**Faith Foundations 2022-2023**

**The Catholic Epistles, Part 2**

**Session 13—1 John 2:1-6**

**After establishing the divinity of Jesus and the importance of confessing our sins to Him, John continues discussing the place of repentance and faith in the Christian life. At times, he seems to talk out of both sides of his mouth: at one point emphasizing good works as a sign of true faith, and then at another proclaiming God’s forgiveness in Christ for those who do sin. Throughout the entire epistle, we will see this dynamic at work in John’s writing, underscoring the interplay between Law and Gospel in the life of a Christian.**

**Read 1 John 2:1-2. What does John call his readers in verse 1? What is he implying about them and about himself when he does this?**

**Why is John writing to his readers? How realistic is his goal in absolute terms? What about in more relative terms?**

**What comfort do Christians have when they sin?**

**What does Jesus do for His people? What does this mean?**

**How does John describe Jesus? Why did Jesus need to be this way for our salvation?**

**What does “propitiation” mean? Who is propitiated, and who does the propitiating?**

**On whose behalf is the act of propitiation done? What does this say about the Calvinist doctrine of limited atonement (i.e.—Jesus only died for the sins of the elect)?**

**Read 1 John 2:3-5. What is the outward proof that a person has come to know Jesus?**

**What does it mean to keep His commandments? Is it just moral behavior, or is there more to it?**

**What does John call those who claim to know Jesus but disobey His commandments?**

**What happens in those who “keep His Word?” What does this mean?**

**In what way did Jesus walk? How can we walk in this way also?**

**John wants his readers to avoid sin as much as they can, and he says that walking in Jesus’ ways is proof that one truly loves and believes in Him. Thus, there should not be unrepentant sin in the life of a Christian. But John also recognizes that it is impossible to completely avoid sin, which is why he makes sure his readers understand the atonement and forgiveness Jesus has won for them. We are not perfect, but He is, and that is why we can be confident in our salvation through His death on the cross. Law and Gospel thus both continue to form us into the repentant, faithful, and righteous people that God wants His followers to be.**