**Day 5: Our Defense Attorney**

1 John 2:1-2

The real life that John is writing about is eternal life in Christ. It begins with sonship and continues in fellowship. First we are born of God; then we walk (live) with God. We have seen so far that when we walk in the light , it brings us victory over sin. And fellowship brings us fullness of joy.

1. This means there are two kinds of people who cannot enter into this joy and victory. Who are they?

2. Sin is a fact (at least an occasional fact) in the life of the Christian. By what previous verse do we glean this understanding? What verse makes it clear that there is always forgiveness for confessed sin?

3. As we start Chapter 2, John wants it also to be clear that the Christian should be concerned about sin. As a matter of fact, in verse 1, John tells this is one of the reasons John wrote this letter. What does he say?

4. What is God’s desire for a believer, concerning sin?

5. What does sin do to our fellowship with God?

6. God’s desire is that you may not sin, yet, if we do sin, provision has been made for that. What is that provision? (v1)

7. What does Advocate mean? Why is Jesus our perfect Advocate?

8. Why do we need an Advocate? What do we learn in Revelation 12:10? Explain in your own words.

Note: We need to distinguish between the condemning accusation of Satan and the loving conviction of the Holy Spirit.

9. Jesus is our Advocate now before the heavenly throne. But because of what Jesus did at His first coming, He is now what? (v2)

Propitiation means Jesus atones for and takes away our sins. He is the satisfaction for our sin debt, past, present and future. In the New Testament idea of propitiation, God Himself presents Himself (in Jesus Christ) as that which will turn away His righteous wrath against our sin.

10. What is John saying when he says Jesus is the propitiation, not just for believers, but for the whole world? Can you explain this verse to someone who might take it out of context and use it to say the whole word is saved? (See the note below for help.)

Note: Vines Expository Dictionary of biblical words was propitiation comes from the Greek word… “*hiasmos*, akin to *hieos* (merciful, propitious) signifies a means whereby sin is covered and remitted. It is use in 1 John 2:2, signifying Christ Himself as the propitiation. What is indicated is that provision is made for the whole world, so that no one is, by divine predetermination, excluded from the scope of God’s mercy. It is made actual for those who believe, For believers, Christ is the satisfaction for our sins.”

So, sin need not be a barrier between God and man, if man will receive the propitiation God has provided in Jesus. So God’s forgiveness is always available now… praise the Lord.

Application: Go to Psalm 32 and consider the blessedness of forgiveness. Then spend time in prayer thanking God for His provision that covers our sin and how His forgiveness is always there for us when we come to Him confessing our sin, repenting, and asking for His forgiveness. Are you assured of His forgiveness? If not, take that to Him in prayer as well.