



SERIES KEY TEXT: 1 John 5:13 (ESV)

WEEK 2 TEXT: 1 John 2:1–2 (ESV)

WEEK 2 KEY POINT: Jesus is my defense lawyer and the payment for my debts.

SERIES RECAP

We're working through the book of 1 John. It was written by a man named John. He was the same man who wrote the Gospel of John, and he was a friend of Jesus. He did life with Jesus. He spent upwards of three years with Jesus.

John wrote a letter to a bunch of Christians who had some doubts. He let them know the reason he wrote the letter in 1 John 5:13 (ESV):

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

He wrote this letter to a bunch of Christians so that they could KNOW they have eternal life. To KNOW they have eternal life—that's a weird thought. What did they think they had before he said that?

The word "know" here is strange. The word is meant sort of the same way we mean when we say the word "realize." It's like when we find Waldo on the page and then can't see anything but the place where Waldo is. John wants us to see in our field of vision the truth that we have eternal life, no matter what else is going on.

Last week, we learned that John said that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness. But if we're being honest, don't we sometimes walk in the light and sometimes walk in the darkness?

If I look at God, and there is no darkness in Him, but then I look at myself, do I see any darkness? If I see even the smallest amount of darkness, I need some help. I have a big problem. I need a lawyer.

[**Author Note:** I showed three ridiculous lawyer commercials. The students loved these:

Texas Hammer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15M9b6PAdro>

Lowell “The Hammer” Stanley:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF7Fhuhya8c>

Texas Law Hawk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL3MxAH-kDI>

These lawyers stink, don't they? If I'm standing in front of a judge answering for my “darkness,” none of these guys is going to cut it. I need a better lawyer. John says that Jesus is my lawyer.

1 John 2:1 (ESV)

“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.”

The word “advocate” here means “defense attorney.” John wants us to know that Jesus is standing as our defense lawyer if we have confessed Him as Lord. He's not the Texas Hammer or the Texas Law Hawk. John says He is Jesus, the righteous! Who could be a better lawyer for me than the guy who never broke the law that I broke?

Not only is He our lawyer, but John says something else about Him.

1 John 2:2 (ESV)

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

Not only is He our lawyer, but John says He is the *propitiation* for our sins. That's a fancy word. It means He is the full payment of our debt. In his letter to the Romans, Paul says, “The wages of sin is death.” **John paints this picture that Jesus not only stands as my defense lawyer, but when my debt is assessed, He pays it in full.**

[**Author Note:** I showed this video I found of a group of people standing on a “good enough” scale to see if they were good enough to enter heaven.

Good O Meter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrLzYw6ULYw&t=2s>

John wants us to have, constantly in our field of vision, the truth that we have eternal life. Not only do we have eternal life, but we have it because Jesus stands at our defense if we have confessed Him as Lord. And when the judge sees that I owe a debt, Jesus has paid it in full. **I get to hold my head up knowing I'm free, not because of how awesome I am, but how awesome Jesus the Righteous is.**

If we see with REAL EYES, we know that:

- There is eternal life in Jesus.
- If we ask, He forgives.
- If we need help, He is our defense lawyer and our payment.