

1 JOHN STUDY 3

In these studies we are reviewing some of the key themes in 1 John, and thinking through some of the applications for us.

This week we are going to review the central theme of the letter - getting clear about who Jesus Christ is. The challenge facing John's original readers was that there seemed to be a group of people who have moved away from their church, and have moved away from John's presentation of who Jesus is. John is careful to point out that if you do that, you move away from fellowship with the Father, and you move away from any hope of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He wants to give his readers - which includes us - a solid assurance that he has been telling the truth about Jesus, and to make sure we are unshakeable in our faith in Christ.

Although we may not be in exactly the same situation as John's first readers, the temptation to move away from Christ will always be there. In the wider culture it is as popular as ever to say that you are "spiritual", but that does not mean that people trust in Jesus Christ. We need to bold in our proclamation to proclaim Christ, and not just "God". The only way to know the Father is through the Son. Within the church and amongst those who claim to be Christians a similar thing can be true. John is clear that the only way we can know the real Christ is through the apostolic witness to him (the Bible) so we need to careful to stick with that.

I have listed some suggested passages to read together from the letter, and some suggested questions. Try and stick to the main theme - there's obviously too much to cover if you try and do a verse by verse study of all these passages!

1:1-4

What has John proclaimed to us? Why can we trust him?
(Vs 1-2)

Why has he proclaimed this? What is the result of believing him? (Vs 3-4)

What will be the result of not listening to him, or not believing him?

2:18-27

What comes in your mind when you hear the word
“antichrist”? Who is John talking about? (Vs18-21)

What are they denying? Why is that so terrible? (Vs 22-23)

How do we make sure we don’t do what they have done?

What are we assured of if we abide in Christ? (Vs 24-25)

Why might someone deny that “Jesus is the Christ”, yet still say they know God?

2:28-3:10

What difference does “abiding in Christ” make to our future?
(2:28-3:3)? What will happen to us at his return?

What difference has Christ made to our sin? What did his death achieve? (2:4-8)?

What difference does knowing Christ make to our life here and now? (2:9-10)? Why can we live this way? (see also 2:29)

How can someone deny Christ by their life, as well as by their words?