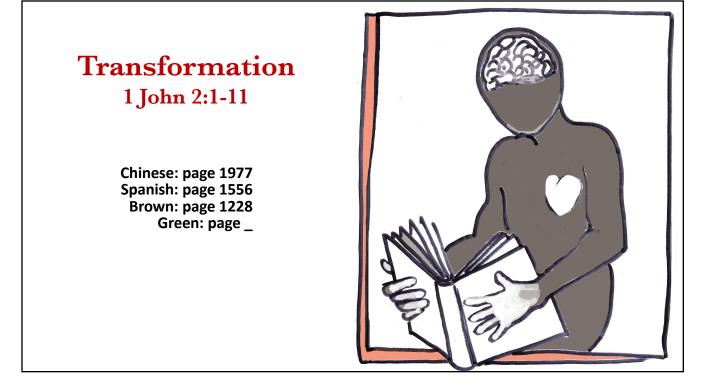
# WHY we read things often affects HOW we read things

- 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?

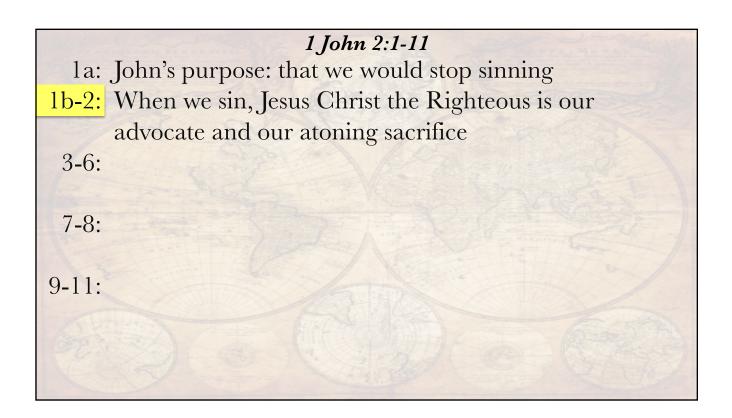


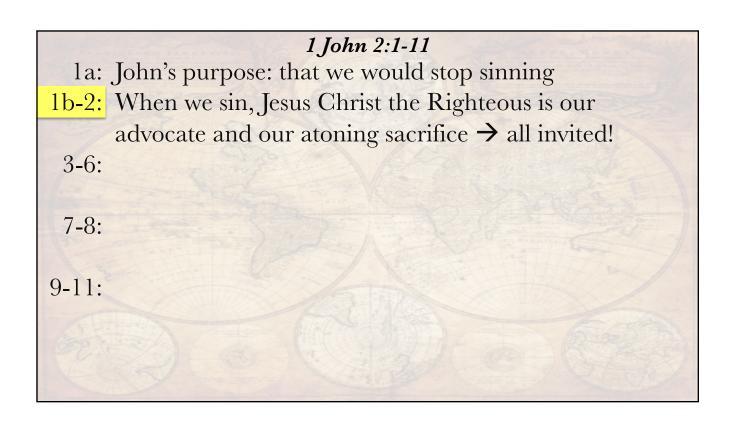
# 1 John

# 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 Chinese: page 1977 Spanish: page 1556 Brown: page 1228 Green: page\_





#### 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

## 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: The central command:

9-11:

from the beginning, yet richer and deeper in Christ

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- 7-8: The central command:

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

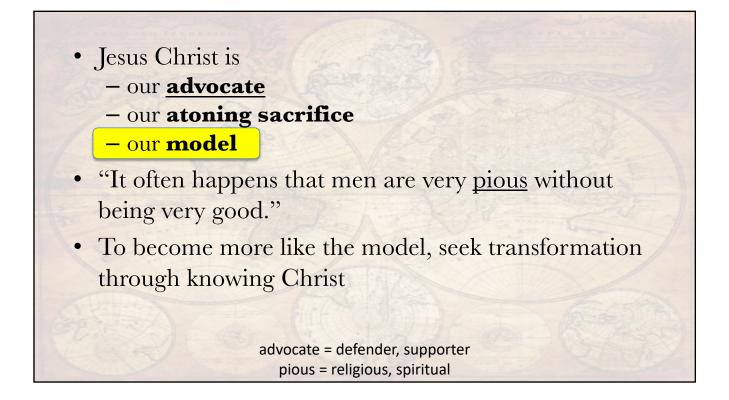
- Exclude or neglect
- Speak ill of others (whether or not they hear)
- Keep a record of their wrongs, and retell them

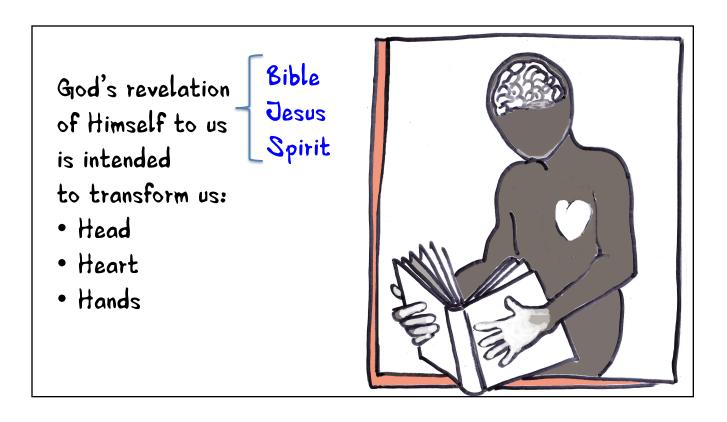
## The Big Idea

God's self-revelation Spirit transforms all who truly know and receive Him

so that we become more and more like Christ

in head, heart, and hands





#### 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

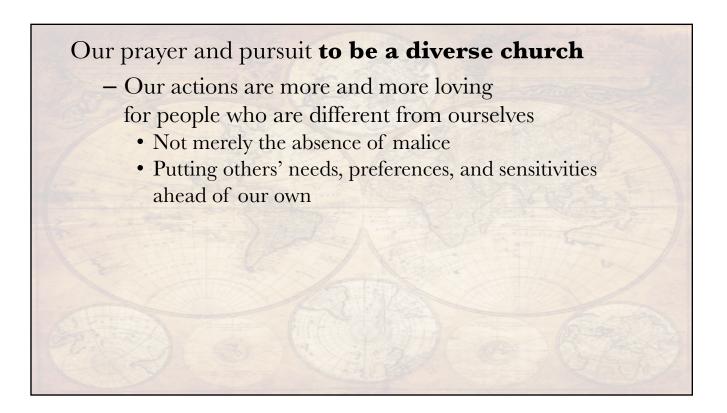
- Pursue transformation of whole being
- Change how we "do church"
  - Reading the Bible
    - Not mainly for information ("I've read this before")
    - Rather, for transformation of head, heart, hands
    - It has absolute authority
  - Praying: not mainly to get things, but to be changed
  - Worshiping: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

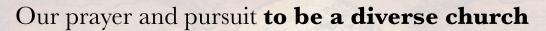
#### Application

- 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 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 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!