1 John

Chapter 2, Verses 1-14

- General Introduction
 - One of the five Johannine books
 - All traditionally associated with the Apostle John
 - A Jewish fisherman
 - One of The Twelve
 - Probably the "beloved disciple" of John's Gospel
 - All written around the end of the First Century
 - One of the three Johannine Letters
 - 1 John is even less like a letter than is Hebrews

General Introduction

- Alfred Plummer (a 19th Century commentator) described 1
 John as a sermon which takes the Gospel of John as its text.
- Certainly there are many commonalities between the two.
- Whether it is a sermon or a letter or some other form of writing, 1 John is unmistakably an "exhortation" directed to a group of Christian believers by someone who understands himself to have substantial pastoral authority.

General Introduction

- Clearly this exhortation is spoken into a community of Christian believers who have problems:
 - Doctrinal
 - Moral
 - Social
- We cannot be certain which particular problems they faced, beyond what is written the text itself and, for the most part, in this class, we will not try to look behind the text.

General Introduction

 We will read 1 John on its own terms, as an exhortation inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by the earliest followers of Christ to all who would come after, including but not limited to those already living in their own day.

Review (Previous Lesson)

Chapter 1

- The author begins by identifying himself as one among the Apostles who had seen, heard, and touched Jesus Christ during his time among men on earth. (1:1-2)
- He addresses himself to Christians with an eye to preserving them in joyful fellowship with the Apostles and, therefore, with God the Father and Son. (1:3-4)

Review (Previous Lesson)

Chapter 1

- The Apostles proclaimed the message which they heard from Jesus, that God is perfectly true and perfectly good. (1:5)
- Because of his blood shed for them, Jesus' followers are cleansed of all sin and, therefore, they are willing and able to behave in accordance with God's character. (1:6-7)
- Not perfectly, of course, all Christians including Apostles have sins, but when we confess our sins, he forgives us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1: 8-10)

1 John 2:1-2

2:1わたしの子たちよ。これらのことを書きおくるのは、あなたがたが罪を犯さないようになるためである。もし、罪を犯す者があれば、父のみもとには、わたしたちのために助け主、すなわち、義なるイエス・キリストがおられる。

2:2彼は、わたしたちの罪のための、あがないの供え物である。ただ、わたしたちの罪のためばかりではなく、全世界の罪のためである。

1 John 2:1-2

- ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
- ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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<u>My little children</u>, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- This is the Apostle addressing the Church.
- He has just said (1:8-9) that Christians definitely do sin, and that by confessing our sins we are forgiven and cleansed of all unrighteousness.

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• It might be argued that this teaching of forgiveness promotes sin.

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My little children, <u>I am writing these things to you so that you may not</u> <u>sin.</u> But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- It might be argued that this teaching of forgiveness promotes sin.
- But the Apostle makes it clear that his intention is quite the opposite.

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My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. *But if anyone does sin*, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

 But as he has said previously --- and this is just stating the obvious --- all men, including all Christians, do sin.

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- But as he has said previously --- and this is just stating the obvious --- all men, including all Christians, do sin.
- The "if" may be understood as "when"

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When we sin, Christians have an advocate with God

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- When we sin, Christians have an advocate with God
- The word translated "advocate" is *parakeltos* which is here perhaps best understood in the sense of "helper."

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Here the helper in view is Jesus Christ.

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My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, <u>Jesus</u> <u>Christ the righteous</u>.

- Here the helper in view is Jesus Christ.
- The Son of God and only man who is perfectly righteous.

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- Here the helper in view is Jesus Christ.
- The Son of God and only man who is perfectly righteous.
- As such he is the only one who <u>can</u> help us with our sins.

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• Elsewhere Jesus uses the same word, parakletos, to describe the Holy Spirit....the helper whom he would send to his disciples after ascending to the Father.

Comment

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- The helpers that we receive:
 - The Father sent the Son to save from death and grant eternal life to all who would believe in him
 - The Son sends the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him, to sanctify and cleanse them from all unrighteousness.
 - The Holy Spirit leads Christians to minister to one another and to the whole world.

