



Lesson 48 – A Faithful Witness

Based on the Epistles of John

After the ascension of Christ, John stands forth as a faithful, earnest laborer for the Master. With the other disciples he enjoyed the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and with fresh zeal and power he continued to speak to the people the words of life, seeking to lead their thoughts to the Unseen. He was a powerful preacher, fervent, and deeply in earnest. In beautiful language and with a musical voice he told of the words and works of Christ, speaking in a way that impressed the hearts of those who heard him. The simplicity of his words, the sublime power of the truths he uttered, and the fervor that characterized his teachings, gave him access to all classes.

1) What did Christ teach while he was with His Disciples?

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye _____ one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

At the time when these words were spoken, the disciples could not understand them; but after they had witnessed the sufferings of Christ, after His crucifixion and resurrection, and ascension to heaven, and after the Holy Spirit had rested on them at Pentecost, they had a clearer conception of the love of God and of the nature of that love which they must have for one another.

2) What message did John have for the world?

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down _____ for the brethren.

After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth's sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them. By unselfish words and deeds, they strove to kindle this love in other hearts.

3) When John saw the church drifting, what did he say?

1 John 4:7-9 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is _____ of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth _____ knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might _____ through him.

1 John 4:10-11 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the _____ for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we _____ to love one another.

1 John 2:8-9 Again, a new _____ I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the _____ is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

1 John 2:10-11 He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath _____ his eyes.



1 John 3:14-15 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in _____. Whosoever hateth his brother is a _____: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

It is not the opposition of the world that most endangers the church of Christ. It is the evil cherished in the hearts of believers that works their most grievous disaster and most surely retards the progress of God's cause. There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing envy, suspicion, faultfinding, and evil surmising. On the other hand, the strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions who form His church.

4) What did he add to that?

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in _____ and in _____.

The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within. It is the atmosphere of this love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savor of life unto life and enables God to bless his work.

5) How are we able to love God?

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he _____ loved us.

Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another, this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found.

6) How is our love perfected?

1 John 4:17-18 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have _____ in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are _____ in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

John strove to lead the believers to understand the exalted privileges that would come to them through the exercise of the spirit of love. This redeeming power, filling the heart, would control every other motive and raise its possessors above the corrupting influences of the world. And as this love was allowed full sway and became the motive power in the life, their trust and confidence in God and His dealing with them would be complete.

7) How confident was John in God?

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask _____ according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he _____ us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

8) What important reminder did John give us?

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ . And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.



9) What will God do if we confess our sins?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is _____ and _____ to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The conditions of obtaining mercy from God are simple and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order to gain forgiveness. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression.

10) What promise was given through Solomon?

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not _____: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have _____.

11) How powerful is God's Love?

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to _____ us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the courts above, Christ is pleading for His church, pleading for those for whom He has paid the redemption price of His blood. Centuries, ages, can never lessen the efficacy of His atoning sacrifice.

As the years went by and the number of believers grew, John labored with increasing fidelity and earnestness for his brethren. The times were full of peril for the church. Satanic delusions existed everywhere. By misrepresentation and falsehood, the emissaries of Satan sought to arouse opposition against the doctrines of Christ, and in consequence dissensions and heresies were imperiling the church. Some who professed Christ claimed that His love released them from obedience to the law of God. On the other hand, many taught that it was necessary to observe the Jewish customs and ceremonies; that a mere observance of the law, without faith in the blood of Christ, was sufficient for salvation. Some held that Christ was a good man but denied His divinity. Some who pretended to be true to the cause of God were deceivers, and in practice they denied Christ and His gospel. Living themselves in transgression, they were bringing heresies into the church.

12) What warning did John give in his second Epistle?

2 John 1:7-8 For many _____ are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an _____. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2 John 1:9-11 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of _____, hath not _____. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, _____ into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

The epistles of John breathe the spirit of love. It seems as if he wrote with a pen dipped in love. But when he came in contact with those who were breaking the law of God, yet claiming that they were living without sin, he did not hesitate to warn them of their fearful deception.



We are authorized to hold in the same estimation as did the beloved disciple those who claim to abide in Christ while living in transgression of God's law. There exist in these last days evils similar to those that threatened the prosperity of the early church; and the teachings of the apostle John on these points should be carefully heeded.

While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity. God requires His people in this age of the world to stand for the right as unflinchingly as did John in opposition to soul-destroying errors.

13) How did John feel about living righteously?

1 John 3:4-6 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the _____: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not _____ him, neither _____ him.

14) What exactly was it that John declared to the world?

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have _____, which we have _____ with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have _____, of the Word of life;

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard _____ we unto you, that ye also may have _____ with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

As a witness for Christ, John entered into no controversy, no wearisome contention. He declared what he knew, what he had seen and heard. He had been intimately associated with Christ, had listened to His teachings, had witnessed His mighty miracles. Few could see the beauties of Christ's character as John saw them. For him the darkness had passed away; on him the true light was shining. His testimony in regard to the Saviour's life and death was clear and forcible. Out of the abundance of a heart overflowing with love for the Saviour he spoke; and no power could stay his words.

15) What do true believers do when they have the truth?

John 3:33 He that hath received his testimony hath _____ to his _____ that God is true.

You can bear witness to that which you have seen and heard and felt of the power of Christ.

Can you see John was serious about his commitment?

Would you like to be as dedicated as him?

When is the time to have the Word living inside?