretty strong words! What does the Scripture mean?

1 First of all, we need to understand that taking of this Table has *no merit in it*. Some people believe that by taking this Table or by following some ritual like going to Church or Tithing or by doing some other *good work* that they will be saved. The Scripture says that we are saved:

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

> You cannot save yourself by taking part in a ritual. God looks with the eyes of the Father on those who have made a free will choice to **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.**

Our text starts out with a *favorite phrase* found throughout this Book:

FOCAL 1 John 2:1 My little children ....

The phrase **"little children"** occurs *sixteen times* in the Bible, *nine* of which are found in this Book. Before you partake of the Lord's Table you need to ask yourself, **"Am I God's *little child*"**? I want to say something now that will probably shock you, but I want to be very plain in what I'm saying. I believe in the **eternal security** of the Christian. I believe that once a person is saved, they are forever saved. Having said that, I now have to say this.

> If you were to ask me, "Pastor, do you think that anyone can lose their salvation?", my answer would be "Absolutely". Why? **If it's YOUR salvation then it won't keep you.** I didn't save myself - God saved me. It's not MY salvation - it's HIS salvation in me - and THAT can never be lost!

A child doesn't give life to himself, neither does a Christian give life to himself. I was a DEAD thing before I met the Lord Jesus - and so were you. The Bible says that we were all ...

Ephesians 2:1 "... dead in {our} transgressions and sins .." (NIV)

How did we prove our deadness? We proved it by following darkness instead of light, this world instead of God. The Scripture says that before salvation we ....

Ephesians 2:2 ".. used to live {following} the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." (NIV)

Prior to meeting and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ we were all separate from God. Once we met Christ we were **born again,**

1 Peter 1:23 ".... not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God .." (NIV)

Examine yourselves! Can you say **"I was .....**

1 Corinthians 6:20 ... bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

> I am heaven *born* and heaven *bound*, the property of God both body and soul - ALL because of Jesus!

Those who are saved by faith in Christ are "little children". We come to Him as **"little children"**, trusting and obeying Him. God has offered no other way unto Heaven except by faith in Christ. **"Little children"** means that you don't have to necessarily understand every bit of it. I don't understand every bit of it. The Bible says:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Today we partake of Bread, symbolizing the body of Christ broken on the Cross for our salvation. We partake of the Cup, symbolizing the blood of Christ, pierced through for our salvation. A man may ask me, **"How is it that someone can pay for your sins?"** I can give you a theological answer that will probably make things even muddier. But you know, the beauty of our faith is that we come to God as **little children**. Jesus said:

Matthew 18:3 ... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

> The Scripture doesn't say, **"whosoever UNDERSTANDETH Him shall not perish"**. It says **"whosoever BELIEVETH in Him shall not perish"**. Glory unto God, my salvation is all of Him!

2 Secondly, I need to examine myself for *active sin in my life*. Christians are not *supposed* to sin - but we do. What does the Bible say?

Context 1 John 2:3-4 .... 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.

Word Study How do I know that I know Jesus? I KEEP His Commandments. The little children of God's household want to do His will and keep His commandments. That word **"keep"** in the phrase **"keep His commandments"** is the Greek TEREO (τηρεω **Pronounced** *tay-reh'-o*), which means **"to keep an eye on, to treasure"**.

> The Christian treasures God's commandments and sets his course in life by the north star of Scripture. Those

who are born again keep His commandments, not to *be* saved, but *because* we are saved. We love Jesus!

The Scripture is clear: **"If I say I know Him and DO NOT KEEP His commandments, then I AM A LIAR"**. Those aren't my words - they are Jesus' words. You were saved by believing on the LORD Jesus Christ:

Acts 16:31 ..... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

and Jesus clearly said:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Keeping Christ's commandments does not mean that we won't stumble. We all stumble, at times. Going back to our focal text we read:

FOCAL 1 John 2:1-2 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:

It is God's Will that we **not sin**, and that we **keep His commandments**. But if we have stumbled, we admit the stumbling to the Lord Who loves us. We do not try to atone for our sins, but we rely on His atonement. If I have stumbled I cannot atone or pay for my sins. The Table reminds me that it is His Body and His Blood that saved me. If I have sin in my life, I will go to my **Advocate - the One Who represents us before God the Father**.

Context 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

My solution is ALWAYS Christ! He saved me - and He keeps on saving me, blessed be the Name of Jesus!

2. Jesus Gave Us The Lord's Table As A Reminder

1 The Lord's Table reminds me that Jesus did not have to do what He did. He didn't have to come from Heaven to earth. He didn't have to be born of a virgin. He didn't have to be falsely tried. He didn't have to be nailed to a Cross. He didn't have to bear my and your punishment for sin. What does the Bible say?

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. He said:

John 10:15-18 .... I lay down my life for the sheep. .... I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. ...

Jesus laid down His life for us. This was a FANTASTIC act of love. But I want you to notice something else:

2 The Lord's Table is a reminder that WE are FAMILY. Look at that favorite phrase once more:

FOCAL 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you

God wrote a love letter to us, a letter we call "The Bible". It is for all of us. We are all God's little Children, gathered around this Lord's Table.

We share a common salvation in Christ. We are all saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ. This is a Table marked by sacrificial love - and represents how that we all must love one another.

Christians are not cannibals, we are little Children working together in the Family Business.

ILLUSTRATE The Missionary to the Hebrides Cannibals was **John G. Paton**. For three years he preached the Gospel of salvation to people who considered it normal to eat their defeated enemies. On October 24, 1869 those who turned from cannibalism to Christianity gathered to worship at the Lord's Table. The Missionary wrote:

"At the moment when I put the bread and wine into those dark hands, once stained with the blood of cannibalism but now stretched out to receive and partake the emblems and seal of the Redeemer's love, I had a foretaste of the joy of glory that well-nigh broke my heart to pieces. I shall never taste a deeper bliss till I gaze on the glorified face of Jesus Himself".

The fingerprint of God on the Christian life is that we love one another. The Scripture says:

Context 1 John 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness ....

None of us deserve the salvation we have in Christ. We are all recipients of His love!

Mahatma Gandhi said before he died:

"What, then, does Jesus mean to me? To me, he was one of the greatest teachers humanity has ever had. To his believers, he was God's only begotten Son."

Gandhi did a lot of good, as we humans measure good, before he died. Is he in Heaven or hell? It depends. You see, if he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, believing Him to be the only Way unto God, then he's in Heaven. If not, then he's not in Heaven but in Hell. The Lord's Table reminds us that Jesus died a terrible death to pay for our sins. As **Adrian Rogers** once said:

"God grades on the Cross, not on the curve".

You have the free will ability to choose or reject the

Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that you will give yourselves to Him while you can. **Today is the day of salvation**.

May God touch your hearts with these words.

Good Hope
Baptist Church
4038 Graham Sherron Road
Wake Forrest, NC 27587
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Living Together In The Love Of God

FOCAL Read Responsively **1 John 2:1-2** 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.**

1 John 2:1-2; Genesis 1:31; Romans 5:12; 1 John 2:1-2 _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

1. Jesus Gave Us The Lord's Table For Self Examination

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

1 First of all, we need to understand that taking of this Table has *no merit in it*. _____
_____
_____
_____

Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:1; Ephesians 2:1; Ephesians 2:2; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Corinthians 6:20; John 3:16; Matthew 18:3

2 Secondly, I need to examine myself for *active sin in my life*. _____
1 John 2:3-4; Acts 16:31; John 14:15; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 1:9

Word Study That word **"keep"** in the phrase **"keep His commandments"** is the Greek TEREO (τηρεω **Pronounced** *tay-reh'-o*), which means _____
_____

2. Jesus Gave Us The Lord's Table As A Reminder

1 The Lord's Table reminds me that Jesus did not have to do what He did. _____
_____
1 John 3:16; John 10:15-18

2 The Lord's Table is a reminder that WE are FAMILY. _____
_____
1 John 2:1; 1 John 2:9-11

Notes _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____