彼は、わたしたちの罪のための、あがないの供え物である。ただ、わたしたちの罪のためばかりではなく、全世界の罪のためである。

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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Here is how Jesus helps us:

<u>He is the propitiation for our sins</u>, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- This is how Jesus helps us.
- Our sins are not imputed to us, but are instead forgiven because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

<u>He is the propitiation for our sins</u>, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

 Our Advocate does not plead that we are innocent, nor does he plead extenuating circumstances.

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- Our Advocate does not plead that we are innocent, nor does he plead extenuating circumstances.
- He admits our guilt and accepts punishment on our behalf.

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- Our Advocate does not plead that we are innocent, nor does he plead extenuating circumstances.
- He admits our guilt and accepts punishment on our behalf.
- We are acquitted because he has already died in our place.

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He is the propitiation for our sins, <u>and not for ours only but also for the</u> sins of the whole world.

What does this mean?

He is the propitiation for our sins, <u>and not for ours only but also for the</u> sins of the whole world.

- What does this mean?
- It at least means that the death of Christ has atoned for the sins of all Christians, in all times and places, including even the sins of Christians who have yet to be born!

1 John 2:3-6

- 2:3もし、わたしたちが彼の戒めを守るならば、それによって彼を知っていることを悟るのである。
- 2:4「彼を知っている」と言いながら、その戒めを守らない者は、偽り者であって、真理はその人のうちにない。
- 2:5しかし、彼の御言を守る者があれば、その人のうちに、神の愛が真に全うされるのである。それによって、わたしたちが彼にあることを知るのである。

1 John 2:3-6

2:6「彼におる」と言う者は、彼が歩かれたように、その人自身も歩くべきである。

1 John 2:3-6

- ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
- ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
- ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:
- ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

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 He has just said that everyone sins, and that the sins of all Christians are forgiven because of what Christ as done.

<u>And by this we know that we have come to know him</u>, if we keep his commandments.

- He has just said that everyone sins, and that the sins of all Christians are forgiven because of what Christ as done.
- So how can we know if we are Christians?

And by this we know that we have come to know him, <u>if we keep his</u> commandments.

- He has just said that everyone sins, and that the sins of all Christians are forgiven because of what Christ as done.
- So how can we know if we are Christians?
- Here is the answer.

And by this we know that we have come to know him, <u>if we keep his</u> commandments.

Our Assurance of our salvation is found in our obedience.

「彼を知っている」と言いながら、その戒めを守らない者は、偽り者であって、真理はその人のうちにない。

Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

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- Our Assurance of our salvation is found in our obedience.
- To suggest otherwise, is to lie, and to demonstrate just how blind we really are to the truth of the gospel.

しかし、彼の御言を守る者があれば、その人のうちに、神の愛が 真に全うされるのである。それによって、わたしたちが彼にある ことを知るのである。

but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

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but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

 To remember and obey the words of Christ is to have the love of God perfected in you.

"love of God" could mean:

- "love of God" could mean:
 - God's love for us

- "love of God" could mean:
 - God's love for us
 - The divine love we express toward others.

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 - The divine love we express toward others.
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- Here (in 1 Jn. 2:5) the last of these, i.e. our love for God, is probably meant.
- The way that we come to love God perfectly is to remember and obey the words of Christ.

しかし、彼の御言を守る者があれば、その人のうちに、神の愛が 真に全うされるのである。それによって、わたしたちが彼にある ことを知るのである。

but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

By this we may know that we are in him:

 So how do we know if we remember and obey the words of Christ, in the way that constitutes perfect love of God?

しかし、彼の御言を守る者があれば、その人のうちに、神の愛が 真に全うされるのである。それによって、わたしたちが彼にある ことを知るのである。

but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

By this we may know that we are in him:

- So how do we know if we remember and obey the words of Christ, in the way that constitutes perfect love of God?
- The answer is given in the following verse:

「彼におる」と言う者は、彼が歩かれたように、その人自身も歩くべきである。

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

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 We know that we love God perfectly, if we remember and obey the words of Christ, which can be seen in the extent to which our life is like the life of Christ.

