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## God's Divine Disinfectant? (1 Jn. 2:1-2)

### Introduction:

- I. We live in a world full of germs. Germs are everywhere. There are germs in the air we breathe. There are germs in the water we drink and even in the food we eat. Now, most germs are harmless, but some germs can cause deadly diseases that result in the loss of life. So then, to guard against germs, we teach our children to wash their hands before eating or after playing outside. Furthermore, we buy disinfectants that fight against germs. Most people today have in their houses bottles of Lysol, Pine-sol, Clorox and other disinfectants that fight against bacteria because we know of the dangers of germs.
  
- II. Well, may I suggest to you that the most dangerous germ in the world today is of a different nature than the ones that affect our physical bodies. Yes, bacteria, viruses, fungi and other infectious agents can breach our immune system and cause physical damage to our bodies but they can't do anything to harm our soul. However, there is a germ in the world today that can invade our life and have a injurious affect upon our spiritual well-being. I'm talking about the germ that the Bible calls sin. Why is it that we spend so much time protecting ourselves against the danger of germs that can hurt the body but not the germ that can destroy our soul?
  
- III. But let me tell you something about the germ of sin. The disinfectants that you buy at the grocery store won't protect you against this germ. Listen to me: Lysol won't help you. Pine-sol won't help you. Anti-bacterial soap won't help you. The only kind of disinfectant that will help you is the kind that God offers you. And God's disinfectant is really not a kind, it is a who and that who is Jesus. Jesus, ladies and gentlemen, is God's divine disinfectant and in using 1 Jn. 2:1-2 as our text, this is what I want to talk to you about—God's Divine Disinfectant. Open your Bibles and let's read together our text for this lesson.

### Lesson:

#### I. **John's Worthy Warning: "that ye sin not."**

The warning not to sin is a warning against the destructive and devastating power of sin. Sin, just like it's physical counterpart, is a germ that can't always be seen but has the ability to break down our spiritual immune system and produce spiritual death.

Rom 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death...

James 1:15

Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

Spiritual death has to do with a separation from God and this is the thing that John previously emphasized in this epistle (**1 Jn. 1:5-6**). God, ladies and gentlemen, can have no affiliation with sin whatsoever. Sin separates us from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**).

- **Sin separates us from having a personal prayer life.**

John 9:31

Now we know that God hears not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he hears.

Ps 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Let's not forget how powerful prayer is. Prayer has the power to change lives and transform hearts. Prayer has the power to renew our spirit and strengthen our resolve for righteous living. When we are feeling low, prayer can lift us up. When our minds are cluttered and confused by the hassles of life, prayer can bring us peace. When our hearts are being bombed by the devil and blasted by the temptation to do evil, prayer can bring us relief. Let's never forget the power of prayer. But listen to me: prayer is a privilege that we forfeit when we decide to live in sin. Do you understand that? You can't have a praying relationship with God and live in sin at the same time. You just can't do it.

- **Sin separates us from God's providential care.**

Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, God's providential care is real. Every child of God should be sure about that. When the business fails or the boss lays you off, don't worry, God will provide. When the economy crumbles and investments are lost, don't worry, God will provide. When you are just starting a family and it's hard to see how you are going to make ends meet, don't worry God will provide. You see, we serve a God who has always provided for his people. When Abraham needed a sacrifice in the place of Isaac, God provided a ram. When famine hit the land of Canaan and Jacob and his children faced extinction, God provided a home in Egypt. When the Israelites were thirsty in the wilderness, God provided them drink and when they were hungry, God provided them meat. You see, God knows a little something about providing. His provisions never run out and His supply never gets too low because He holds the

world in the hollow of his hand and He owns cattle upon a thousand hills and He is willing to share His inexhaustible riches with His people.

Ps 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Phil 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

This is why Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount not to be anxious about what we shall eat or what we shall drink or for our bodies, what we shall put on. For if we just put God and His kingdom first in our lives God will provide all of those things for us (**Matt. 6:25, 33**). We don't have to worry.

Yes God is a giving God and a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Listen to me, though: access to God's provisions is terminated when we decide to live in sin and separate ourselves from God.

- **Sin separates us from the hope of heaven.**

Do you really want to be separated from God? Do you not know that the greatest gift that God gives is eternal life, that is, a home in heaven in a permanent state of bliss where there is no sorrow of any kind and heartache of any sort? Do you not know that to miss heaven means to spend eternity in hell, a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth and perpetual punishment?

*Rev 21:27*

*And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

*Rev 21:8*

*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

*1 Cor 6:9-10*

*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

Do you really want to be separated from God? I don't think so!

But separation isn't the only devastating effect of sin. Sin wreaks havoc, not only on the soul, but on the mind and body as well. Sin can drive a person crazy and while on that road towards insanity, it can break the body down too. Sin in the form of smoking, drinking and drug use can cause cancer, heart failure, cirrhosis

of the liver and other fatal conditions. Sin in the form of fornication and immoral activity can destroy marriages, break up families and ruin reputations. Sin of various kind and sort can slay and slaughter; maim and mutilate and leave a trail of destruction in its path. This world is in a moral mess and this country is standing on the doorstep of disaster all because of the strong presence of sin. John recognized the dangers of sin and so his worthy warning and purpose of writing the things that he wrote is that ye sin not.

But inspiration, revelation and good old fashion experience taught John that from time to time God's people do sin. So, what is God to do? What is man to do? John gives us the answer. Jesus is God's remedy for sin. Jesus is God's solution to the rebellious nature of man. Jesus is God's Divine Disinfectant.

## **II. God's Divine Disinfectant: "*Jesus Christ the righteous.*"**

John identifies God's Divine Disinfectant as Jesus Christ the righteous. Now then, how does Jesus disinfect the germ of sin that slithers into our lives from time to time? John tells us.

### **A. Jesus' Assured Advocacy: "*We have an advocate with the Father.*"**

The word advocate is the Greek word *paraklētōs* and it brings hope to sinful creatures like you and me. It literally means, "*to call or summon to one's side.*" It refers to one who aids another and therefore becomes a comforter or helper. The word pictures a friend called in to help a person in trouble. It pictures a commander called in to help a discouraged army. It pictures a lawyer called in to help a defendant plead his case before the judge. Jesus, ladies and gentlemen, is the embodiment of all these pictures. He's our friend who helps us in times of trouble. He's our commander that encourages us when the going gets tough. He's our lawyer who pleads our case before the Father in heaven's court. But anyway you picture it, it is encouraging for us to know that Jesus has been called to our side to help us in our fight for right.

Listen to me: I know that Satan is a worthy adversary because of his experience and craftiness, but we can overcome because Jesus has been called to our side. I know that sin is alluring and temptation is powerful, but we can overcome because Jesus has been called to our side. I know that worldly attraction is sometimes dazzling and the appeal of the flesh is sometimes formidable, but we can overcome because Jesus has been called to our side. You see, whenever we slip and fall; whenever we misstep or stumble, whenever we sin against the God of heaven, we can still overcome because our advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, pleads our case before God.

Rom 8:34

Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Listen to this, ladies and gentlemen. He makes intercession for us! For us. For us. Our advocate is for us. The world may be against us. The circumstances of life may be against us. The odds may be against us, but none of that really matters because Jesus is for us and He is the one who is at the right hand of God. It reminds me of court TV. Whenever there is a high profile case, court TV will have a handful of lawyers committing on the case and setting forth their position. But whatever they say, whatever their opinion may be, it really doesn't matter. What matters is what the lawyer on the job says and does because he is the one standing before the judge. That's what matters. Now, who is standing before the Judge for us? Paul said it is Christ, the one who died for us but is now risen again.

Heb 9:24

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

And let me tell you something about our advocate. He is pleading for us passionately because He understands us (**Heb. 2:13-17**).

Do you want to know why Jesus is such a great and merciful high priest? It is because He understands us. He has walked in our shoes. He has experienced our circumstance. He was made like unto His brethren. Let me ask you, which lawyer would you want representing you? The Harvard graduate who has lived a privileged life and who comes highly recommended, being intellectually superior to most other lawyers, but who really can't relate to the clients that he serves. Or a lawyer who is just as smart and just as qualified, only he can relate to the common man because he comes from a common background and has lived a common life. He knows what he clients are going through because he has faced some of the same issues. While he hasn't committed the crimes that his clients have committed, he understands why they sometimes fail because he himself has experienced the weight of temptation. Which lawyer would you want? I'll tell which one I want representing me. I want the one who can relate to me. I want the one who will has feelings of compassion towards me because he knows what I was going through and what I was up against when I stumbled. That's the advocate that I want working for me, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is Jesus. Not that Jesus ever had an inclination to give in to temptation has we have, but the point is He knows what it is like to be dogged by the devil or pursued by Satan.

