The Good News that John Wrote

...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

John 20.31

Life in the Spirit

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image
- To pray for and encourage one another

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

John 8.37-59

The Key to Understanding John 8.37-47

- 1. Children are in the likeness of their parents.
- 2. Characteristics of children can reveal who their parents are.

1 John 2.5-6

This is how we know that we are in him: he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked.

1 John 2.29

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.

1 John 3.8-10

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3.8-10

Whoever is born of God doesn't commit sin, because his seed remains in him; and he can't sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are revealed, and the children of the devil. Whoever doesn't do righteousness is not of God, neither is he who doesn't love his brother.

1 John 4.7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love.

1 John 5.3-5

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Summary 1 John: Child of God vs Child of Evil One

Walks like Jesus walked Walks like Satan

Does not commit sin Sins

Does what is right Does not do what is right

Keeps God's Disobeys God's commandments commandments

Loves people Hates / murders people

Matthew 7.15-16

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?

John 8.37-38

I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are trying to kill me, because you will not accept my teaching. I talk about what my Father has shown me, but you do what your father has told you."

They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." "If you really were Abraham's children," Jesus replied, "you would do the same things that he did.

All I have ever done is to tell you the truth I heard from God, yet you are trying to kill me. Abraham did nothing like this!

You do what your father did."
They said to him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God."

Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me.

Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message.

You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies.

John 8.45-47

But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen."

They asked Jesus, "Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?"

John 8.49-51

"I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. I am not seeking honor for myself. But there is one who is seeking it and who judges in my favor. I am telling you the truth: whoever obeys my teaching will never die."

John 8.52-53

They said to him, "Now we know for sure that you have a demon! Abraham died, and the prophets died, yet you say that whoever obeys your teaching will never die. Our father Abraham died; you do not claim to be greater than Abraham, do you? And the prophets also died. Who do you think you are?"

John 8.54-55

Jesus answered, "If I were to honor myself, that honor would be worth nothing. The one who honors me is my Father—the very one you say is your God. You have never known him, but I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I obey his word.

John 8.54-56

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see the time of my coming; he saw it and was glad.

They said to him, "You are not even fifty years old—and you have seen Abraham?"

"I am telling you the truth," Jesus replied. "Before Abraham was born, "I Am."

Then they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and left the Temple.

Questions? Comments?