

BE AN ANDREW

Nicolas Edwards

One place we can read of this outstanding Bible character is in John 1:40-42. *“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, we have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus....”* We need more Andrews today!

HE FIRST. The first thing Andrew did, after finding and following Christ, was to find his brother and bring him to Jesus. Soul winning is a priority — a matter of first. Finding and bringing to Jesus is an urgent matter. Do not wait. Do not delay. First!

FINDETH. This word says action on my part is involved! There is to be searching and finding. If I am to bring one to Jesus, I am going to have to do some finding! Don’t expect to do any bringing, if you aren’t willing to do some finding.

HIS OWN BROTHER. This is a good place to start — within your own family! Is there anyone in your family who needs found and brought to Jesus? If you do not find them and bring them to Jesus, who will find them and where will

they be taken? Find a family member and bring them to Jesus!

SIMON. Andrew’s brother, who he found and brought, was Peter. We are probably more familiar with Peter than we are with Andrew. Peter:

1. Was an apostle (Mt. 10:2; 1 Pet. 1:1).
2. Was one most closely associated with the Lord, along with James and John (Mt. 17).
3. Preached the first recorded gospel sermon when about 3,000 were converted (Acts 2).
4. Preached from Solomon’s porch when about 5,000 were converted (Acts 3).
5. Was the one Cornelius was told to send for (Acts 10-11).
6. Has his name on two New Testament books (1 & 2 Peter).
7. Was an elder (1 Pet. 5:1).

This all started when Andrew found Peter and brought him to Jesus! Have you thought about what the person you find and bring to Jesus might become and do?

AND SAITH UNTO HIM. *“We have found the Messiah...”* Personal evangelism not only involves action on my part, but speaking! Have you told anyone we have found the Messiah? How much speaking are you doing with people? What do

you talk about with people? Far too little speaking is being done about spiritual things. We need to do more speaking about the Lord and His word among ourselves and to the lost world! *“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness”* (Ps. 119:172).

AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS. This is a statement that, if carried out, would convert the world! Where better to bring folks? All need brought to Jesus because all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and Jesus came to take away sin (Jn. 1:29). All are lost (2 Cor. 4:3) and Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10). All are dead in sin (Jas. 1:15; Eph. 2:1) and Jesus has the words of life (Jn. 6:66-68). All are in need of redemption and Jesus is the Redeemer (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:23; Heb. 9:12). All need saving and Jesus is the Savior (Lk. 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:15; Eph. 5:23). Jesus is The Way to the Father (Jn. 14:6). All are in need of Truth and Jesus is The Truth (Jn. 14:6). All are in darkness and Jesus is the Light (Jn. 8:12). Judgment is coming when all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10). All will be judged by the word of the Lord (Jn. 12:48; Jas. 2:12; Rev. 20:12-15). All need persuaded (2 Cor. 5:11), warned (Acts 20:31), saved with fear (Jude 23). Be an Andrew!

LIARS IN FIRST JOHN

John Edwards

In the first epistle of John, the apostle points out some liars. We take a look at these.

HE THAT SAYS HE HAS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND WALKS IN DARKNESS. *"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth"* (1 Jn. 1:6). The reason is: *"...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all"* (1 Jn. 1:5). To hate our brother is to be in darkness (1 Jn. 2:9, 11). Thus, to not love our brother as we should is to be in darkness and out of fellowship with God!

HE THAT SAYS HE HAS NO SIN. *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 Jn. 1:8). Not only do we lie when we say we have no sin, but we make God a liar. *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"* (1 Jn. 1:10). The reason for this is: God says we have sinned. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23). This shows Christians can and do sin!

HE THAT SAYS HE KNOWS GOD, BUT DOESN'T KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:4). Observe these contrasts between the one who keeps the commandments of God and the one who does not keep the commandments of God:

1. To keep the commandments of God is to know God (v. 3). To not keep the commandments of God is to not know God (v. 4).

2. The love of God is perfected in one who keeps the commandments of God (v. 5). Love is lacking in one who does not keep the commandments of God (v. 5).

3. The one who keeps the commandments of God is *"in him"* (v. 5). The one who does not keep the commandments of God is not *"in him"* (v. 5).

Do you know God? Are you keeping the commandments of God?

HE THAT DENIES JESUS IS

THE CHRIST. One of the problems addressed by John was the false teaching that Jesus Christ was not come in the flesh. John answers this

religious error in this epistle.

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?" (1 Jn. 2:22). John pointed out: *"Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God..."* (1 Jn. 4:2-3). John just told it like it is!

HE THAT SAYS HE LOVES GOD AND HATES HIS

BROTHER. *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"* (1 Jn. 4:20). It is inconsistent to say we love God and not love our brother. John equates not loving one's brother as he should with hating his brother. *"....He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer..."* (1 Jn. 3:14-15). One who loves his brother lays down his life for his brother (1 Jn. 3:16) and shares his goods with his brother (1 Jn. 3:17-18).

Is it possible that we have been lying and didn't even know it? John tells the fate of all liars in Revelation 21:8. Let the truth be in us!

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