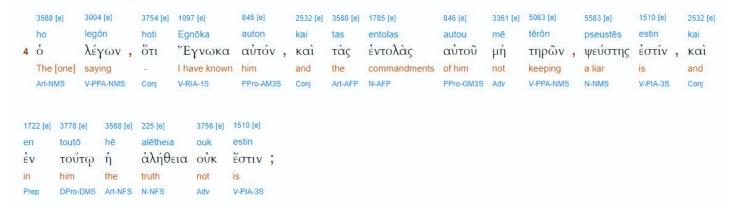
First John 2:4

First John 2:4 – "Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,"



- This verse is the negative (or, false statement made by those leaving the apostolic doctrine) of John's positive (the apostolic truth) statement in 2:3.
- "I know him" must have been a slogan of the false or misled believers. (They are the same claiming to have fellowship with God, 1:6, and existing without sin.
- To "know God" means you fear his commands. A true believer does not dismiss God's commands.
- John has said the false teachers:
 - Do not have truth (1:8)
 - Do not know God (2:4)
 - Do not have fellowship with God (1:6)
 - Do not have God's word (1:10)
 - Commit sins that they do not identify as sin (1:6)
 - o Omit commands that they do not identify as God's commands (2:4)

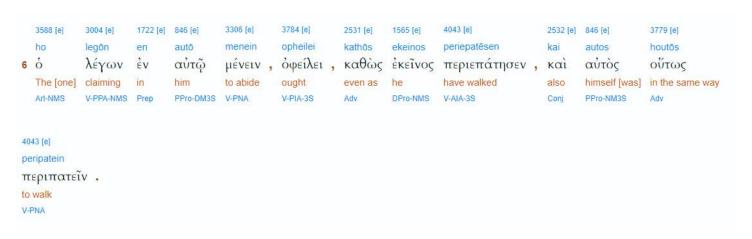
First John 2:5 – "but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:"



- 2:3-5 is a group:
 - 2:3 John's states his truth
 - 2:4 John's states the false
 - 2:5 John restates his truth presented in 2:3

- 2:5 is John's words confirming his readers that they can be assured they are in him.
- Notice that "God's commands" in 2:3 are now identified as "God's word." This includes:
 - obeying God's commands
 - o believing God's promises
 - Note: to be able to obey and receive promises we have to be able to identify sin.
- What does the "love of God" refer to?
 - God's love for man (as in 4:9)
 - Man's love for God (as in 2:15 and 5:3)
 - Our love for God is a reflection of God's love for us
 - Our keeping (obeying, believing) God's word would be an indication of our love for God.
 - o God's kind of love
 - Is "love of God" a parallel with "knowledge of God" found in 2:3?
- All three are possibilities
- "Truly" indicates this is a reality or a real possibility. Not a vain claim made by those who do not know God, love his word or have fellowship with him.
- "Made complete" refers to "entire" and "mature." So, a mature Christian would have perfect love.
 - Yet, there is always room for growth. So, perfect love does not mean finished growing
 - And, we are still sinners. So, perfect love would not be perfectly sinless. Which means according to 1:8 perfect love would not be able to claim sinlessness.
- "This" is not clear if it:
 - o points back to:
 - keeping his word
 - experiencing fullness of love (This would make 2:6 a restatement of 2:5a)
 - o points forward to 2:6:
 - living in him
 - walking as Jesus did

First John 2:6 – "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."



First John 2:7 – "Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard."



First John 2:8 – "At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining."

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