

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 25TH-26TH, 2019 // BOOK OF 1 JOHN

INTRODUCTION

"I believe the greatest tragedy is a sick church in a dying world." – Leonard Ravenhill

For the Gospel to be received in modern society, it must first be seen.

Why would anyone in the world ask about the Gospel if it is never visible?

CHRIST IN ME (1 JOHN 5:1-5)

John repeats his Gospel and describes being born again as being born of God.

- The focus now shifts from the natural human state of loving ourselves to first loving God and others.
- The love that is declared in this passage is *agape*. This is a visible, sacrificial love.

Agape is loving others without receiving anything in return because receiving Christ is all we ever needed.

Galatians 2:20 CSB *I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

John calls us to a loving obedience in our lives. It is God's love that removes the burden of obedience.

- This is in contrast to a law keeper. A law keeper will try harder and harder while a believer yields more and more.
- A believer yields his or her life so that God would move in it.

We do not find significance in our **standards**. We find significance in our **surrender**.

TESTIMONY (1 JOHN 5:6-13)

John may have written this because of a false teacher named Cerinthus.

- He incorrectly taught that Jesus was only a spiritual being. Cerinthus claimed this "spirit Jesus" came on the human Jesus at baptism but the spirit left him before crucifixion.
- So John, to correct the heresy, declares both the water (baptism) and the blood (the cross) over Jesus.

More than false teaching ever challenges a doctrine or belief, it challenges the integrity of God.

The Word vs The World

- The world teaches self-discipline. The Word teaches self-denial.
- The world teaches self-care. The Word teaches the healing presence of God.
- The world teaches self-improvement. The Word teaches surrender.

THE SURRENDERED LIFE (1 JOHN 5:14-21)

As we live out the will of God, God gives us what we need to accomplish His will.

- People teach in error that God is a genie in a bottle waiting to give us what we want.
- Our relationship with God has never been designed so that He accomplishes our will. We accomplish His will!

The initial condition of answered prayer is the surrendered life.

John then tells us to pray for believers in sin.

- We are commissioned to pray for them as long as they are living.
- Sin does not have to lead to death. Repentance and faith in Jesus can change the course of the sinner.

The believer in Christ is called to a life away from sin.

- The purpose of grace is not so that God will tolerate your sin.
- Grace is the great teacher in the Christian life.

Titus 2:11 CSB *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age.*

The world is under the sway of the evil one.

- The KJV says that the world lies in wickedness.
- The implication of both translations is that of a world asleep.

"One reason the Church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the Church." – Charles Spurgeon

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

THE AWAKENING CHURCH

- **Do you live for God's will or yours?**
- **Is God's grace leading you to righteousness?**
- **When is the last time you surrendered to Jesus?**