

One Bible, One Story

New Testament Survey

1, 2, 3 John – “So that you may know that you have eternal life...”

Last Week's Main Points

- Personal Nature of the Letters
- Theme of “Good” in the pastorals (19 items)
- Being Entrusted with the Gospel

I. Introduction

- Church of the Redeemer in 1st century
- Background to the letters
- Relationship between 1, 2, 3 John

II. Key Concepts/Features

- Real life questions, real life answers
 - How can we be confident of our own salvation?
 - What are the necessary components of genuine Christianity?
 - How do we discern the spirit of God from the Spirit of falsehood?
 - Where does Jesus fit in the midst of a culture that says there are many roads to the same God?
 - How do we think about those who have fallen away from the faith?
- Contrasts (love/hate, light/darkness)
- Harsh language AND comforting language
- Marks of a true believer:
 - (1 John 4:15) _____
 - (1 John 2:3-6) _____
 - (1 John 4:13) _____

III. Outline of 1 John

- 1:1-4 Eyewitnesses to the Word
- 1:5-2:17 Walk in the Light
- 2:18-28 Cling to the Truth
- 2:29-3:10 Deeds Reveal Your Identity
- 3:11-24 Love Brings Salvation
- 4:1-6 Confessing the Incarnation
- 4:7-5:3 God's Exemplary Love
- 5:4-21 Faith for Life

IV. Today's focus passage: 1 John 2:19-25

Discuss the following questions:

1. Can you think of anyone that has left the faith (v.19)? How do we think about their leaving in light of the themes in 1 John? If time permits at the end of the discussion, spend a few moments in prayer for that person.
2. How is an antichrist defined in this passage? What are some current trends in our culture that fit this description of an antichrist?
3. How does the concept of "abiding" in verse 24 influence the way you think about salvation?

V. Application

1. *Religious pluralism* is the idea that all of the major religions are more or less the same and accomplish the same purpose. Prayerfully consider how the book of 1 John speaks to this idea with its claims about the Father and the Son? (1 John 2:22-23, 4:2-3)
2. Is there any area of your life where your actions do not match your words? What are some areas of need around us in which we could show Christ's love?
3. Pray for any friends or loved ones that were once part of the Christian community but have gone out from among us.