

WHY we read things often affects HOW we read things

- Textbook or journal article
- Cereal box
- Facebook / Twitter / WeChat
- Recipe or cooking blog/show
- Car repair online discussion
- Newspaper / news website
- Letter from the government
- Text/email from a friend, a parent, a spouse, ...

WHY and HOW do we read the Bible?

Transformation

1 John 2:1-11

Chinese: page 1977

Spanish: page 1556

Brown: page 1228

Green: page _



1 John

- Apostle John
 - Inner circle of Jesus’ apostles (chosen / sent)
 - One of Jesus’ closest friends
- Probably “elder statesman” of churches
 - Writes to “Dear children”
with the authority and deep care of a father
- Styles of letters
 - Romans: legal outline
 - 1 John: spiraling structure

1 John 2:1-11

- 1a: John’s purpose: that we would stop sinning
- 1b-2: • Sin=anything not like God’s goodness, rightness, life-giving and life-promoting actions
- 3-6: • Sin breaks relationships with God and people (1:3)
- Sin destroys joy (1:4)
- 7-8: • Sin ruins the created world
- Because sin is deceptive, poisonous, deadly, and
- 9-11: enslaving

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1 John 2:1-11

1a: John's purpose: that we would stop sinning

1b-2: When we sin, Jesus Christ the Righteous is our advocate and our atoning sacrifice → all invited!

3-6: Having come to know God must lead to...
obeying God's word / living as Jesus lived

7-8: • Humble obedience to God, even to death
• Seeking forgiveness for those killing Him

9-11:

“When he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

1 John 3:2-3

- Our **future**: We will be like God
- Our **present**: We are **becoming** like Christ (God)
 - Personal effort and corporate effort
 - Work of the Spirit in us and among us

It is impossible to know God and not be changed

- Being more like God is **not a condition** for salvation
- Being more like God is **a necessary consequence**

If you aren't changing, you don't know God

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obeying God's word / living as Jesus lived
- 7-8: The central command:
from the beginning, yet richer and deeper in Christ
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from the beginning, yet richer and deeper in Christ
- 9-11: Having come to know God must lead to...
loving fellow Christians (and loving God) like Jesus
- If you don't love, you 'know' darkness
 - If you do love, you 'know' God

- “Love unexpressed in action is not love at all.”
 - Hate can be the absence of love

“Blessed are you when people **hate** you, when they **exclude** you and **insult** you and **reject your name** as evil, because of the Son of Man.” *Luke 6:22*

- Exclude or neglect
- Speak ill of others (whether or not they hear)
- Keep a record of their wrongs, and retell them

The Big Idea

God's self-revelation **the Bible (Word)**
Jesus
Spirit
 transforms all who truly know and receive Him
 so that we become more and more like Christ
 in head, heart, and hands

- Jesus Christ is
 - our **advocate**
 - our **atoning sacrifice**
 - our **model**
- “It often happens that men are very pious without being very good.”
- To become more like the model, seek transformation through knowing Christ

advocate = defender, supporter
pious = religious, spiritual

God's revelation
of Himself to us
is intended
to transform us:

- Head
- Heart
- Hands

Bible
Jesus
Spirit



Application

- Pursue transformation of whole being
 - Be like Jesus, and be with Jesus
 - **Flee** from sin, and **pursue** righteousness
 - Take confession and repentance seriously

Application

- Pursue transformation of whole being
- Change how we “do church”
 - **Reading the Bible**
 - Not mainly for information (“I’ve read this before”)
 - Rather, for transformation of head, heart, hands
 - It has absolute authority
 - **Praying:** not mainly to get things, but **to be changed**
 - **Worshipping:** not mainly to have a spiritual experience, but **to be changed**
 - **Fellowshipping:** not mainly to be encouraged, but **to be changed**

Application

- Pursue transformation of whole being
- Change how we “do church”
- Do you want to be more like Jesus?
 - Pursue a genuine encounter with God in Christ through...
 - The Bible, prayer, worship, fellowship, obedience, service, ...
 - My prayer for you and for me:
 - “a full, satisfying, powerful knowledge of God in Christ”
 - We cannot generate this change!
 - In only comes by God living in us

Application

- Pursue transformation of whole being
- Change how we “do church”
- Do you want to be more like Jesus?
- Christianity is...
 - Being reborn in Christ
 - Which cannot not (must) lead to ongoing transformation of head, heart, and hands

Our prayer and pursuit **to be a diverse church**

- Our actions are more and more loving for people who are different from ourselves
 - Not merely the absence of malice
 - Putting others' needs, preferences, and sensitivities ahead of our own

Our prayer and pursuit **to be a diverse church**

- Our actions are more and more loving for people who are different from ourselves
- We are more and more patient and forgiving of offenses from people who are different from us
- The wonderful basis and good news!
 - We (individually and together) have
 - an Advocate before God
 - an Atoning Sacrifice
 - who is the Righteous One (Jesus)
 - His life in us makes us more like Him

It is impossible to know God and not be changed

- **This is an important test**
 - If I don't see growth in me,
perhaps I don't know God
- **This is the means to pass the test**
 - If I want to change,
pursue genuine knowledge of God
 - Promise of God: He rewards those who seek Him
 - He will live in us, and His life will grow in us

The Big Idea

God's self-revelation **the Bible (Word)**
Jesus
Spirit
 transforms all who truly know and receive Him
 so that we become more and more like Christ
 in head, heart, and hands

**There is no greater joy, and no greater hope,
 than having the life-giving Creator of the universe
 living in us, making us more like Him. Thanks be to God!**