

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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A Reminder About Living

1 John Series on – Genuine and Confident Christianity

I JOHN 2:1-2

Every month we get reminders in the mail. Like:

- ♦ We get reminders from the utility company
- ♦ We get reminders about our house mortgage
- ♦ We get reminders about our phone bill

All these reminders let us know that we have a bill to pay and let us know when we need to pay that bill.

- ♦ Life is full of reminders, doctor's offices will call to remind us of an appointment, and the dentist will remind us of an appointment.
 - ♦ Our alarm clocks will remind us it's time to get up and go to work.
 - ♦ Our animals will remind us to feed them because they are hungry.
- Life is full of reminders.

We need to be reminded of little things in life, how much more should we be reminded of spiritual things. God's word calls us to a life of holiness and thankfulness. This text gives us some reminders about our living!

We are reminded about:

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE SCRIPTURE (Vs. 1a)

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin."

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin." (NIV)

In verse one John reveals the purpose of the letter. He wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to instruct the believers about dealing with sin and living a satisfying life before God. What was the purpose for the Scripture? The Bible says, "**So that you may not sin** or living a sinful lifestyle." John wants us to understand that it is never God's will for us to live in **SIN** – God wants us to walk in the **LIGHT** and He is the **LIGHT (1:5)**. Understand we will never be sinless this side of heaven. But we should strive to live free from sin. John is saying sin may **BOTHER** me and it does - but sin can't **BOSS** me and that is control me! God has given us His word to know and to obey. **Psalm 119:11**, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." In **verse 1a** John reminds us about the purpose for the Scripture. Next, he reminds us of:

II. THE PERSON OF OUR SAFETY (Vs. 1b)

A. He Is Our Representative with the Father. (1b)

"And if anyone sins, we have an *Advocate* with the Father" Jesus Christ the righteous."

"But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our *defense*—" (NIV)

⇒ We have an advocate with the Father. Advocate: (*parakletos*) means one who is called alongside to plead our case our own defense attorney in Heaven.

⇒ We have an advocate in our hearts in the Person of His Spirit

⇒ We have an advocate in heaven in the Person of His Son.

Jesus knows all the facts and He paid all the price to free us from the penalty of sin. Now He intercedes on our behalf as our *personal*, *powerful*, and permanent representative before the Father.

Not only is He our representative with the Father, but we also note:

B. He Is Our Righteous Friend. (1c)

"Jesus Christ the righteous."

He lived a perfect life! That enables Him to be our advocate. He is Jesus Christ the righteous.

Lastly, we are reminded about:

III. THE PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS (Vs. 2)

A. The Source of the Payment. (2a)

"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins"

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins..." (NIV)

John reminds us of why and how we should live. Propitiation: (*hilasmos*) signifies 'an expiation, a means whereby sin is covered and remitted.'

B. The Scope of His Payment. (2b)

"and not for ours only but also for the whole world." Jesus did not die for a select few! He did not die for just the elect! He died for every person that has ever lived! Amen!