

1 John 2:1,2 (ESV)

Leader: Why does John write?

Cong.: My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

Leader: But what if I do sin? Do I have an lawyer to defend me?

Cong.: But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2** He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1John 2:3-5 (ESV)

Narr.: How can we know that we have come to know Him?

Cong.: **3** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, **5** but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

1John 2:6 (ESV)

All: By this we may know that we are in him: **6** whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Leader

Zech. 3:1-3 (ESV)

Q. How does our Advocate defend us?
Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" **3** Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments.

Cong.

Zech. 3:9; 4:6 (ESV)

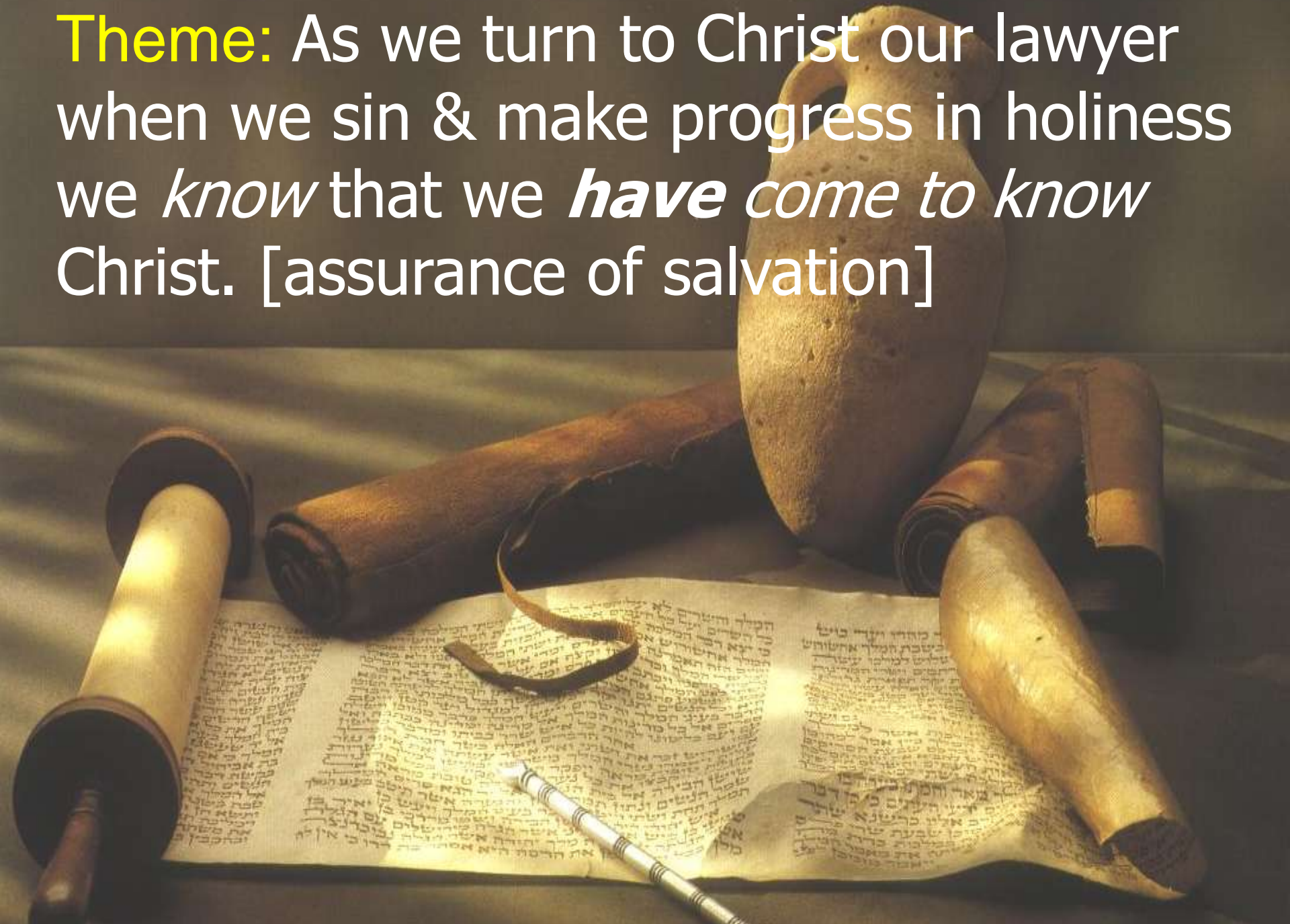
3:9 For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.

