BCM Bible Study – January 28-29, 2015

1 John 2:3-2:27

3-11: True Christian belief is demonstrated by genuine love.

12-17: True Christian belief is connected with righteous living. False teachers have false lives.

18-29: True Christian belief is connected with incarnate Christ.

1 John 2:3-11 – True followers of Jesus will have assurance in their salvation because they know, love, and obey Him.

**Read 1 John 2:3-6 -** Obey Christ’s commands and enjoy assurance of salvation**, s**o that we know Him – not so that we doubt that we know Him.

What is obedience, how does it relate to your salvation, and why is it essential in Christian life? Why does truly knowing God lead to obedience to His commands?

How would you explain to friends that obedience, as the Bible describes it, is not an oppressive idea but an idea out of love?

What does it mean to walk as Jesus walked? How specifically is Christ our example in areas of obedience and love, in loving people, but not the world?

We won’t follow God perfectly, but are our lives pointing towards obedience? What is one significant action you’ve taken recently to obey the Lord?

Psalm 119:33-40

**Read 1 John 2:7-11 -** Love one another and walk in the light of salvation

How is John’s command to love each other both old and new? (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18) Where does it push beyond where feels natural? How did Jesus make the old commandment new? How can we love and Jesus loved?

Why is hatred for a brother contrary to love for God? What does such hatred expose about our hearts?

How can we live out love for others in such a way that reveals your knowledge of and love for God?

Read John 3:16-21. How does this light and darkness compare with v. 9-11?

**Read 1 John 2:12-14 -** Those who truly love and follow Christ must not fall in love with the things of the world, but rather with the Father who gives them everything they need. Know that you are a Christian and cannot lose.

On what basis have our sins been forgiven? (Psalms 51:1-2)

In what ways do you try to earn God’s forgiveness? John says that our sins have already been forgiven through Christ, at what points do you struggle to believe you have already been forgiven?

Is there any area where you have not made room for the will and way of God that may be keeping you from overcoming? (Psalm 119:11, 25, 28, 153, 165)

In what sense do believers have victory over the evil one? How does this give you encouragement and hope?

**Read 1 John 2:15-17 -** Because of God’s perfect, complete work (v. 12-14), we now have a responsibility (v. 15-17). Know what the world offers but cannot give.

How can we tell if we are too enamored with the world?

How do you respond to the black-and-white teaching about love, light, and the world? (2:4, 9, 15) Is it helpful?

What are some ways that worldliness is misunderstood?

What are some things the world promises to provide but cannot?

Are there any areas in your life where lust of flesh, eyes, and pride are waging war on you? (What do you need to stop watching or reading? What things could you dwell on in its place? What if all we posted on social media was meant to love others instead of promoting pride, position, or accomplishments?)

Why does God tell us not to love the world? (Luke 10:38-42)

**Read 1 John 2:18-27** The antichrists - There have always been those, and more will come, who actively oppose Christ and the gospel; Christians must resist and cling to the truth of God as revealed by the Spirit in the Scriptures.

Have you ever realized that one of your spiritual beliefs was wrong? What happened to make you realize you were wrong?

What might we do or not do if we lived as if every hour were the last hour? Are we called to live like this now?

What do the antichrists deny? How do we identify true believers?

Name one truth of the gospel or of Jesus’ teachings that you consistently come back to regardless of how culture shifts.

What does it mean to abide or remain in the truth and in Christ? (2:24) List specific things you will do this week to abide in truth.