

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 & 1 John 1 – 2:2

Singing: 420:1-2 – 141:1-2 – 59:1-5 – 261:1-3 – 182:1, 5 -7

Introductory Comments on John's letter

- Written in his old age as one of the last Bible books of NT
 - John wrote the Gospel *that we believe in Jesus Christ*
 - John wrote the letter *that believers may be assured* (5:13) 2.
- John wrote about *the communion (fellowship)* of the believers
 - Communion with God is impossible without Jesus Christ
 - Communion with God is fruit of the union with Christ
- Salvation is not by walking **according** the light but **in** the light (v 7)
 - It is not by **how** we walk but **where** we walk (John 14:6)
 - Message of God's Word that 'by faith in Christ we live'
- The born again soul wishes to be 'without sin already' but faces daily with numerous failures in holiness: *John's revelation in 1 John 1:1-2 is intended to comfort them in this reality*

THE UNFINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

I. For whom He works II. What is His unfinished work

I. For whom is the Lord Jesus laboring in heaven?

- A. For 'the little children' which are the believers in Jesus Christ
1. one becomes a 'child of God' once born again (Gal. 4:5-6)
 2. those born again 'know of a different live within' (3-11)
 3. yet these 'converted believers' are often like *little children*
 - a. little children love their parents but aren't perfect children
 - b. if born again, you long to live for God's glory but sadly fail
- B. To encourage the 'little failing children' God reveals Jesus' ministry
1. Upon His 'finished on earth', Jesus 'began in heaven'
 - a. He ascended to function as the **High Priest** before God
 - b. Yet John speaks of Jesus as the **Advocate before the Father**

II. What is His unfinished work as Advocate with the Father?

- A. John speaks to heart of little ones who *struggle with the awareness of sin*
1. What do the **sins** of the ‘little children – believers’ do?
 - a. what they **not do**: *they don’t break or end relationship or union*
 - b. but they **do**: *they strain – hinder practice of communion*
- B. John reveals ‘what happens in heaven’ at such a moment of sin
1. He pictures Christ in His task as Advocate with the Father
 - a. an advocate is *one who comes to your side to help (translated in John 14-16 as the ‘Comforter’)*
 - what the Lord Jesus is in heaven, the Holy Spirit is on earth
 2. As the children sin, the Advocate labors before the Father
 - a. He labors in the face of the ‘accuser of the brethren’ Satan
 - b. He pleads for them on basis of His labor (the Righteous)
 - His labor is the *propitiation (vs. 2) for our sins*
 - His labor isn’t only for the believers of then but for all His people throughout the entire world
 - c. observe what it doesn’t say/does say: *and if any may sin ...*
 - He labors even before the sinner is penitent
 - d. what is the fruit of Christ’s labor in heaven before the Father?
 - He turns away the Father’s eyes from their sins
 - He commissions the Advocate on earth (Holy Spirit) to lead His people to repentance and confession (1:9)

Closing Application

- A. Children of God: *realize your privileges of grace*
1. to be born again (calling) is without repentance (Rom. 11:29)
 - a. don’t allow Satan to rob you of the security of the ‘sonship’
 2. but don’t ignore call of conscience as fruit of Spirit’s work (Ps. 51:11)
- B. Children of Satan: *despise not the ‘light that is shining in the Gospel’*
1. why love the ‘darkness that leads to more darkness’? John 3:18-20
 2. Seek to come to the Light that you may be the children of light