

- WELCOME TO -
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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GOD IS
LIGHT

WALK
LIKE JESUS

GOD
IS
LOVE

FIGHT FOR
FAITH

CHILDREN OF GOD ARE DIFFERENT

WALK IN THE TRUTH

ETERNAL LIFE IS THROUGH JESUS
ALONE

WORDS TO LIVE BY

FALL SERMON SERIES

SUPPORT THOSE ON MISSION

FIGHT FOR FAITH

GOD IS LOVE

WALK IN THE TRUTH

ETERNAL LIFE IS THROUGH
JESUS ALONE

GOD IS
LIGHT

A LOOK AT 1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN & JUDE WITH PASTOR JEREMY

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14-20

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

WORDS TO LIVE BY SERIES

1 JOHN 2 - WORDS TO LIVE BY: WALK LIKE JESUS

[illegible]

SERMON DOODLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

1 JOHN 2:1-2 - SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Welcome to week 2 in our “Words to Live By” series. Here are a few reminders as we jump into this week. First, throughout these letters John has a very clear message that he wants to get across, which means that over these 8 weeks we are going to hear some familiar things. If you are anything like me, I need daily reminders of these amazing truths because the world battles for my attention. Second, there will be more words to live by than just the phrase we covered on Sunday, so get those sticky notes out and start filling your space with words each day that are powerful and necessary in our lives.

In the passage today John continues his focus on sin and forgiveness. The desire that John has is that we would all live lives free from sin, but knowing that sin may happen from time-to-time, John wants to also remind us of what we are to do when that happens. Jesus Christ died once for all for our sins, which means the past, present, and future sins. He is at the right hand of the Father speaking on our defense. That doesn't mean he is justifying our sins, but that Jesus is declaring his death as the payment of those sins. Not only does the death and resurrection cover our sins, but it is able to cover all sins over all time. That doesn't mean everyone is saved, but that the power of what Jesus did is able to cover them all.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when you sin, do not deny it or stay stuck in it, but confess, repent, and live in your forgiveness. Your sins have been atoned for, or as I was told when I was younger that because of Jesus we are at one with him through his ATONING sacrifice. It is not because we deserve it or because we did what we needed to do, but simply because of what Jesus did for us. Take time today to confess what needs to be confessed and give praise to Jesus for being at the right hand of the Father covering us with his sacrifice.

SONG:

[“His Mercy is More”](#) - Keith & Kristyn Getty

KIDS QUESTION:

What does it mean that our sins have been atoned for? Talk with your family about what this means.

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What does it mean to be “at one” with Christ?

PRAYER:

Lord, You have made it so that I can be joined with You in eternity.
Thank you for the great gift of salvation and forgiveness through
Jesus Christ.

[illegible]

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1 JOHN 2:3-6 - WALK LIKE JESUS

Today I am reminded of a few of those games we played as kids like Simon Says or Follow the Leader. In both games we have to follow closely what the leader of the games does or says. If we don't follow directions we will be out of the game. Since each one of us wants to be involved in what is going on we try our hardest to be as faithful to the leader as possible. How did you do growing up playing these games? Were they easy for you or did you find yourself on the sidelines right away?

Our passage today expands on what John talked about last week. Last week he talked about if we walk in darkness and say we are connected to God we are a liar. He also said that if we say we have no sin we make God out to be a liar. This week it expands to what it looks like to actually follow God as our leader. The words for the week are simple, yet hard: Walk Like Jesus! John will expand on what that looks like, but he initially says that it is simple obedience to the commands of God that help us walk like Jesus. When we do that, the love of God is made complete in us.

The next question I have is how are you at following the commands of God? Some of us, when we thought about our childhood games, would admit that we were not very good at those games. Even if we wanted to be, we just couldn't seem to figure out how to reflect what the leader was doing. We may feel the same way when it comes to obeying the commands of God, but in this situation, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is given to us to help us live the lives that God desires us to live. We can live like Jesus because the Spirit of the living God is living in us. That's the great thing about all of this. It is only when we surrender and are humble that we receive forgiveness and it is in surrender and humility that we can live more like Jesus every day.

SONG:

[“The Jesus Way”](#) - Phil Wickham

KIDS QUESTION:

How well do you do when you play follow the leader?

Are you following Jesus?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What is the hardest part about being obedient, listening, or doing?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to know Your commands and then live according to them for Your glory!

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1 JOHN 2:7-11 - HATING YOUR BROTHER IS DARKNESS

If I asked you to say what the greatest commandment is, what would you say? A hint is that many would say that the 10 commandments could be split up into two sections, but are both centered around one thing? By now you may have remembered that the greatest commandment centers around love and that the ten commandments can split up into loving God and loving people. In a few weeks we will talk about how God is love and since God is love then anyone who is connected with God must love because that is what God is.

In our passage today we see that if anyone claims to be in the light or to be holy and true and yet hates his brother is once again deceived. John is saying that you cannot hate your brother and be living in the truth. John continues to say that it is clear when God is living in you, because you will love those around you and not stumble into complaining, bitterness, and gossip. John finishes up this passage by talking about how our hatred of others actually causes us to walk and stumble in the darkness. We are not walking and living the life God desires for us and so we need to be aware of how we think, feel, and speak about others. It matters and others see it as well, so as we talked about last week, we don't want to make God out to be a liar by hating others.

In our world today it is not too hard to see that hatred is running rampant. Hatred leads to even more severe actions being done by people. Fights happen because of hatred and mocking, & dishonoring things happen because of hatred, and even murder can happen because of hatred. Think of how things would be different if everyone truly loved one another? That doesn't mean everyone would agree, but at least they would be able to communicate better with one another in a respectful way. Do you hate anyone? How can you start to live in love towards them today?

