

(like today) Some of those who changed doctrinally (*mainly about Christ*) showed they were never of the truth (Vs 19).

In these verses we see the gripping power of the truth. (Vs 24) shows us that to truly know the truth is to never depart from the truth. When one “falls away” (does not abide) (Vs 19) it shows they never knew the truth. To know the truth is to be changed in our very nature, God moves in and His working is effectual and forever.

(Vs 20) We have an anointing from God that teaches us and guides us. (See Vs 26-27)

In closing this day’s devotion we need to remember the great need for discernment in this time. False teachers will attack or minimize the deity and the Lordship of Christ. The secret is to study the “truth” and we will recognize error when we encounter it.

Saturday/Sunday: Chap 3:1-10

(Vs 1-3) What a standing we have in Christ! We are the “sons of God” now. First century Gnostic teachers taught that salvation was for spirit only not the body, they justified sinful lifestyles this way. John emphatically said “now are we the sons (*nature bearers*) of God!”

If you read this verses carefully you will see he was saying “I am not all I should be, I am not all I was, but I am becoming all I will be” Being in this “hope” brings about (Vs 3)

(Vs 4-10) These verses are not saying we will never sin, but the verb tenses are “present active” it’s referring to a “lifestyle of sin.” John is showing us how to know we are “born of God” (Re: 1 John 5:13).

In studying this I feel like I am beating the same drum every chapt! “Being in Christ will make a change”

Have you ever thought about the change Christ has made in your life, not just in your family etc, but in you and your desires. I find it wonderful how God creates new desires in us, I see it as a two-fold miracle. One side I am justified, the other side I am changed! What a gracious God we serve!

Daily Devotions

1 John Week 1

Monday: 1 John 1: 1-4

The apostle John was the longest living apostle, (*interestingly his brother James, was the first to die*) he is the same “John” that penned Revelation, and who leaned on Jesus’ breast at on the Passover night. He is also one whom we know much about, he was so influential in the first century church because of his longevity. Much early church history records his influence, men called the “Church Fathers” knew him personally and benefited from his life.

No doubt 1 John was written to combat the deviation from the gospel that was prevalent then and now. The purpose of the letter is in 1 John 5:13. The key phrase is “little children” it is a Greek word that conveys “one who carries the nature of” The concept John is preaching that those that are born of God carry God’s nature. Therefore the nature of God is a big part of this book.

(Vs 1-2) God was manifested to man in the flesh, because of this we have seen Him, handled Him and know Him! It seems strange to us now, but ancient heresies taught that Christ was a spirit.

Because He came - we live. Have you thanked God for coming! This is the source of our joy (Vs 4)

Tuesday: 1 John 1:5-10

(Vs 5-6) Here John begins to show God is “light” and in Him is no darkness. Therefore His children will not live in darkness. The verbs here in 1 John are often in the “present active tense” which means continual walking, a lifestyle of darkness. A true child of God cannot say he/she is a Christian while they continue on in sin indefinitely.

(Vs 7-8) Here we see the phrase “walk in the light,” this is referring to salvation. The great paradox is: A lost man does not see his sin and a saved man sees it all too clearly. For the lost man, he is

condemned, for the saved man who sees his sin... he has Christ! (Vs 8)

(Vs 9-10) +Chap 2:1-2 These verses show that a Christian may sin, but they cannot continue in sin. For a Christian we have the forgiveness of sin and our Father will bring us back if we are His.

The life of a Christian is a life of confession and forgiveness(Vs 7)
The life of a lost person is professing righteousness till they are condemned (Vs 10)

Wednesday: Chap 2:3-8

(Vs 3-8) The apostles preached a different gospel than the one most people hear today. The Apostles preached that your profession is your life, not your words. Today people profess faith in Christ but willfully and continually disobey His commands. John tells us these people are deceiving themselves, they are not Christ's.

As you read these verses, notice the verbs. This is where you start with dissecting the Bible, in this passage mainly "keep" and "keepeth," these are "present active" verbs. One who is Christ's has been changed and they are seeking to keep God's Word because they have been changed.

This is what Jesus warned about in Matthew 7:23. The "work" in this verse is the same word "do" in 1 John 1:6 (*hodopoieō = make a path*) Also it is the same word used in Luke 8:21 where Jesus said His brethren are those who "do" the Word of God.

Clearly we will know we are saved because we have been changed from the "old path" to a "new path." The Bible offers no assurance for professions that do not manifest a changed life.

James deals with this in (James 2) It is important to discern between cause and effect. The cause of salvation is "faith" the test of faith is "works"

We need discernment to hold things up to the light of scripture so we can know the truth!

Thursday: Chap 2:9-14

(Vs 9-12) One of the distinguishing traits of a Christian (one who carries God's nature) they will love their neighbour. This is because God is love! Now, certainly there are times where you will be mad and even think you "hate" a person. This is sin and should be dealt with, but if its a lifestyle this is what John talks about in vs 11.

(Vs 13-14) There are 3 groups: Fathers, Young men, little children. the latter is not the same underlying word as the other references to "little children" it means "young pupils"

Fathers: are experienced Christians who are sound in the Word

Young men: are becoming(growing) towards being a "experienced Christian. Through "reason of use" learning and applying the Word.

"Young pupils:" are gaining experience and learning to grow.

It is interesting to note that the "young men" (growing Christian) got that way because (Vs 14) the word of God was in them.

Do you want to grow as a Christian? We must allow God's Word to dwell in us. The word "abide" is translated the same way in John 15 the great passage on "Abiding in Christ" It is to live in Christ, His Word and his commandments.

Friday: Chap 2:15-24

(Vs 15-17)These verses are directed to "Little children" those that are growing. It is essential to our growth that we understand that the world will hinder us, we are not to love this world, but set our affections on things above. Like a plant towards sun, we grow towards our love.

(Vs 18- 29) This is a long section dealing with professing Christians who do not "abide" Vs 19.

The "went out" here is "doctrinally." There were many, many, many false teachings in the 1st century church mainly attacking Christ.

