

# **Preaching and Practicing the Truth**

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

## **God is Love**

**1 John 4:7-21**

**Lesson 18**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*May 4, 2014*

# **The Word of Life**

- ▶ **Eternal life in Jesus Christ**
- ▶ **The centrality of Christ's Person and Work**
- ▶ **The evidence of salvation in a believer**

# Tests of Genuine Fellowship

The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 1 (1:1-2:17)

The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 2 (2:18-3:24)

The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 3 (4:1-21)

The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 4 (5:1-21)

- Doctrinal test
- Practical test

# Three Attributes of God

- ▶ God is Light (1:5-2:28)
- ▶ God is Righteous (2:29-4:6)
- ▶ God is Love (4:7-5:21)

# Themes

- ▶ Dueling worlds
- ▶ Fellowship with God

# Lesson 18: God is Love

- ▶ 2:5-17 – love of God perfected in obedience
- ▶ 3:10-24 Love displays paternity – of God or the devil
- ▶ 4:7-21 – perfect love in imperfect man
  - God is love (4:7-10)
  - God's love in us (4:11-21)

# God is Love (4:7-10)

- ▶ An attribute of God
  - Directs His acts
  - Unity of attributes
  - Not discoverable apart from revelation
- ▶ Expressed within the Godhead
  - John 8:42; 15:9; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:13
- ▶ Drives God's plan for His creation
  - John 3:16; 1 John 4:14
  - Romans 8:35-39
  - Romans 8:29; 11:36; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:3
  - 1 Corinthians 15:24
  - Revelation 11:15

# Exclusive Source of Love (4:7-8)

- ▶ No competing divinity – only One God
- ▶ 4:7 – everyone who loves is born of God
- ▶ What about love in the world?
- ▶ Common grace – “token” grace



# Revealed in the Cross

- ▶ 3:16 – we know love by this
- ▶ 4:9 – By this . . . God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him
- ▶ 4:10 – He sent His Son to propitiate our sins
- ▶ The visible love of God

# God's Love in Us (4:11-12)

- ▶ If God so loved us – we ought to love one another
- ▶ No one has seen God at anytime
- ▶ His love is perfected in us

# God's Love and the Holy Spirit (4:13-18)

- ▶ The role of the Holy Spirit: We know . . .
  - 1 John 3:24
  - 1 John 4:13
- ▶ The witness of the Holy Spirit
  - 3:23 – faith in His Son Jesus Christ and love for one another
  - 4:14-15 – Father sent the Son to be Savior of the world; Jesus is the Son of God
- ▶ 4:2 – test the spirits: Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
- ▶ The Spirit perfects the love of God within us (4:17)
- ▶ No fear in love (4:17-18)

# **We love, because he first loved us (4:19-21)**

- ▶ Love is of God
- ▶ Profession v. practice

# Proof of Faith

- ▶ God is Light
- ▶ God is righteous
- ▶ God is love
- ▶ Those born of God
  - Faith in Jesus, the Son of God and Savior
  - Love of God in us validates our faith