Devotional Letter To All

May 3, 2025



Theme:

Between Righteousness and Mercy

Choices of Scriptures, choose one:

Psalm 20

Not chosen nor available due to word count.

Judges 9:7-15

Not chosen nor available due to word count.

1 John 2:18-28

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have a function from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is an antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. 24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

The clip is full with one in the chamber.

Confessions of an art guy.

I first heard, "make good choices" in the movie Pitch Perfect. In my late 50s, it rang true but checking the scoreboard "made bad choices" was way ahead. Here is the reasoning for the scripture choice.

- Good or bad; Psalms are musical songs. I have a terrible voice, my humming is more like snoring. I still can't figure out what "Selah" means. I'll ask DVM then get back to you. Spilling over into the secular world, Psalms seemingly frames out a basis for those ballad type performances, for example in 1968, Ode To Billie Joe. Bobbie Gentry. I passed on Psalm 20.
- **I'm passing on Judges too.** Feels like being stuck between the global ecology activists and Saudi's oil lawyers having to use interpreters. Way above my pay grade.
- The only choice I can speak to. 1 John 2:18-28

Why choose KJV?

- Ye, me, thee, see, thy, thine, and other words that slow the thoughts in the chaos of being ADHD.
- The entire King James Version of the Bible is in the public domain.
- **KJV** is old school, not politically correct in this age, time, nor season.
- **1 John 2:18-28** stands between the themes of *Righteousness* and *Mercy* by addressing both the necessity of living in truth and holiness (*righteousness*) and the assurance of God's grace through Christ (*mercy*).

Righteousness in 1 John 2:18-28

- John warns about antichrists who deceive and deny Christ, emphasizing the importance of staying faithful to the truth.
 Apostasy?
- The passage highlights that those who abide in Christ will practice righteousness:

 "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."
- True believers remain steadfast in Christ's teachings rather than being led astray.

Searching for sanctification? **Mercy** in 1 John 2:18-28

- Despite warnings against deception, John reassures believers of their anointing from the Holy One, meaning they have received divine truth and guidance.
 The droning noise of Apostasy?
- He encourages them to remain in Christ, emphasizing that they do not need to fear deception if they stay in Him.
 - Quietly listening for God's whispers while seeking the peace and joy of sanctification?
- The ultimate expression of mercy.

"And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life."

This promise reflects God's mercy, offering eternal security despite human weakness.

The Balance Between Righteousness and Mercy

This passage calls believers to uphold righteousness by rejecting falsehood while resting in the mercy of God, who ensures they are not left defenseless. It upholds the tension between divine justice (*standing against deception and sin*) and divine grace (*offering assurance and eternal life to those who abide in Christ*).

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Reload

• The Call to Righteousness (1 John 2:18-23)

John begins this section with a strong warning:

"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour." (v. 18)

Here, righteousness is defined as remaining in the truth. John warns that there are *antichrists*—people who deny Christ and seek to lead believers astray. He specifically says:

"Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." (v. 23)

This highlights the absolute necessity of standing in truth. Righteousness is not just about *doing good deeds* but about faithfully adhering to Christ's identity as the Son of God.

• The Assurance of Mercy (1 John 2:24-25)

John does not leave believers in fear. Instead, he reassures them:

"Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father." (v. 24)

Here, mercy is found in abiding in Christ. The phrase "abide" (μ ė ν ω , meno in Greek) means to remain, dwell, or stay continuously. Even though deception exists in the world, God mercifully keeps His people secure if they hold onto what they have received. Then, John gives the great promise of mercy:

"And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life." (v. 25)

This is the ultimate act of mercy: those who remain in Christ do not just avoid deception—they inherit eternal life.

• The Power of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:26-27)

John acknowledges that false teachers will try to deceive them:

"These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you." (v. 26) But then he reassures them with God's mercy through the Holy Spirit:

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." (v. 27)

The "anointing" refers to the Holy Spirit, which guides believers into truth (John 16:13). This is a powerful act of mercy—God does not abandon His children to figure out everything alone. The Spirit teaches them and keeps them from deception.

• Righteousness and Confidence at Christ's Return (1 John 2:28)

John concludes with a final encouragement:

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." (v. 28)

Here, *righteousness* means remaining in Christ so that when He returns, believers will not shrink back in shame. At the same time, *mercy* is seen in the fact that Christ is coming for His own, and those who remain in Him can have confidence in His grace.

Conclusion: The Balance of Righteousness and Mercy

- Righteousness means rejecting deception, remaining in truth, and abiding in Christ.
- Mercy is seen in God's promise of eternal life, the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the assurance of Christ's return.

John presents these two not as opposites, but as complementary truths: God calls us to righteousness through His mercy, and we can confidently pursue righteousness because of His mercy.

That said, Understand Apostasy, Grasp the Clarity of Sanctification

- Evade and reject deception in false prophecy, remain in truth, and abide in Christ now in this so-called
 politically correct age, time, and season.
- Impressions of sanctity are seen in God's promise of eternal life, the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the assurance of Christ's return.

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Know what you are shooting AT.

Points:

- Scan the QR Codes.
- These two pieces were triggered by Hollywood, and Pastor Tommy. Let me know your thoughts, john@jleduc.com.



