

**FIRST JOHN 2:12-17**  
**'Who does the will of God'**  
28 & 31 March 2024

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**Discourse structure**

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II. The Original Message 1.5 – 2.2

III. The New Commandment 2.3-11

**IV. The Will of God 2.12-17**

A. Christians' advantages 2.12-14

1. I write to you

a. God has forgiven us 2.12

b. You know the true Jesus 2.13

c. You have defeated the evil one

2. I wrote to you 2.14

a. You know the Father

b. You know Jesus

c. You are strong

B. The danger that Christians face 2.15

1. The world wants our affections 2.16

2. The world seduces by its allure 2.17a

C. The future of obedient Christians 2.17b

1. They do the will of God now

2. They will live forever

Part 2: Our Adversaries 2.18 – 3.18

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**A. Christians' advantages 2.12-14**

**Forgiven 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you on account of His name.*

Jesus proclaimed, "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Luke 5:24

Hoti: Because=reason, That=content.

- Children: See next slide.
- Forgiven: Released from debt.
- His name: Whose name?
- Name: Reputation, authority, work.

	<b>Generation</b>	<b>Pressure</b>	<b>Blessing</b>
● Children:	Youth	Social	Forgiven
● Youth:	Earners	Economic	Victory
● Parents:	Aged	Despair	Know Him

Are these

- Three groups or generations?
- Two groups of 'children': youth & parents?
- One group with same blessings for all?

When sins or debts are forgiven

- There is an offender or a debtor.
- There is an offended or a creditor.
- There is an offense or a debt.

Who suffers or pays?

- The offender has paid his debt.
- A defender has paid the debt.
- The offended takes the loss..

### Overcome the devil 2:13a

<sup>13</sup> *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.*

Jesus prayed, "This is eternal life, that they may know ... Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3

Christian experience

- Holy Spirit
- Love, peace, joy, etc.
- Answers to prayers
- Self control
- Divine wisdom
- Spiritual gifts
- Spiritual warfare
- Sure of eternal life

### Overcome the devil 2:13b

*I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.*

Jesus promised, ""In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Luke 22:30-31

- Evil one: The devil, Satan, a powerful, fallen spirit who rules over the world.
- Overcome: trust Jesus' greater authority, resist idolatry, remain loyal to Jesus.

Perf tense: victory assured, though battle on-going.

Overcome = resist false teachers, obey Word of God, moral lifestyle, faith in Jesus & cross.

Writing = right new, Wrote = commentary?

12 *teknia* = affection, *paidia* = need of discipline.

### Know the Father 2:13c-14a

*I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, because you know {Him who / that which} has been from the beginning.*

Jesus prayed, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God." John 17:3

Fathers:

- Beget & bond
- Correct & discipline
- Provide & protect
- Pray & worry
- Model & train
- Mate & support
- Counsel & advise
- Inheritance & heritage

**You are strong 2: 14b**

*I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

Jesus said, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word {of God} and do it." Luke 8:21

- Strong: Nourishment & exercise.
- Word: Know, test, trust, defend it.
- Overcome: Struggle and prevail.
- Evil one: Everyone's personal tempter.

Word (message) from God? Or revealed by Jesus?

**B. Christians' Dangers 2.15-16**

**To love the world 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the {Father / God} is not in him.*

Jesus said, "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil." John 7:7

- Love: Admire, desire, acquire, require.
- World: Human societies & their cultures.
- Deeds: Conspiracies → theft and violence.
- Evil: Destructive in effect or outcome.

**Love:** desire to possess, take pleasure in, highly esteem, trust in the state.

**World:** fallen creation, human society, wealth, political power.

**Social domains**

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Family and clan           | 8. Arts and music           |
| 2. Agriculture and nutrition | 9. Education and training   |
| 3. Religion and ideology     | 10. Charity and welfare     |
| 4. Government and security   | 11. Health and medicine     |
| 5. Engineering & manufacture | 12. Science and technology  |
| 6. Trade and finance         | 13. Media and entertainment |
| 7. Law and justice           | 14. Sport and recreation    |
|                              | 15. Military and defense    |

**The lust of the flesh 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

Jesus said, "Out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, ... deeds of coveting ... pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23

<b>Natural</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
Food	Wealth	Secrets
Drink	Authority	Power
Sleep	Status	Protection
Sex	Security	Salvation

**C. The Christian's reward 2.17**

*17 The world is passing away and also {°its} lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever {just as [God / that one] abides forever}.*

Jesus said, "This is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." John 6:40

Everlasting life = Is an intimate, loving life with Jesus.

- Passing: Diminishing and disappearing.
- Behold: Read or listen to the Gospels.
- Believe: Trust and remain loyal.
- Eternal: Quality and quantity of life.

**Discuss:** What actions are God's will for us to do? Cite specific bibles verses.(\*)

**Live / abide forever**

Quality of life

- Freedom from sin
- Hope for more
- Spiritual fruit
- Spiritual gifts
- Mutual love

Quantity of life

- Starts now
- Home in heaven
- Resurrection
- Jesus' kingdom
- New world

Passing away:

- Condemned to cease forever.
- Influenced by Christian values.
- Spirit rulers lose control over Christians.
- Every empire declines and succumbs.
- National economies collapse and fail.
- The entire global order will be replaced by Jesus' kingdom when he returns.

**Application**

- We are born into a system ruled by the devil.
- We put our faith in God through Jesus.
- We remain loyal to Jesus, at the risk of life, love and liberty.

(\* ) For examples: Romans 8:26; 12:1; Ephesians 6:6; 2 Corinthians 8:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; 5:16; Hebrews 10:36; 1 Peter 2:15; 4:1; 1 John 2:15