I John 3:16-24

Review…

- **The Division** – THREE sections…
  - Section 1 – God is LIGHT [mention 6 times] – **I John 1-2**
  - Section 2 – God is LOVE [mentioned 57 times] – **I John 3-4**
  - Section 3 – God is LIFE [mentioned 7 times] – **I John 5**
- **LOVE of the Father…**
  - What KIND of LOVE does the Father give – AGAPE – He calls us His Children…
  - A LOVE that TRANSFORMS us – when we see Jesus we will be LIKE Him – mind and body…
  - A LOVE that gives us VICTORY over SIN – as we ABIDE in Jesus…
  - Because ANYONE who ABIDES – has VICTORY over SIN!
- **The Test for LOVE…**
  - How do we KNOW we have received the LOVE of the Father – we are given a TEST…
  - If we act RIGHTEOUS - we are the SONS of God – is we SIN – we are the SONS of satan…
  - Because whoever is BORN of God – cannot CONTINUE in SIN…
  - What does it mean to be RIGHTEOUS – obey the COMMAND – to LOVE one another…
  - By this we know we have passed from DEATH to LIFE – because we LOVE each other!

The RESULT of LOVE…

- **1st – Caring… vs. 16-17**
  - 1st – Example of LOVE… vs. 16
    - By this we know love - because He laid down His life for us!
      - The FIRST result of having the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of the FATHER: follow the example of Jesus…
      - We KNOW [γινώσκω] – how Jesus showed His LOVE for us…
      - He SHOWED us His LOVE [ἀγάπη] – by dying on the cross for our SINS!
      - We were the enemies of God – we were the SONS of satan…
      - But as a RESULT of how much Jesus LOVES us – He was willing to die to make us His friends!
      - **John 15:13** – "Greater love has no one than this - than to lay down one's life for his friends."
    - And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren!
      - In the same way – since we have the LOVE of the Father – we OUGHT to LOVE one another…
      - OUGHT [ὀφείλω] – to constantly [present] be in DEBT…
      - The DEBT we owe is our LIVES – the LOVE of the Father compels us to LIVE for others!
      - The world teaches us to live by the MANTRA – look out for number one…
      - Every moment we are encouraged to ask what do WE want!
      - But this is the OPPOSITE of LOVE – LOVE demands that we LIVE for others…
      - We OWE it to Jesus – who PAID for all of our SIN – to follow His EXAMPLE…
      - To live our lives in such a way as to CONTINUALLY be a blessing to those around us…
      - How can I bless my wife – husband – child – friend today…
      - This is the RESULT of having the LOVE of the Father in us!
  - 2nd – Providing LOVE… vs. 17
    - But whoever has this worlds goods - and sees his brother in need!
      - ONE way that we can LIVE for each other – is by HELPING in times of NEED…
      - IF [subjunctive] we have the ABILITY [worlds goods] to HELP…
      - And see a brother in NEED [subjunctive] – we should HELP!
    - How much should we GIVE…
      - There was a poor widow who only put in TWO mites - about 50 centavos - **Mark 12:42-44**

- Jesus called the disciples and told them - she gave more than all the rich put together!
- The rich gave out of their abundance - she out of her poverty - she gave all she had!
- It is not about the quantity - giving a LOT means NOTHING if it costs us NOTHING...
- It is about SACRIFICE - giving from the HEART – showing the LOVE of God…
- If someone is in NEED - and we give a little - even if it is NOT enough...
- It is a HUGE blessing to them - because they know we care about them!

- Do NOT go hungry…
  - **II Corinthians 8:13** – "I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened…"
  - Paul wrote to address this very issue to the church in Corinth…
  - They were gathering an offering for the NEEDS of the church in Jerusalem…
  - But he told them NOT to give more than they could afford…
  - He did not want them to STARVE so others could EAT!
  - In other words - be wise with how we GIVE - do not GIVE beyond our means!
- Balance the wealth...
  - **II Corinthians 8:14** – "Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later - they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way - things will be equal. As the Scriptures say - Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over - and those who gathered only a little had enough."
  - When the children of Israel were in the wilderness for FORTY years...
  - They had to collect manna every day to eat - none extra - none lacking!
  - In other words level the field - those with MUCH give to those with LITTLE...
  - Not lending money – that is not a blessing - that is a LOAN - **Romans 13:8**
  - Better to simply give it if we have it – use the money we have for others…
  - Then when we have no money - those we helped will be there to bless us back!
- And shuts up his heart from him - how does the love of God abide in him!
  - IF we see a NEED – and we do NOT HELP – IF [subjunctive] we CLOSE our heart…
  - Then it SHOWS we do NOT have the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of God ABIDING [μένω] in us!
  - Because Jesus had ALL the riches of HEAVEN – and did not hold onto them…
  - Instead He gave them freely to us – who were POOR and in NEED…
  - Therefore if Jesus is ABIDING in us – we will likewise GIVE to others in their NEED!
  - **Acts 20:35** – "[We] must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus - that He said - It is more blessed to give than to receive."

