

Preaching and Practicing the Truth

Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, 1, 2 and 3 John

We are of God!

1 John 3:10-4:6

Lesson 17

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

April 27, 2014

Key Concepts in 1 John

▶ The beginning

- Word of life – eternal life (1:1; 2:24-25)
- New (and old) commandment to love one another (2:7 3:11)
- Christ (2:13-14)
- The devil (3:8)

▶ The message

- 1:3 – Fellowship with the Father and Son – “partnership”
- 1:5 – God is Light – no darkness in Him – truth and purity/righteousness
- 3:11 – Love one another – God’s love in us

Reason for Writing

- ▶ Your sins are forgiven (2:12)
- ▶ You know Jesus Christ (2:13, 14)
- ▶ You have overcome the devil (2:13, 14)
- ▶ You know the Father (2:13)
- ▶ You are strong and the Word abides in you (2:14)
- ▶ You know the truth which excludes a lie (2:21)

John's Purpose

- ▶ Joy made complete (1:4)
- ▶ That you may not sin (2:1)
- ▶ An old and a new commandment – love one another (2:7-8)
- ▶ To warn about those who would deceive you (2:26)
- ▶ That you may know you have eternal life (5:13)

Defining Principle of Eternal Life

- ▶ God's character:
 - Light – truth and purity (1:5)
 - Righteousness (2:29)
 - Love (4:8, 16)
 - Truth (5:6)

Opposing Spheres

▶ World (children of the devil)

- 2:2; 4:4; 5:19 – Domain of sin and the devil
- 2:15-17 – No divine (true) love
- 2:16-17 – Domain of lust (flesh, eyes, pride of life)
- 3:1 – No knowledge of God and His children
- 3:13 – Hatred for believers
- 4:1, 3 – Domain of false prophets
- 4:5 – Domain of unbelievers (of the world) – language of the world
- 4:17 – Place where Christ and believers live
- 5:4-5 – Dominion overcome by new birth and faith in Christ

▶ Rev. 11:15 – Kingdom of world to become Kingdom of Christ (Gen. 9:8-17)

Opposing Spheres

▶ Born of God (children of God)

- 2:29 – Practices righteousness
- 3:9 – Does not and cannot practice sin
- 4:7 – Loves one another
- 4:7 – Knows God
- 5:1 – Believes Jesus is the Christ
- 5:4 – Overcomes the world by faith
- 5:18 – Does not sin; kept by the Son of God; kept from the power of the devil

1 John

► Introduction (1:1-4)

- Writing about the Word of Life – eternal life
- The one true faith from the beginning – now revealed in Christ
- A fellowship/partnership with Father and Son
- Complete joy

1 John

▶ God is Light (1:5-2:28)

- The Christian life is abiding in the Light as He is in the Light
- Jesus Christ the Righteous Advocate – Propitiation
- Obedience, love, truth
- Opponents: world and false prophets – darkness
- The Anointing (Holy Spirit)
- Abide in Him in anticipation of His coming

1 John

► Born of God (2:29-4:6)

- We are the children of God, a work in progress – fulfilled at His coming
- Children of God purify themselves – practice righteousness
- Those born of the devil sin
- Christ came to destroy the works of the devil
- God's seed abides in us and we cannot sin
- Evidence of God's seed – righteousness and love

We are of God! (3:10-4:6)

- ▶ Truth from the beginning (3:10-18)
- ▶ Love in deed and Truth (3:19-24)
- ▶ Jesus Christ is the Truth (4:1-6)

Truth from the Beginning (3:10-18)

- ▶ Those born of God are righteous and love one another (3:10)
- ▶ A principle from the beginning – Cain and Abel
 - Cain killed Abel
 - Abel – faith in God the Rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Cain hated Abel for his righteousness
- ▶ The world hates the righteous (John 3:19-21)
- ▶ The proper order: life, then love (3:14-15)
- ▶ The highest example – Christ (3:16-17)
 - We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren
 - We ought to open provide for the temporal needs of the brethren
- ▶ Love is not mere words but in deed and truth (3:18)

Love in Deed and Truth (3:19-24)

- ▶ Love in deed and truth assures our hearts that we are of the truth (3:19)
- ▶ What if our heart condemns us?
 - 1:6 – if we sin and claim fellowship – we lie and do not practice the truth
 - 1:8 – if we deny sin – we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us
- ▶ How can we have confidence?
 - God is greater than our hearts
 - Christ is the propitiation and Advocate with the Father
 - Our life is testimony to our relationship with Christ
 - Our life is inadequate to fully attest to our trust in Christ

Confidence before God (3:22-24)

- ▶ He hears our prayers
 - Psalm 66:18
 - Prayers aligned with His will – not our own lusts
- ▶ Two commandments – with promise
 - Believe in the name of Jesus Christ
 - Love one another
- ▶ He bears testimony to the presence of His Son by His Spirit (3:24)

Jesus Christ is the Truth (4:1-6)

- ▶ Many false prophets.
 - 2 Cor. 11:13-15 – disguised as angels of light
 - Genesis 3:1-4 – “Did God say?” . . . and then flatly denied the truth
 - 1 Peter 5:8 – a roaring lion
- ▶ The Truth shall make you free! (John 8:31-37)

Test the spirits

- ▶ The “spirit” empowering the prophet – is the false spirit
- ▶ The test from Scripture: Jesus Christ came in the flesh
- ▶ Pre-existence of Jesus Christ – Trinitarian doctrine
- ▶ Incarnation
 - Revelation of God – God-Man
 - Redemption and reconciliation – Work of Christ
 - Resurrection – Deity of Christ
 - Return – creation renewed
- ▶ Spirit of anti-Christ denies these truths

Two Spheres – a Settled Outcome

- ▶ You are from God – Christ in you
- ▶ They are from the world – they speak to themselves
- ▶ We are from God – we speak to believers (John 10:27)
- ▶ Christ in you is greater than the world
- ▶ You have overcome the wicked one by faith in Christ
- ▶ The truth itself is the test of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error

We are of God!

- ▶ Two spheres – two families
- ▶ Children of the devil and Children of God
- ▶ Transition is the new birth followed by faith in Christ
- ▶ The evidence is from the seed of God within
 - Truth – Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
 - Love in deed and truth – righteousness and love
 - This is the truth from the beginning