SONG:

[“You Don’t Love God if You Don’t Love Your Neighbor”](#) - Rhonda Vincent

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you ever think you hate someone? How can we love everyone?

It is okay to not agree with someone, but it isn't okay to hate.

What can hate cause?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

Do you love everyone? How can you intentionally show people love

even if you don't agree with them?

PRAYER:

Lord, we confess that we don't always like everyone. Teach us to

see each person as someone created by You and extend love to

them through living Your truth!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1 JOHN 2:12-14 – THIS IS WHY I WRITE

I have heard lately that writing letters is a lost art. To be honest, I don't write letters, I just never got into the habit of writing letters or notes to people. My wife and my daughter on the other hand are really good at connecting with people in this way. My daughter keeps up with her campers from summer camp and my wife often writes encouraging notes to those she interacts with. Writing is a great way of connecting with people, sharing a message that is on your heart and encouraging them to continue doing what God has called them to do.

In our passage today we see that John shares with his audience why he writes. He writes to the people to help them know that their sins are forgiven in Jesus Christ. He writes to encourage those who believe in Jesus to keep believing. John wants to celebrate with his audience that they overcame the evil one through the word of God that lives in their hearts. I can think of no better thing to write to people than the truth of the scripture and to encourage them to continue to live in the victory that is found only in Jesus.

As I reflect on John and the people in my life who write letters and notes, it is challenging me to begin to write. I, like John, want to help people know that Jesus Christ died for their sins and that they can overcome the evil one through the truth of scripture. I want to encourage those in the faith to keep going and hold fast to the truth that they experience in the Bible. How about you? Will you bring back the art of letter writing to help others grow in their understanding of God?

SONG:

“Dwelling Place” - Mitch Wong

KIDS QUESTION:

Who can you write a note to? How do you feel when you receive a note or letter? Write one today & share Jesus' love with someone!

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

Who is the last person you wrote a letter or note to? Who could you write to about Jesus?

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for the variety of ways You give us to spread Your love and truth. Help us to use them all for Your glory this week.

[illegible]

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

1 JOHN 2:15-17 - DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

I still remember as my grandma came to the end of her life that she declared that she didn't know how people without faith in Jesus made it through that stage of life. In essence, she was saying that if you don't have an eternal perspective, it has to be difficult when the temporary is ending. My grandma came to the end of this temporary life knowing that she lived for more than just the moments. My grandma had the light of eternity in her eyes for many years, and she lived as if that was the most important thing.

John encourages us today to fix our eyes on the eternal instead of the temporary. The temporary will never fulfill, even though the world is going to tell you they will. The world tells you that the cravings you have in your flesh that are opposed to the truth of God are what you need. Why do you think so many advertisements for things men buy include attractive ladies and how fun it is to buy or do these things? The world sells a vision of fulfillment and comes up short every time, yet people fall for it all the time. Another thing the world sells is that if you can boast in your achievements or the achievements of your kids and grandkids, then your life is good. Fill their time, your time with temporary things that keep you distracted from the eternal things. Not just distracted now, but it is also a way that we train and pass on priorities to the next generation. John wants us to know that all those temporary things will pass away, but what matters most is to do the will of the Father and live forever. In the end our achievements, our wealth, our position on this earth will mean nothing. The only thing that will matter is our relationship with Jesus Christ and living according to His truth. What are you living for today?

SONG:

"Jesus My Everything" - Common Gathering

KIDS QUESTION:

What does it mean to “fix your eyes upon the eternal”? Where is your focus? Is God a priority in your life?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What takes top priority on your calendar of events? Where does time with God come on your priority list?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to keep the eternal always at the top of our list.

[illegible]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1 JOHN 2:18-29 - BEWARE THE ANTI-CHRIST

Have you ever met someone who is anti-Christ? How did you know that they were anti-Christ? I remember going to evangelism conferences with our youth group. Each year there would be stories that were under the category PU for Persecution University. Many of these stories would include a teen trying to engage with someone they met and being ignored or shut down. Some of them that happened while we collected food for food pantries would end with slammed doors in our faces. We can only assume that if someone slams a door in your face when you mention Jesus that they are anti-Christ.

John tells us today about those who are anti-Christ. Some were people from their own group that left them and started doing their own things. Possibly went back to acting like the world which John just mentioned. The next clear representation that John talks about are those who deny that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. If they do not believe in Jesus, then again it is clear that they are anti-Christ. Not only will these anti-Christ be unbelievers, but they will desire to draw the believers away from Jesus. In the simplest way this happens when unbelievers encourage believers to do something that God tells them not to do. This happens far too often in our world and if we are honest, it happens in our lives as well.

Can you think of a time when someone who was not close to Jesus encouraged you to a certain behavior or activity? How did you respond when they encouraged you to do that? It doesn't have to be a person who is blatantly anti-Christ either. It can be someone who sits in the pew with you at church who encourages you to do something God does not desire for you to do. Just like there were anti-Christ in the church in the first century, there are anti-Christ in our churches today as well trying to lead others astray and to the lusts, desires, and boasts of this world. Beware the anti-Christ!

SONG:

“Yield Not To Temptation” - Olive Tree Hymns

KIDS QUESTION:

Has anyone ever tried to convince you to do something that you know God would not want you to do? How did you respond?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

Share a time when you were led astray to do something that God did not want you to do.

PRAYER:

Lord, give us eyes to see the truth and strength to deny the enemy when he comes to tempt us away from You.

[illegible]