

1 John

Lesson 2 December 7 - December 11 1 John 2:1-7

Our study will be presented in a daily format for the five weeks days. The studies will take you 5 to 10 minutes a day to read and consider the questions. One may also complete the entire study a one setting if that fits your schedule better.

Monday December 7 1 John 2:1-2

Many scholars think that John epistle was written to refute the claims of the Gnostics.

- The Gnostics (pronounced *näs-tik*) were some of the earliest heretics to infiltrate the church with their poisonous doctrines.
- The word *Gnosticism* comes from the Greek word *gnosis*, meaning "knowledge." The Gnostics believed there was a mysterious or secret knowledge reserved for those with true understanding, leading to the salvation of the soul. They thought they were more special than the ordinary Christian because they had special knowledge.
- In practice, some Christians came to the false conclusion that they must literally beat their bodies into submission and live such ascetic lives that they never allowed themselves the enjoyment of bodily pleasures. (The monastic movements, i.e. monks) The physical body was evil.
- Others went to the opposite extreme and permitted their physical passions to run whatever course they chose. If we are spiritual it does not matter what we do in our physical body.
- The Gnostics saw Jesus as a messenger bringing the special knowledge of salvation to humanity's imprisoned soul.
- They believed that when Jesus came to earth He didn't possess a body like our own; instead, the Gnostics taught that He only *seemed* to have a physical body.
- This was a denial of the Christian doctrine of the incarnation—the belief that Jesus was both fully God and fully human.
- There is a lot more, but these basic tenants give you a sense of their teaching.
- From <https://www.insight.org/resources/article-library/individual/mind-over-matter-the-heresy-of-gnosticism-both-then-and-now>

How does John's statement, "He is atoning sacrifice for our sins", speak to the physical body of Jesus?

How universal was the sacrifice of Jesus?

What does Jesus do for us to deal with our sins? Who needs the sacrifice of Jesus? 1 John 1:8

Think about the content of these two verses, what justifies us special knowledge or faith in Jesus?

Tuesday December 8 Read 1 John 2:3

How does John say our knowing Jesus will be demonstrated in our lives?

What do you think is the central command from Jesus? John 13:34

Can you obey Jesus command and entice a brother or sister to sin?

Wednesday December 9 Read 1 John 2:4

If we claim to know Jesus but do not keep his commands what does John say we are?

What does John say about the teacher that claims to have special knowledge and is lording it over everyone?

How are you doing as you live to please Jesus?

Thursday December 10 Read 1 John 2:5-6

What happens when we obey Jesus?

The word translated complete can also mean fully developed, or mature. In what sense does knowing Christ lead us to maturity in God's love?

How does knowing about Jesus as a human help us to believe that God loves us?

Thank God for his love.

Friday December 11 Red 1 John 2:7

Why do you think John says this is not a new command?

The beginning most likely refers to since the Gospel has been preached.

What does John say his message has always been?

Why is the Gospel message important to you?