4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."



The Tests of Life: Holiness
1 John 2:1-6

Theme: As we turn to Christ our lawyer when we sin & make progress in holiness we *know* that we *have come to know* Christ. [assurance of salvation]



The Problem of Sin 2:1

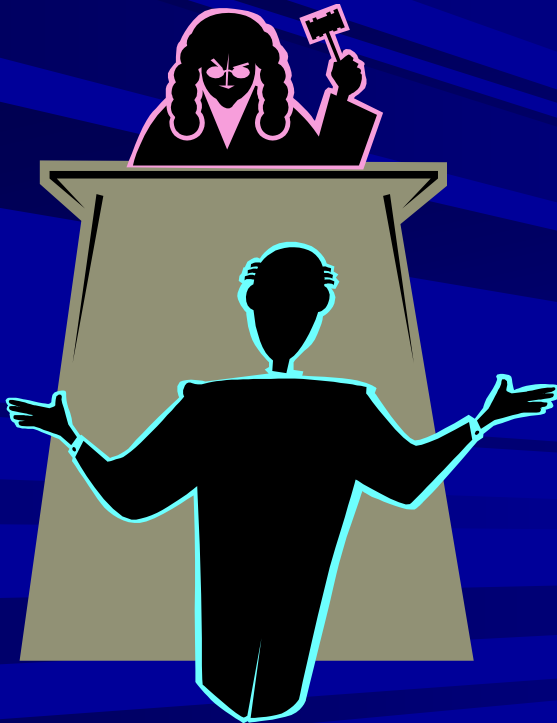
- **1 John Purpose:** that those who believe *know* they have eternal life (5:13).
- He builds this up with *sub*-purposes:
 - ‘That we fellowship in joy’ [1:3,4]
 - ‘That we don’t sin’ [2:1]
- **Ch.1** confess & be forgiven when we sin.
- **Ch.2** stop sinning but come to Christ as our Lawyer when we do sin.

The Problem of Sin 2:1

- 'I am writing...that you may not sin.' 2:1
Sinless perfection? 1Jn 3:9 says
'whoever is born of God does not
commit sin...!'
- In 2:1 it's the 'aorist', meaning he writes
so that we sin fewer *acts* of sin.
- In 3:9 it's the 'present continuous',
meaning one born of God doesn't sin
as a continual *practice*.

The Problem of Sin 2:1

- 'Sin' is falling short of His glory (Romans 3:23) or stepping over His law (1 Jn 5:17).
- 'And if anyone sins' We *will* sin. When we do Satan & our conscience accuse us.



The Provision of Christ 2:2

- 'We have an **Advocate...**' Christ is our Advocate ['Paraclete'] in **heaven**; the Holy Spirit is the Advocate who defends God's property in our **hearts**.
- He is '*...With the Father*' (not at odds), as our 'Righteous' lawyer.
- He is the '**Propitiation**' (atoning sacrifice) for our sin & for the whole world.



The Provision of Christ 2:2

- He is the Sacrifice for the whole world.
He is the Lawyer of those who *claim* the Sacrifice.
- Is He your Lawyer?
- Are you drawing near to Him when you sin?



The Progress of the Christian 2:3-6

- John tests for eternal life looking for progress in truth, love & **holiness**.
- 'By this we know that we have come to know Him' **Note:** It's not 'by this we *come* to know' but 'know that we *have* come to know'.

The Progress of the Christian 2:3-6

- **Signs:** We can **know** we've come to know, love(5) & abide(6) in Him if we're:
 - Keeping His commands (3) & Word (5) & walking as He walked (6).
 - Two examples: If we say we know Him & don't obey Him, we're lying.
 - But if we keep his Word we know love is perfected in us.

The Progress of the Christian 2:3-6

- **Summary:** This is how we can know we have come to know Him:
- We admit our sin (1:9) & our Advocate defends us (2:1) [**neg.** holiness].
- We grow in **positive** holiness showing we love by obeying God (2:3-6).