2:7愛する者たちよ。わたしがあなたがたに書きおくるのは、新しい戒めではなく、あなたがたが初めから受けていた古い戒めである。その古い戒めとは、あなたがたがすでに聞いた御言である。

2:8しかも、新しい戒めを、あなたがたに書きおくるのである。そして、それは、彼にとってもあなたがたにとっても、真理なのである。なぜなら、やみは過ぎ去り、まことの光がすでに輝いているからである。

- 2:9「光の中にいる」と言いながら、その兄弟を憎む者は、今なお、やみの中にいるのである。
- **2:10**兄弟を愛する者は、光におるのであって、つまずくことはない。
- 2:11兄弟を憎む者は、やみの中におり、やみの中を歩くのであって、自分ではどこへ行くのかわからない。やみが彼の目を見えなくしたからである。

- ⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.
- ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.
- ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

- ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
- ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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 He has just said that assurance of their own salvation, and of their love for God, would be seen in the Christ-likeness of their lives.

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- He has just said that assurance of their own salvation, and of their love for God, would be seen in the Christ-likeness of their lives.
- He wishes to emphasize that this teaching is nothing new.

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Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that **you had from the beginning**. The old commandment is **the word that you have heard**.

 What he is writing now is the same old commandment which they have heard from the time they first became believers in Christ.

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- What he is writing now is the same old commandment which they have heard from the time they first became believers in Christ.
- He has added nothing to it.

しかも、新しい戒めを、あなたがたに書きおくるのである。そして、それは、彼にとってもあなたがたにとっても、真理なのである。なぜなら、やみは過ぎ去り、まことの光がすでに輝いているからである。

At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

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At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

 But the same old commandment which they heard from the beginning of their walk with Christ, was and is "new" in a different sense. しかも、新しい戒めを、あなたがたに書きおくるのである。そして、それは、彼にとってもあなたがたにとっても、真理なのである。なぜなら、やみは過ぎ去り、まことの光がすでに輝いているからである。

At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

 The coming of Christ marked the end of this present age and the beginning of the age to come. しかも、新しい戒めを、あなたがたに書きおくるのである。そして、それは、彼にとってもあなたがたにとっても、真理なのである。なぜなら、やみは過ぎ去り、まことの光がすでに輝いているからである。

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- The coming of Christ marked the end of this present age and the beginning of the age to come.
- God himself came and died as an atonement for sin!

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At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is <u>true in him and in you</u>, because the darkness is passing away and <u>the true light is already shining</u>.

 Christ and all who belong to him, already belong to the coming age in which there is only God's perfect truth and goodness. しかも、新しい戒めを、あなたがたに書きおくるのである。そして、それは、彼にとってもあなたがたにとっても、真理なのである。なぜなら、やみは過ぎ去り、まことの光がすでに輝いているからである。

At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, <u>because the darkness is passing away</u> and the true light is already shining.

 Such falsehood and wickedness as has been seen in this present age, is passing away.

「光の中にいる」と言いながら、その兄弟を憎む者は、今なお、やみの中にいるのである。

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

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• In the coming kingdom of Christ, there is absolutely no place for hatred.

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- In the coming kingdom of Christ, there is absolutely no place for hatred.
- If we hate anyone, our place in the kingdom is in question.

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Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

- In the coming kingdom of Christ, there is absolutely no place for hatred.
- If we hate anyone, our place in the kingdom is in question.
- Hatred and spiritual blindness are the same!

兄弟を愛する者は、光におるのであって、つまずくことはない。

Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

兄弟を愛する者は、光におるのであって、つまずくことはない。

Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

• Conversely when we look inside ourselves and find love for others, then we have assurance of our salvation and know that we are seeing clearly in the true light of God's coming kingdom. (Love and good vision are the same!)

兄弟を憎む者は、やみの中におり、やみの中を歩くのであって、 自分ではどこへ行くのかわからない。やみが彼の目を見えなくし たからである。

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

兄弟を憎む者は、やみの中におり、やみの中を歩くのであって、 自分ではどこへ行くのかわからない。やみが彼の目を見えなくし たからである。

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

 Again, whenever we find in our heart hatred for anyone, we can be sure that we are not seeing clearly, and are in danger of stumbling in other ways.

