

Wednesday sermon

THE NATURE OF GODS CHILDREN

Intro.

Jn 2

John, son of Zebedee, brother to James, most likely a distant cousin to Jesus (Salome might have been the sister to Mary. Mtt 27:56, Mk 15:40.

He was the beloved disciple in the gospel of JoHn, inner circle of Jesus... Close to His heart.

This letter has similarities that point to the fact that it is this same John... Hence the authenticity, of the letter being as credible as his gospel.

It would be wise to listen and reckon with the truth he speaks of.

It was a circular letter to believers in the diaspora in the province of Asia, specifically in Ephesus where it is recorded to have been read the earliest.

He addresses the heresies of Gnosticism from Greek word "gnosis"(all matter is evil, all spirit is good and "special knowledge" would save people) which was an adversary to Christianity at that time... It was in its early forms.

Doceitism (Christ only seemed to have a body

Ceritheism (the divine joined Jesus as BAPTISIM and left at Resurrection)

This dualism promoted ascentism

But also promoted libertine thinking that disregarded moral responsibility. (licentiousness) sin all you want.. You will die and your spirit will go to the Father.

The love of the world! Vs 15 tells us not to love the world

Do we not see this happening ?

How many times do we hear pastors, prophets and preachers telling us to unlock our potential,

To know the deep secrets and mysteries (of Christ)

How many times have we been burdened with guilt driven sermons telling us to tithe, bless and honor the men of God so you can unleash the blessings locked up by your sinful lives?

How many times have we been put under pressure to dress up, drive the finest car and have the finest wife because that's what we deserve? And it is virtually sinful not to have all you want.

How many times have subtle hints been given to us to "live for now"

To "enjoy your life now"

The world we **live in traded decency for recognition. Purpose for pleasure.** In speech, thoughts, dressing, ambitions

We now pursue pleasures beyond our wildest dreams, we look for jobs we are not qualified for, we seek promotions we don't deserve, we desire respect we haven't earned. We marry for self fulfillment. (marriage ceased to be life giving, it's now about status and accomplishment. It's something that people get to

We feed our passions, our desires and our wants with all sorts of literature, motion picture, videos, movies... Anything that will make us feel good about ourselves... Anything that will make us forget the glaring hole that causes the emptiness in our hearts. Anything that will blind us from our utter sinfulness and numb our feelings of guilt and shame.

We therefore become a shameless, guiltless, indecent and licentious generation. A self serving generation with no regard for those that suffer at the hands of our choices.

We then mock God and ask "where is God in all this suffering? If God is love, how can he let so much suffering happen.

Our own selfishness ...our own decadence and depravity has led us here.

Our nation bleeds not because of the grand decisions of the government but by the little sinful choices of countless generations. Our sin has led us here.

Because we love the world and all its pleasures, we no longer can recognise what is good and true and decent.

It's about money, sex and power. It's about girls, glory and gold. It's about pleasure, prosperity and potential.

When we love the world, it's systems and philosophies ...that's what we become.

A people of chaos and anarchy. We argue for evil and ridicule goodness.

Hope to be a child of God

Those that don't "know" the Lord, those that John was writing about, who seek greater/ higher knowledge to find peace and rest, there is hope.

John's certainty of the Lord the ever satisfying Savior gives you a way out. He says... "...But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2 NIV

<http://bible.com/111/1jn.2.1-2.NIV>

We come to know Christ and his love that was shed abroad in our hearts even to the cross.

You see, if the perfect God were to judge you perfectly, What do you think that you'd deserve? A perfect being is Judge, jury and executor. He judges because his judgement is trusted.

Our sinfulness made us imperfect. God's perfect love and justice saw to it that we receive grace and our sin be punished all at the same time. Christ then becomes our hope of salvation from this hopeless, desolate state of being.

The light John talks about in chapter 1 begins to take its course and dispense the darkness.

We become children of God. Bought by the precious blood shed for our salvation.

John says, in verse 3..."We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

1 John 2:3-4 NIV

The children of God: how then we must live ?

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:6 NIV

<http://bible.com/111/1jn.2.6.NIV>

We must live as Christ would have us live. What does it look like? How does Christ walk?

We must by all means know this. What's the one word that would Describe this walk?

LOVE.

How does love work

John begins Vs 7 talking about a command.

The command is love. It is an ancient command that depicts the likeness of God who, through Jesus, demonstrated most ultimately and permanently.

For us to walk in this image, to take on the image that was lost in the garden to darkness, we must adopt and conform to love.

Light and love are synonymously used by John. To love is to live in light. To hate is to live in darkness.

It isn't easy to love, to be selfless and think of others more highly than yourself. It is not easy to turn the other cheek even for us that call ourselves believers. It is not easy to love your enemy, to do good to those that persecute you. To bless and not curse those that curse you.

Not when we are dealing with our flesh ever so severely. Our flesh wants to curse, to repay, to revenge, to be recognized, to be accomplished, to be above everyone, to be served, to be pleased. To be crowned king

We know when we choose the comforts of the world over the conformity to Christ ~ Arthur Murungi

We must count the cost of following Jesus and walking like him. It is death. Death to self. Death to selfishness, self-gratification, self-absorption, self pity, self loathing, self accomplishments... Death to self...

In our work places, in our homes, in our

A disciple - comes to Christ , counts the cost and Clings to Christ. Luke14.

Let's count the cost as children of God, made by him, to live for him and return to him.

In our work, let Christ be seen. With our colleagues, let decency dictate your decorum. With your relations, let love compel us.

Let our marriages be a reflection of Christ and the church and not to just fulfill our appetites.

Let our hope be in the Salvation of our master and not in what we have.

Let the attitudes of our hearts reflect our love for him above anything we value. Our cars, our property, our dreams, our businesses, our families etc.

Keep what will not take your heart from God. ~John Piper

We must live for more than the things of God... We must live for the God of these things...

We must count it all nothing for the joy set before us... To Him... To serve him.

For to know him is eternal life...

To serve him is perfect freedom.

We are freed from the chains of sin... We live in freedom from sin.

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:17 NIV

<http://bible.com/111/1jn.2.17.NIV>