

1 John 1:5 - 2:2, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Coram Deo, in the Presence of God. 1 John 1:5

“And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). God does not cast a shadow. The light of His [omni] presence leaves nothing hidden in darkness: “Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy presence” (Psa. 90:8). “Coram Deo” (always in God’s presence) was John Calvin’s motto, and it must be ours. Live today in the light of His presence. Read John 3:19-21

☐ Tuesday - Christ’s Blood, a Miracle Detergent. 1 John 1:6-7

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:6-7). Spurgeon recounts the story of Martin Luther when Satan came to him, as he thought, with a long black list of his sins. To the archenemy Luther said, “Yes, I must own to them all. Have you any more?” So the foul fiend went his way and brought another longer list, and Martin Luther said, “Yes, yes, I must own to them all. Have you any more?” The accuser of the brethren, being expert at the business, soon supplied him with a further length of charges, until there seemed to be no end to it. Martin waited until no more were forthcoming, and then he cried, “Write at the bottom of the whole account, ‘The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin!’” “There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel’s veins. And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains” (Hymn). Read Hebrews 9:13-14, 22

☐ Wednesday - No Savior for the Self-Righteous. 1 John 1:8

John writes, “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Yes, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save *sinners*, among whom I am *chief*” (1 Tim. 1:15) -- this is the attitude the apostles embraced, and we must accept it too. For Jesus said, “I have not come to call the [self] righteous but *sinners*” (Lk. 5:29-32). Jesus is a great Savior who atoned for the great transgressions of great rebels. That is hardly newsworthy to the self-righteous, but “good news of a great joy” to the penitent sinner who understands the magnitude of his sins. Read Romans 3:10-18

☐ Thursday - He is Able to Forgive. 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). “However great your sin at present is, do not make it more by insinuating that He cannot forgive you. For of all sins this must be the most cruel, to think that He is unable to forgive. This stabs at Christ’s Saviorship, which is His very heart” (Spurgeon). Read Ephesians 1:7

☐ Friday - Christ, Our Advocate. 1 John 2:1

“My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). Jesus is our defense attorney and He has never lost a case. “Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). Read Psalm 27:1

☐ Saturday - Christ, Our Redeemer. 1 John 2:2

Christ “*Himself* is the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 2:2). Christian, “you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Read 1 Corinthians 6:20; Hebrews 9:11-12