1 John 2:12-14

2:12子たちよ。あなたがたにこれを書きおくるのは、 御名のゆえに、あなたがたの多くの罪がゆるされた からである。

2:13父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

1 John 2:12-14

2:14子供たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが父を知ったからである。父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが強い者であり、神の言があなたがたに宿り、そして、あなたがたが悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

1 John 2:12-14

- ¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
- ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.
- ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

子たちよ。あなたがたにこれを書きおくるのは、御名のゆえに、あなたがたの多くの罪がゆるされたからである。

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

 He has just said that anyone who hates, remains in darkness and the truth is not in him!

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

- He has just said that anyone who hates, remains in darkness and the truth is not in him!
- That is frightening to me, and to his readers also, I imagine.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

So now he speaks words of reassurance.

<u>I am writing to you, little children</u>, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

- So now he speaks words of reassurance.
- Once again this is the Apostle speaking to the Church.

I am writing to you, little children, <u>because your sins are forgiven for his</u> name's sake.

- So now he speaks words of reassurance.
- Once again this is the Apostle speaking to the Church.
- His assurance is that, for the sake of Jesus name, their sins have been forgiven.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

<u>I am writing to you</u>, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. <u>I am writing to you</u>, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. <u>I write to you</u>, children, because you know the Father.

He addresses the Church in parts.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

<u>I am writing to you</u>, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. <u>I am writing to you</u>, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. <u>I write to you</u>, children, because you know the Father.

- He addresses the Church in parts.
- There have been different opinions regarding whether he means to specify three parts of the Church, or only two.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

<u>I am writing to you</u>, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. <u>I am writing to you</u>, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. <u>I write to you</u>, children, because you know the Father.

- He addresses the Church in parts.
- There have been different opinions regarding whether he means to specify three parts of the Church, or only two.
- I think it does not matter.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

<u>I am writing to you</u>, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. <u>I am writing to you</u>, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. <u>I write to you</u>, children, because you know the Father.

• His purpose seems to me to be making sure that everyone in the church hears these words spoken to themselves.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, <u>fathers</u>, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

• First, he addresses those who think of themselves as being more mature, whether spiritually, chronologically, or both.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, <u>because you know him who is from the</u> <u>beginning</u>. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

- First, he addresses those who think of themselves as being more mature, whether spiritually, chronologically, or both.
- Their strength lies in knowing presently God, who is from the beginning, and not in their own wisdom or seniority.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, *young men*, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

 Second, he addresses those who think of themselves as being strong and vigorous and in the prime of life.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, <u>because you have overcome</u> <u>the evil one</u>. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

- Second, he addresses those who think of themselves as being strong and vigorous and in the prime of life.
- Their strength lies not in their youthful vigor, but in the fact they have overcome the vigorous desires of youth.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, *children*, because you know the Father.

 Next he addresses those who think of themselves as being children, which may possibly include some or all of the fathers and young men addressed previously.

父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくるのは、あなたがたが、悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, <u>because you know the Father</u>.

- Next he addresses those who think of themselves as being children, which may possibly include some or all of the fathers and young men addressed previously.
- They are, in any case, strong because they know God.

子供たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが父を知ったからである。父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが強い者であり、神の言があなたがたに宿り、そして、あなたがたが悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

子供たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが父を知ったからである。父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが強い者であり、神の言があなたがたに宿り、そして、あなたがたが悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

This merely repeats what was said in the preceding verse.

子供たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが父を知ったからである。父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが強い者であり、神の言があなたがたに宿り、そして、あなたがたが悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- This merely repeats what was said in the preceding verse.
- The point of all of this (vv. 12-14) is to reassure them.

子供たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが父を知ったからである。父たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが、初めからいますかたを知ったからである。若者たちよ。あなたがたに書きおくったのは、あなたがたが強い者であり、神の言があなたがたに宿り、そして、あなたがたが悪しき者にうち勝ったからである。

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

 However they may think of themselves, they may be reassured that the Apostle writes to them because their sins have been forgiven for the sake of the name of Christ.

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