Heb 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Now, because Jesus can relate to us, He takes His role as our advocate seriously. He never forgets what His job is. He never get sidetracked by other issues. He doesn't show up for court late and He's not out doing other things while our case is pending. Jesus is on the job.

Heb 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.

And let me tell you how Jesus works for us as our advocate. He doesn't plea on the basis of our reputation. He doesn't plea on the basis of our good works. He doesn't plea on the basis of our personal righteousness. He doesn't plea on the basis of our being "not guilty" because He knows we are guilty. Jesus pleads on the basis of His own sacrifice. He pleads on the basis of the price having been paid for us. Now this brings us to John's next point.

**B. Jesus' Propitiatory Position: "*And he is the propitiation for our sins.*"**

The word for *propitiation* is hilasmos and points to a sacrifice or sin offering by which God is appeased. The sacrifice covers the sin and extinguishes the guilt incurred by it. William Barclay put it like this.

The verb often means to perform some deed, by which the taint of guilt is removed. A man sins; at once he acquires the taint of sin; he needs something, which, to use C.H. Dodd's metaphor, will disinfect him from that taint and enable him once again to enter into the presence of God.

That something that man needed to disinfect him from the taint of sin was a sacrifice, a propitiation that would satisfy the righteousness and justice of God and Jesus became that propitiation (**Rom. 3:24-26**).

Heb 9:15

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

So then, Jesus became God's divine disinfectant, not only for our sins, but also for all the sins of Old Testament saints who were faithful as well.

But I want to point out one more thing before we close. We said in passing that the word for propitiation signifies a covering. Well, the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek word hilasmos is kapporeth and is translated in the Old Testament "mercy seat." So then, Jesus, figuratively

speaking, is our Mercy Seat. Let us notice briefly some similarities between Jesus and the mercy seat:

1. The mercy seat was made of shittim (acacia) wood (**Ex. 25:10**). Shittim wood was hard and durable, resistant to insects and harsh weather. This speaks to the durability and incorruptible nature of our Savior. Jesus too is durable and incorruptible. Jesus has stood the test of time, serving as our advocate and our high priest in all seasons. His sacrifice is sufficient forever and His life cannot be taken (**Heb. 7:23-24**).
2. The mercy seat was overlaid with pure gold, the most precious and valuable element of that day (**Ex. 25:17**). This symbolizes the preciousness Jesus. Listen to me: everything about Jesus is precious. His life was precious. His death was precious. His blood is still precious. His word is precious. His promises are precious. Everything about Him is precious and in Him are found unsearchable riches (**Eph. 3:8**).
3. The mercy seat was a place of communion with God. Now we commune with God through Christ (**Ex. 25:22; 1 Tim. 2:5**).
4. Atonement was made at the mercy seat. Atonement is now made in Christ (**Lev. 16:15, 34; Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Tim. 2:10**).
5. The mercy seat covered the law, and symbolically covered the guilt of the people. Today our guilt is covered by the blood of Christ (**Ex. 25:20-21; Gal. 3:10-13, 22**).

Aren't you glad that Jesus was willing to become our mercy seat? Jesus is our propitiation; our kapporeth or hilasmos and through Him our sins have been expiated and the guilt thereof eradicated. Through, by and in Him we have been disinfected from the germs of sin and our fellowship with God has been renewed. Thank God for Jesus, His divine disinfectant.

### **Conclusion:**

Well, in wrapping this up, let's always remember that everything taught in the gospel of Christ, is meant to discourage us from sinning. As Christians our first aim is to always live a life that pleasing and acceptable to God. But the simple truth is we all fall short from time to time. And when we do, there is no need to dwell in a perpetual state of panic. There is no need to give up the hope of heaven because we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He is the propitiation for our sins. And here is another wonderful thing if you are visiting with us

and outside the body of Christ. Maybe you haven't yet accepted Jesus as your personal Savior. Maybe you haven't yet obeyed the gospel of Christ. Well, Jesus died for you too. John said that Jesus is the propitiation, not for our sins only; but also for the sins of the whole world. No, you won't reap the benefits of our Lord's sacrifice while you live in the world. But you can obey the gospel right now and Jesus will become your mercy seat. Your sins can be disinfected right now. The guilt of your sins can be extinguished right now. But you must do your part. You must believe in Jesus and be baptized for the remission of your sins and you will be saved **(Mk. 16:16)**. Don't put it off. Let Jesus cleanse your soul right now.