

John – Disciple of Jesus at end of ministry & life

- strong words & themes from 'son of thunder'
- addressing a group leaving, false teaching
- loves them, led by Holy Spirit, important message

Themes

Walk in Light not in Darkness

Walk in Love not in Hatred

Walk in Truth not in Lies

Walk in Right living not in Sin

#### 1 John 3:18-24

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him."

"And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."

- 1. What you say what you do! (vs.18)
  - Facebook and Instagram lives
    - not the whole picture
  - Let your love take action
    - intentional and seen
    - deciding to and doing
- vs. 17 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

#### James 2:14-17

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

#### 2. Confidence and Assurance

- has given hard truth, called for obedience and action from us.
  - careful to address the issue of assurance
  - a) doubts and condemnation
    - sin should be addressed in our lives
    - when we see issues take them to cross
    - often don't leave them there!

1 John 1:7-9 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- Doubts I don't feel it, forcing myself to.....
- can hear truth, wonder if we believe enough
  - setting of Mark 9

Mark 9:22-24 "But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

- Jesus and Thomas grace & touch
- Failures and Hypocrisy
  - heart loves to 'spring the trap'
  - hard on yourself, failings rising to mind and causing guilt and shame
  - realization my efforts fell short

- word used for condemn found three times
- Gal. 2:13 "And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy"
  - c) Confidence and Reassurance
    - God Knows Everything
      - nothing hidden from Him
      - chose us as children
    - God is Greater than our Hearts

#### Romans 5:8-11

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

- d) ask & serve with boldness
  - coming into His presence, no issues between
  - asking and receiving understanding grace
  - serving with abandon
    - pleasing the Father
    - enjoying his commands like David

#### Psalm 19:7-11

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

- 3. Clarity and Simplicity
  - a) Jesus on Greatest Commandment
- Matthew 22:37-39 "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself"
  - b) John Clear
    - Believe in Jesus
    - Love One Another
    - Obey the Commands

#### c) Abide

- abide in Christ
- His Spirit given to you
- evident in you, and to those around you
- growth in fruit of spirit (Gal. 5)

#### So What

- 1. Let your love take action
  - intentional and evident
- 2. Take confidence
  - deal with sin
  - hold doubt and condemnation up to truth
  - enter boldly to the Father
- 3. Simplify
  - believe, love, obey and abide