

## ***THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN***

*First John 2:1-2*

Recall John's three purposes for writing:

1. 1:4, That we might have JOY - which results from fellowship
2. 2:1-2, That we might not SIN - that we do not break the fellowship upon which our joy is based
3. 5:11-13, That we might have ASSURANCE - that we might know without doubt that we are saved

NOTE a solemn warning in Chapter 2. It says, "*sin not.*" There are two perversions of this doctrine of sin possible if we misconstrue Chapter 1:

1- 1:8,10. Since we can never fully overcome sin, why strive for holiness? It is useless; sin is inevitable.

2- 1:9, Since sin is so easily forgiven, why dread it? We may sin without worry since Jesus' blood cleanses us.

Forgiveness does not eradicate responsibility!

Num. 32:23, Gal. 6:7; Rom. 2:6

**1. God's Goal: is PERFECTION, no sin. (2:1a). "That you may not sin...."** (Matt. 5:48; Col. 1:28; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)

There are a number of phrases we use in this regard:

*"God and I have an understanding."*

*"I have prayed about this and God has okayed it."*

*"I have a unique situation; God understands."* (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:9)

*"After all, God will forgive me."* (Ps. 19:13)

The issue here, as always, is, what does God's Word say? (Prov. 3:5-6; Ps. 37:4)

Sam Cathey: "*God's desire ought to be your ambition.*"

**2. God's Grace: there is a PAYMENT for sin (2:1b). "And if anyone sins...."** Two key words, ...

*Advocate* -

*Propitiation* -

NOW, for whom is Christ Advocate?

**3. God's Goodness: there is POWER over sin (Rom. 6:11-14)**

**How can you get right with God?**

#1 Quit trying to tell God how good you are.

#2 Quit blaming your sin on others.

#3 Quit blaming your sin on your situation, background, genes, parents, economics, etc.

**What is sin?** (1 John 3:4; 5:17; Jam. 4:17; Rom. 14:23; John 16:8-9)