- **2ND – CONFIDENT… VS. 18-21**
  - 1st – LOVE is action… vs. 18
    - My little children - let us not love in word or in tongue!
      - The SECOND result of having LOVE [ἀγάπη]: we become CONFIDENT…
      - Because we see the LOVE of the Father coming from our lives!
      - Little Children [τεκνίον] – 7x in this letter – speaking to DISCIPLES of Jesus - **John 13:33**
      - Do NOT just pretend to have LOVE [ἀγαπάω] – by just using WORDS!
      - **James 2:15-16** – "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food - and one of you says to them - Depart in peace - be warmed and filled. But you do not give them the things which are needed for the body - what does it profit!"
      - If we see someone who is HUNGRY – and has no FOOD…
      - And we respond by saying we will PRAY for them – how does that HELP!
      - WORDS are NOT enough – they lack the POWER in WORDS to HELP the person in NEED…
      - We can say all day that we LOVE our NEIGHBOR – but where is the PROOF!
    - LOVE… in deed!
      - LOVE should be seen our DEEDS [ἔργον] – our WORKS…

- People tend to use the word LOVE very casually – it is easy to SAY…
- But LOVE is not a WORD – it is an ACTION – it needs to be SEEN!
- I knew a man who lived a VERY sinful lifestyle – alcohol and drugs…
- His wife prayed for him to be saved for many years…
- One night driving home DRUNK – he almost hit a police car – would have gone to prison…
- God used that moment to wake him up – and he called out to Jesus to save him…
- He was so excited to go and tell his wife – God told him not to TELL her – SHOW her!
- If we were SILENT – and NEVER said one word – would people know we LOVED them…
- Would our family – our friends – our neighbors – see Jesus in our lives…
- Love is not what we SAY – it is what we DO!

▪ LOVE… in truth!
- We must LOVE in TRUTH [ἀλήθεια] – 110x in NT
- LOVE is seen in our ACTION – but it also has to have the right MOTIVE!
- When I was a child – I liked to do GOOD things for others…
- Not because I LOVED them – but because I LOVED to hear them compliment me!
- We can do the RIGHT things – with the WRONG heart…
- To LOVE someone in TRUTH – is to LOVE them without any ulterior motive…
- We want NOTHING from them – only to give to them – the LOVE of the Father!

o 2nd – LOVE is TRUTH… vs. 19
▪ And by this we know that we are of the truth - and shall assure our hearts before Him!
▪ We KNOW [γινώσκω] we are of THE truth [ἀλήθεια] – Jesus is the TRUTH – **John 14:6**
▪ Because we LOVE others – not just in WORDS – but in our ACTIONS with unselfish MOTIVES…
▪ Which will [future] give our heart ASSURANCE – when we will stand before Jesus…
▪ ASSURANCE [πείθω] – the VERB form of the ROOT word for FAITH [πίστις]
▪ Men FEAR death – partially because it is an unknown…
▪ But mostly because they do KNOW – after death comes the JUDGMENT – **Hebrews 9:27**
▪ We will all STAND one day before the JUDGEMENT seat of Christ – **Revelation 20:12**
▪ How can we be CONFIDENT that we will not be PUNISHED for all our SIN…
▪ Our heart has FAITH [verb] – that by GRACE - Jesus paid for all our SIN on the CROSS…
▪ And the PROOF that we have received His GRACE – is His LOVE flowing through us!

o 3rd – Not Condemned… vs. 20
▪ For if our heart condemns us!
- IF [subjunctive] our heart CONDEMNS us…
- CONDEMNS [καταγινώσκω] – though [κατά] KNOWING [γινώσκω]
- We might look GOOD on the outside – try our best to be GOOD person...
- But we KNOW what is in our HEART – we KNOW we are SINNERS…
- If people could see what is on the INSIDE – we KNOW we deserve to be JUDGED!

▪ God is greater than our heart - and knows all things!
- God is ALWAYS [present] – GREATER than our HEART…
- He KNOWS [γινώσκω] it ALL [πᾶς] – nothing is hidden from him – **Hebrews 4:13**
- He KNOWS every mistake – every SIN – every thought we will ever have…
- He KNOW us better than we know ourselves…
- But He also KNOWS that He paid for EVERY one of those SINS…
- And He KNOWS what our FUTURE holds – and it is not JUDGEMENT!
- **Jeremiah 29:10** – "I know the thoughts that I think toward you - says the LORD - thoughts of peace and not of evil - to give you a future and a hope."
- Conviction is good - the work of the Spirit telling us not to sin – repent…
- But condemnation is bad - focusing on our failures - dwelling on our mistakes...

