

That's Why He Came

Lesson for Sunday, March 16, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 3:4-10

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Have fun: What are two things that don't go together?
 - The class will probably come up with some fun combinations. You can also discuss terms that don't go together such as "jumbo shrimp."
- ⇒ In today's text, John wants to make sure that his readers understand that there are two things that don't go together: being a child of God is incompatible with the practice of sin.
- ⇒ John has challenged us to live a life of righteousness (2:29) and purity (3:3) grounded in the promise of the second coming of Christ.
- ⇒ Now John gives the same challenge based on His first coming (3:5, 8). Jesus's "two comings" serve as theological and eschatological bookends to inspire and motivate us to "walk just as He walked" (2:6), to do what is right (2:29; 3:7, 10), to purify ourselves (3:3), and to love our brother (3:10) as we abide in Him (3:6, 9).
- ⇒ When we remember why Jesus came it should motivate us to righteous living.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Jesus came to deliver us from sin (1 John 3:4-6).
 - a. Sin is the great enemy and problem of humanity, and only God can rescue us and solve our problem. In these verses, John notes the problem and then provides the solution.
 - b. Vs. 4: John presents a universal truth – sin is the transgression of the law.
 - i. Sin is lawlessness, rebellion, a defiant disregard and rejection of God's rightful rule as Lord over your life.
 - ii. Sin is nothing less than personal treason against the Sovereign of the universe.
 - c. Vs. 5: Because our sin predicament is so great, a great rescue is required.
 - i. Our problem is sin. The solution is Jesus.
 - ii. Jesus could solve our sin problem because in Him there is no sin.
 - d. Vs. 6: This verse logically and necessarily flows from verse 5. Because there is no sin in Jesus, no one who abides in Him keeps on sinning.
 - i. In fact, if one does continue in a pattern or practice of sin, another logical and necessary conclusion must be drawn: "they don't know Him."
 - ii. Because we have a new birth, we have a new nature. Sin no longer dominates us or enslaves us. We may fall into sin, but we will not walk in sin.
 - e. A life living in sin and living in the Savior is an oxymoron. These two things don't go together!
2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil (1 John 3:7-8).
 - a. If sin is personal enemy #1, then Satan is public enemy #1. The flesh is our internal foe, and the Devil is our external foe.
 - b. Vs. 7: The Devil is a deceiver, so pursue righteousness.
 - i. John warns us against being spiritually deceived. It is a word of command calling for persistent vigilance.

- ii. Deception can take many forms: doctrinal (believing wrongly about the Savior), morally (living wrongly in a lifestyle of sin), and socially (when we fail to love others – see 3:10).
 - iii. John gives us the recipe for overcoming deception. Deception is defeated by a righteous life.
 - c. Vs. 8: The Devil is a sinner who has been defeated.
 - i. The word “devil” appears four times in this text and means “accuser or slanderer.”
 - ii. Jesus delivered a knockout punch to the Devil on the cross. By means of His atonement we escape sin’s penalty. By our new birth through Christ, sin’s power has been nullified. And at His soon return, we will be delivered from sin’s presence.
- 3. Jesus came to define the children of God (1 John 3:9-10).
 - a. As John closes this paragraph, he highlights three crystal clear and definite descriptions of the children of God.
 - b. First, God’s children have experienced a new birth (vs. 9). We have been born again, converted, regenerated. The Holy Spirit of God imparts a new nature to everyone who repents of sin and trusts in Christ.
 - c. Second, God’s children do not practice sin (vs. 9). As a result of the new birth, the Bible says we cannot make a practice of sinning.
 - d. Third, God’s children love one another (vs. 10). John has presented two fundamental tests to distinguish a child of God from a child of Satan.
 - i. Do you do what is right, and do you love others?
 - ii. This is what God does, and this is what His children ought to do.
 - iii. You see, the child has the distinguishing marks of his parents.

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ Make sure your class understands the difference between when we sin (which we all do) vs. a lifestyle or practice of sin without repentance.
- ⇒ Point out verse 6 and ask, “Why do Christians still sin?” Answer: Because we are not abiding in Him. You can always discuss what it means to abide in Christ.
- ⇒ For personal reflection (not discussion): Do you pass John’s two tests? Do you do what is right, and do you love others?

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT: 1 John 3:11-18