

The Love God Hates

Lesson for Sunday, March 2, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Start with a review of our memory work from this chapter – verse 15. This is right in the heart of today's lesson.
- ⇒ What is the most essential thing we know about God? *Allow for discussion...*
 - You are listening for the word "love." God is love. It is one of the first things we learn about God and it is at the very essence of Who God is.
 - We learn that God could not love us more and He will not love us less. It may surprise us to discover that there are some things that God actually hates!
- ⇒ Consider some of these examples: Psalm 5:5-6; 97:10; 119:104; 119:113; Proverbs 6:16-19...
- ⇒ One of the things that God stands in strong opposition to is a particular kind of love, namely, love for the world. James reiterates this point in James 4:4.
- ⇒ In today's text, vs. 12-14 stand in contrast to vs. 15-17. In these verses we are reminded that our love is to be reserved for our Father and not the world.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Know what you are in Christ and cannot lose (vs. 12-14)
 - a. These verses are beautifully structured and poetic.
 - i. Six times John says, "I am writing" or "I have written."
 - ii. He uses three different terms to describe his audience: children, fathers and young men – and each is addressed twice. It seems he is addressing us in terms of spiritual maturity and not chronological age.
 - iii. Notice what John teaches us...
 - b. We are forgiven (vs. 12).
 - i. This is the most basic truth of Christianity.
 - ii. Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7) and unrighteousness (1:9). He is faithful to forgive all the sins of those who trust in Him.
 - iii. When we turn to Him in faith as our Advocate and Atonement (2:1-2), we have been accepted by God as His children.
 - c. We know the Father (vs. 13-14).
 - i. When we receive Jesus as Savior we also get God as our Father (see also vs. 23).
 - ii. To the fathers in the faith (13a), John says, "you have known Him that is from the beginning." He repeats this truth in verse 14.
 - iii. To the children (13c), "you have known the Father." The idea is more clearly stated, "You have come to know the Father." He is a good Father, a great Father, a perfect Father.
 - iv. What beautiful words of encouragement this is to the Christian!
 - d. We are victors in the faith (vs. 13-14).
 - i. John also addresses the young men. These are the believers that are maturing in the faith, young champions for Christ, who are actively engaged with the "wicked one" (both in 13 & 14).
 - ii. Three observations can be made about these young men: they are strong (14), the Word of God abides in them (14), and they have overcome the wicked one (13-14).
 - iii. These three observations work together: We become strong as the Word of God abides in us, and as we become strong, we are equipped to overcome the wicked one.
2. Know what the world offers but cannot give (vs. 15-17)

- a. In verses 12-14 John encourages us. Now he gives a word of exhortation and warning concerning something he identifies six times as “the world.”
 - i. It is important that we recognize that John is referring to a worldview perspective (cf. John 16:11) that is led by the “wicked one.”
 - ii. This perspective is characterized by the desires of the flesh, the eyes and the pride in possessions.
 - iii. John’s exhortation is clear: To love the world is to be devoid of love for the Father and to give ourselves to things that are temporary and transient.
 - iv. John highlights three things the world promises but cannot deliver.
- b. First, the world cannot give you what you need (vs. 15).
 - i. The longing of the human heart is to love and to be loved. For this longing to be met, the objects of our affections must be rightly ordered.
 - ii. John commands us, “Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world.” Why? To love the world is not to love the Father, which is what we really need.
 - iii. We must realize that that turning even to good things into “god” things becomes a bad thing. If we give our love to a lesser lover, we will never get what we really need.
- c. Second, the world cannot give you what it promises (vs. 16). This verse describes in vivid terms the weapons of the world that each resides in us!
 - i. The desires (lusts) of the flesh appeal to our appetites. “Lusts” means cravings, lust or passion. The word “flesh” refers to the tendency of humans to fulfill natural desires in a way that is contrary to God’s will.
 - ii. The desires of the eyes appeal to our affections. The eyes are windows to the mind by which sinful desires enter in (cf. Matt. 5:27-29).
 - iii. Pride in possessions appeals to our ambitions. This speaks to the person who glorifies himself rather than God. They make idols of themselves or their stuff.
- d. Third, the world cannot give you what will last (vs. 17).
 - i. This verse brings to conclusion John’s exhortation as he contrasts two loves, two lives, and two approaches to life.
 - ii. In this verse, the world is on the run – it is passing away.
 - iii. What lasts? Doing God’s will.

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ What are some ways that worldliness can work its way into our lives?
- ⇒ What are some things the world promises that it cannot provide? Can you think of some public examples?
- ⇒ Discuss how we are to stay in God’s Word so we can have the strength to overcome the lusts that this world offers.

CONCLUSION: Don’t be a Demas!

- ⇒ We don’t know much about him. He is only mentioned twice in the NT. At one point, it appears he is alongside Paul and Luke working hard in faithful service to the Lord (Colossians 4:7-18).
- ⇒ But then Paul makes a note in 2 Timothy 4:10, “Demas has deserted me because he loved this present world.”
- ⇒ Don’t let your love for the world eclipse your love for the Word. Don’t be a Demas!

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT: 1 John 2:28-3:3 (we are skipping 2:18-27)