- When we are FOCUSED on our mistakes - we are NOT looking to Jesus...
- We condemn ourselves - but God has forgiven us – and He is greater than our failure…
- We just NEED to get our eyes off ourselves - and put them back onto Jesus!

o 4th – Confident… vs. 21

- Beloved - if our heart does not condemn us - we have confidence toward God!
- BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] – those who have RECEIVED the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of God…
- IF [subjunctive] our heart does not CONDEMN us…
- It is because we have CONFIDENCE [παρρησία] – to be able to say ANYTHING without FEAR!
- Hallel can ask me ANYTHING – because she is my daughter…
- But I know when she has done something WRONG – because she gets QUIET…
- Her SIN makes her SHY to talk to me – for fear I might find out what she did!
- When we are BELOVED – we have received the LOVE of God…
- Then we know we are the CHILDREN of God – and can SAY anything to Him…
- If we find we are SHY to come near the LORD – it means we have done something wrong…
- But all we have to do is CONFESS to Him – TALK to Him…
- And we will find He has already forgiven us – **I John 1:9**

- **3RD – PROVISION… VS. 22-24**

o 1st – Answered prayer… vs. 22

- Whatever we ask we receive from Him!
  - The THIRD result of having LOVE [ἀγάπη]: God provides for us…
  - IF [subjunctive] we ASK – we will receive [indicative] from Him!
  - **James 4:2** – "You do not have because you do not ask."
  - I think we get the idea a lot of times that God is NOT listening to us…
  - But it is not God who is silent – we just tend to neglect to ASK…
  - I imagine we will be amazed at how much God wanted to do in our lives...
  - But it NEVER happened simply because we just NEVER bothered to ASK!
  - **Luke 11:9** – "Ask and it will be given to you - seek and you will find - knock and it will be opened to you."
- Because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight!
  - The reason why He gives us WHATEVER we ask for – we KEEP [present] His COMMANDS…
  - COMMANDMENTS [plural] – referring to the LAW of God…
  - As we have the LOVE of the Father – we LIVE in a way that is PLEASING to Him!
  - **John 15:7** – "If you abide in Me - and My words abide in you - you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you."
  - If Hallel asked me for money to buy school supplies – I would not hesitate…
  - But if she asked you for money to buy candy and sweats – I would not give it…
  - Not because I do not love her – but because I know not EVERYTHING is good for her!
  - In the same way if we ASK God for SELFISH things – SILENCE will be His ONLY reply...
  - But as we LIVE for Jesus – we can ASK for anything - and God WILL give it…
  - Because we are going to be asking for the things that God WANTS!
  - **Psalm 37:4** – "Delight yourself in the LORD - He will give you the desires of your heart."
  - God does not give us what we WANT – only what we NEED…
  - But God does NOT just want to provide for our NEEDS - He has a far greater plan…
  - He wants to give us His KINGDOM - bless us beyond imagination - **Luke 12:33**
  - The only reason He would NOT give us something is He knows it is NOT good for us!

o 2nd – The Command… vs. 23

- And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ…

- The COMMAND [singular] – there is only ONE command we must keep…
- That we BELIEVE [πιστεύω] – to have FAITH [verb] in the NAME of Jesus Christ…
- Jesus is His NAME – [יְהוֹשֻׁעַ] – Yahweh Shua – God is Salvation…
- Christ is His TITLE – [Χριστός] or [מָשִׁיחַ] – meaning the anointed one…
- He was ANOINTED – called – to come and DIE to save us from our SINS!
- It is the COMMAND of God that EVERY person BELIEVE in Jesus…
- Because there is NO other way to be SAVED – NO other way to get to HEAVEN!
- **Acts 4:12** – "Nor is there salvation in any other - for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

▪ And love one another - as He gave us commandment!
- When we BELIEVE [πιστεύω] in Jesus Christ – we will receive the LOVE of the Father…
- The RESULT will be – His LOVE will flow from us to others…
- Fulfilling the COMMAND that Jesus gave to the Disciples – **John 13:34**
- The church is best known today for its LOVE – instead for what it does NOT do...
- Do NOT drink - do NOT smoke – do NOT go to parties - do NOT get tattoos...
- And when the world looks at the church – ALL they see is RULES…
- Most of which the people in the church do NOT even keep...
- The world walks away from Jesus - saying who would want that!
- God does not tell us we are to be known by our RULES – by what we do NOT do…
- We are to be known by what we DO – we are to be known by our LOVE!
- **John 13:35** – "All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another."

o 3rd – The Holy Spirit… vs. 24

▪ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him - and He in him!
- The one who KEEPS [present] His COMMANDS [plural] – is ABIDING [μένω]
- Because we have the LOVE of the Father – we OBEY the LAW…
- Not because we TRY really hard – but because of WHO is in us…
- Jesus and the Father are ABIDING in us – giving us the power to live a GODLY life!
- **John 14:23** – "If anyone loves Me he will keep My word - and My Father will love him - and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

▪ And by this we know that He abides in us - by the Spirit whom He has given us!
- We KNOW [γινώσκω] that Jesus ABIDES [μένω] in us…
- Because of the HOLY Spirit that He GAVE [aorist] to us!
- If you get engaged – you give your bride to be a wedding ring as a PROMISE…
- It is the guarantee that you will for sure be back to finish what you started!
- Jesus bought and paid for us with the cross - **I Corinthians 6:20**
- And He has gave us His Holy Spirit - as a down payment...
- It is His guarantee He will be back for us to finish the work He started…
- Until then He ABIDES in us - and SEALS us with His Spirit...
- It is the same SEAL God uses to bind satan for 1000 years - **Revelation 20:3**