Week Three - I John 3

I John 3:16

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

The things I want to accomplish this week!

I Cor. 10:31

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 1-3

Examine -

1. What are we believers called?

2. Who does not know us?

3. Why does the world not know us?

4. What are we now?

5. What does not yet appear?

6. What will we be like when Christ appears?

7. How do we know this?

8. What does the person who has this hope (assurance) in himself do?

9. According to 1 Peter 1:15-16, believers are to be what?

10. Why are we to be this?

Apply: When God saved us He adopted us into His family; now we are

His children and bear his name. When Christ returns, we will receive a new body, and a sinless nature, and in this regard, be like Christ. However, we still have the responsibility until that time to be like Christ and reflect His holy nature. Since you have been saved, in what areas have you seen change in the direction of Christ-likeness?

What are some areas in which much improvement is still needed?

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today:

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 4-10

Examine - This passage of Scripture has been misinterpreted by some as teaching that a saved person is no longer capable of sinning. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the beginning of this very same epistle, the Apostle John, writing to believers, dealt with the importance of confessing sin (1 John. 1: 8-9). This would have been unnecessary if they were no longer capable of sinning. Furthermore, we see in Romans chapter seven that even the Apostle Paul struggled with sin. Much more support could be given, but these two examples alone are sufficient to prove that eradication of the sin nature is not taught in Scripture. Understanding the significance of the verb tense used in this passage is very important for a proper interpretation. In every case, the verbs dealing with committing sin, or not committing sin, are in the present tense in the original language, which indicates continuous action. Thus we see a contrast between those who continually, habitually commit sin, and those who do not.

1. How does verse four define sin?

2. Why was Christ manifested?

3. What category of people sin not (i.e. continually, habitually sin)?

4. On the contrary, whoever sins (continually) has not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, neither \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.

5. A person who does righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. A person who commits sin (continually, and habitually) is of whom?

7. Why was the Son of God manifested (vs. 8)?

8. What category of people does not habitually sin (vs. 9)?

9. Why don't they (according to this verse)?

10. According to verse ten, what two categories of people are compared in this passage?

Apply: We see in this passage that an unsaved person can live in sin consistently and not be bothered by it, but a true Christian cannot. Does the mere fact of your sin make you miserable, or do you just fear the consequences of your sin?

Being honest with yourself, and with God, in which category of people in verse ten do you belong?

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today:

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 11-15

Examine -

1. What is the message that we have heard from the beginning?

2. Who is given as an example of not loving one's brother?

3. Of whom was Cain?

* Bonus – Who was the only other person in the Bible to use this name for the Devil?

4. What did Cain do?

5. Why did he do it?

6. At what should we not marvel?

7. How do we know that we have passed from death to life?

8. The person who does not love his brother abides in what?

9. A person who hates his brother is what?

10. What is not in this person?

Apply: We see in this section the same principle that is in verses 7-11 of chapter 2; that brotherly love sets believers apart from unbelievers. Cain is given as an example of someone who hated his brother instead of loving him. And why did he hate him? He hated him because he was jealous of him. Though Cain is obviously an example of an unrepentant and an unsaved man, may those of us who know Christ still learn from Cain the lesson of the deadly fruit of jealousy. Jealousy leads to hatred, strife, division, and even murder. Is there anyone of whom you are jealous for any reason?

If yes, read Rom. 12:15; Phil. 2:3-4; and 4:11-12. Now, pray, and ask the Lord to help you love your brother instead of being jealous of him.

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today:

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 16-17

Examine -

1. By what do we perceive God's love?

2. What ought we to do for the brethren?

3. In John 15:13, what did Jesus say was the greatest demonstration of a man's love?

4. In Romans 16:3-4, what two people showed this kind of love?

5. Compare I John 3:17 with James 2:14-17.

 A. Of what value are words if they are not backed by action?

 B. How can we demonstrate our love to someone who is in need?

6. What did God give to us that demonstrated His love for us (Jn.3:16)?

7. For what did Paul commend the church at Philippi in Philippians 4:14-18?

8. Is God's love evident in the life of someone who has no compassion for his brother?

Apply:

We have seen previously that a saved person will love his brother, now we see how that love is shown. Genuine, pure love is demonstrated by giving. Giving may include your time, your money, your talents, your help, your resources, even giving correction, but most of all it includes giving yourself. (It does not include giving up your convictions, standards, or purity however!!) Who are some people that you love?

What have you done to show that you love them?

What have you done to show that you love God?

What can you do this week to show both that you love them?

Prayer

Praise

Date: Time:

Main thought to meditate on today:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 18-21

Examine -

1. In what two ways are we not to love?

2. In what two ways are we to love?

3. If we love in these two ways, what will we know by it?

4. What will this do for our hearts?

5. What do our hearts sometimes do (v. 20)?

6. Who is greater than our heart?

7. How much does God know?

8. What do we have if our heart does not condemn us?

9. In what did Paul exercise himself according to Acts 24:16?

Apply: When we prove our love by our actions, we find assurance of salvation because we see the evidence of salvation in our lives. We also have assurance that we are in fellowship with God because our actions are in accord with His Word. There are times when our conscience is not clear because of sin in our lives, but this does not mean that we should doubt our salvation; God is greater than our hearts. Our salvation is not based on our emotions, it is based on God's unchanging Word (Ps. 119:89) and unchanging character (Mal.3:6). When we have a clear conscience though, it enables us to serve God with confidence. Are you serving God confidently with a clear conscience, or are there areas of known disobedience in your life?

What (if anything) is keeping you from having a clear conscience?

How can you change this?

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today:

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3: 22-24

Examine -

1. What do we receive from God?

2. Why do we not have some things according to James 4:2?

3. Why do we not receive some things that we do ask for according to James 4:3?

4. Why do we receive things that we ask for (two reasons)?

5. Should a disobedient Christian who is not pleasing God expect to have his prayers answered?

6. What is God's commandment (v. 23)?

7. Where does the person who keeps God's commandments dwell?

8. Who dwells in this person?

9. How do we know that God abides in us?

Apply: Christians have the unique privilege of seeing God answer their prayers. However, there are a number of prerequisites for answered prayer given in Scripture. Some of which are seen in this passage; namely: that we are genuinely saved, that we are obeying God's commandments, that we are pleasing God, that we love one another, and that we are asking.

Are you 100% sure of your salvation? Are you obedient to God?

Are you doing the things that please Him?

Do you love your Christian brethren? Do you spend time in prayer? What are some answers to prayer that you have seen recently?

BONUS: Draw a cartoon, like you would see in the newspaper, depicting someone praying for something but who will not get their prayer answered because one or more of the qualifications were not met. (You can use stick men if you like)

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today:

Date: Time:

Weekly memory verse – I John 3:16 Time spent in prayer

Read - I John 3

Examine -

1. What are Christians called in verse 1?

2. What will we be like when Christ appears?

3. What should we be doing because of this assurance (v. 3)?

4. What is the key to properly interpreting verses 6-10?

5. According to these verses, what distinguishes believers from unbelievers?

6. What does Cain teach us about jealousy?

7. How did God demonstrate His love for us?

8. How can we demonstrate our love?

9. What will this do for our own hearts?

10. What are five prerequisites for answered prayer?

Apply:

What were three of the most significant things for you in this chapter?

Prayer

Praise

Main thought to meditate on today: