

## 1 and 2 John

THEME: "God's Little Children"

INTRODUCTION: 1 John and 2 John deal with a very tender subject. God uses the words, "little born ones" or "little children." He tells His little children how they ought to behave. (Teacher, stress the importance of being born again into God's family. This is very vital in the teaching of this lesson.)

I. LITTLE CHILDREN AND THE FATHER. See 1 John 1. Here we have the sweet relationship between the child and his father. (Teacher, discuss all the proper relationships that a father should have with his child and the child with his father, and apply them to the Christian life.)

II. LITTLE CHILDREN AND ASSURANCE. This deals with how to know that we are saved.

1. Realize that sinning does not cause us to lose salvation. In 1 John 2:1, the words, "little children," means "little born ones." The word "advocate" means "comforter." Actually, it is the word "paraclete" as found in John 15 concerning the Holy Spirit when He is called a "comforter." It has to do with "running to someone's side and picking him up when he has fallen." God has given us a Comforter—Someone to run to our side and pick us up when we fall. The Lord Jesus does this. When we sin, God is not pleased and God does not want us to sin, yet He picks us up when we do.

2. We know that we are saved because we love the brethren. See 1 John 2:9-11; 3:14, 15; 4:8. We have the assurance that we are saved because we love each other. The distinguishing characteristic that God's people are supposed to have is love one for the other. This assures us that we are saved.

3. We know that we are saved because we do not love the world. Read 1 John 2:15. The word "world" here is the word "kosmos," which means "world arrangement" or "world system." God's people are not to love the world. In fact, once we become Christians, we do not love the world. If one does love the world, it is because the love of the Father is not in him.

III. LITTLE CHILDREN AND FALSE TEACHERS. God wants us to know how to behave toward those who are without, toward those who do not teach the truth, and so He gives us as His little children specific instructions not to run with the bad crowd. Any good parent would say to his child, "Be careful about your crowd. Don't run with the bad boys and girls; be in a good crowd all the time." God tells His little children to do likewise.

1. The false teachers are not saved. 1 John 2:19.

2. The false teachers are liars. 1 John 2:22.

3. The false teachers do not know God. 1 John 2:23.

4. We are not to let false teachers in our houses. 2 John 10. This does not mean that if the false teacher comes to see us to talk about a non-religious subject, we are not to let him in. It does mean, however, that when someone comes to our house bringing us a message that is not true Gospel, we are not to let him in to discuss such doctrine or heresy.

5. We are not to bid "God speed" or wish good luck to false teachers. 2 John 10.

IV. LITTLE CHILDREN AND EACH OTHER. 1 John 3:11-24.

1. We are to love each other. 1 John 3:11-14.

2. We are to help each other. 1 John 3:17-19.

CONCLUSION: It is a wonderful thing to be in the family of God. We are to treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all little children. It matters not how high a position we hold, how much money we have, or how much prestige or popularity we possess; we are just God's little

children. We are to act as His little children with Him as our Heavenly Father and other Christians as our brothers and sister.