

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 19

TITLE: HOW TO SEE GOD!

TEXT: I JOHN 4:12-16

INTRODUCTION: (1) DR. G CAMPBELL MORGAN, FAMOUS BRITISH PREACHER, HAD FIVE SONS, ALL OF WHOM BECAME MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

* ONE DAY A VISITOR IN THEIR HOME DARED TO ASK A PERSONAL QUESTION WHICH WAS: WHICH OF YOU SIX IS THE BEST PREACHER?

** THEIR UNITED ANSWER WAS VERY SURPRISING, FOR THEY ALL SAID: "MOTHER!"

*** NOW YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, MRS. MORGAN HAD NEVER PREACHED A FORMAL SERMON IN ANY CHURCH.

**** BUT HER LIFE, THE WAY SHE LIVED WAS A CONSTANT SERMON OF THE LOVE OF GOD.

(2) YOU COULD SEE GOD BY THE WAY SHE LIVED A LIFE OF LOVING OTHERS.

* NOW THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED WITH THAT SAID, HOW DO PEOPLE SEE GOD IN OUR WORLD TODAY?

** WELL, WE CAN ANSWER FROM SCRIPTURE IN SEVERAL WAYS.

*** NO. 1 WE SEE GOD THROUGH CREATION. IN OTHER WORDS THE DETAIL, THE DESIGN, THE ORDER, THE MAJESTY OF CREATION GIVES WITNESS TO A DIVINE CREATOR WHO IS ALL MIGHTY. (QUOTE PS. 19:1 AND ROMANS 1:19&20).

**** NOW CREATION DECLARES, IS A GREAT TESTIMONY TO GOD'S EXISTENCE AND CERTAINLY GOD'S HANDIWORK IS PUT ON DISPLAY IN CREATION THAT WE SEE HIM THROUGH THIS POWERFUL WITNESS OF HIS EXISTENCE.

(3) NO. 2 WE SEE GOD MANIFEST IN CONSCIENCE. FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING BORN INTO OUR WORLD HAS A BUILT IN SENSE OF RIGHT OR WRONG THAT ACTIVATES GUILT.

* THE LAW OF GOD IS WRITTEN IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE, FOR ROMANS 2:12&15 SAYS:

V. 12 – FOR ALL WHO HAVE SINNED WITHOUT THE LAW WILL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT THE LAW, AND ALL WHO

HAVE SINNED UNDER THE LAW WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW.

V. 15 – IN THAT THEY SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE BEARING WITNESS AND THEIR THOUGHTS ALTERNATELY ACCUSING OR ELSE DEFENDING THEM.

** NOW OBVIOUSLY WHEN A PERSON IGNORES THEIR CONSCIENCE, IN TIME THEIR CONSCIENCE IS DESENSITIZED AND EVENTUALLY SILENCED, AND WE SEE THAT IN OUR SOCIETY AS MANY PEOPLE HAVE SEARED THEIR CONSCIENCE WITH A HOT IRON THAT COMMUNICATES THEIR CONSCIENCE HAS BEEN CAUTERIZED, THEY DON'T FEEL ANYTHING. AND THIS IS MANIFEST THROUGH HORRIFIC THINGS THAT THEY DO. BUT THEY WERE BORN WITH A CONSCIENCE, THAT OBVIOUSLY HAS BEEN SILENCED.

*** AND GOD IS CERTAINLY SEEN THROUGH GIVING PEOPLE CONSCIENCES THAT INITIALLY COMMUNICATE THAT SINS LIKE MURDER, STEALING, LYING, ADULTERY AND HOMOSEXUALITY ARE WRONG AND NOT NATURAL AND RIGHT.

**** BUT MOVING ON A THIRD WAY WE SEE GOD IS THROUGH THE REVELATION OF HIS WORD, THE BIBLE, THE PERFECT WORD OF GOD.

(4) AND IN THE BIBLE GOD AND ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES ARE CLEARLY REVEALED.

* GOD IS REVEALED AS HOLY, SOVEREIGN, ALL KNOWING, ALL POWERFUL, AS ETERNAL GOD, AS CREATOR GOD, SUSTAINER GOD AND SAVIOR GOD, FOR GOD SAVES SINNERS.

** AND GOD IS SEEN IN WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE IN HOLY SCRIPTURE.

*** NOW WITH THAT SAID, GOD IS SEEN IN CREATION, CONSCIENCE AND IN REVELATION, SPEAKING OF GOD'S WORD.

**** BUT THERE IS A FOURTH WAY THAT WE SEE GOD IN OUR WORLD TODAY THAT IS BROUGHT FORTH IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

(5) AND THAT IS THROUGH TRUE BELIEVERS LOVING ONE ANOTHER, THE SOCIAL TEST OF ASSURANCE IN I JOHN.

* FOR WE WILL SEE IN I JOHN 4:12 THAT THE GOD WHO IS UNSEEN IN HIS SPIRITUAL STATE REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH THE VISIBLE LOVE OF TRUE BELIEVERS.

** IT IS TO SAY, CHRISTIAN LOVE REVEALS THE UNSEEN GOD. JOHN IS SAYING IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, OTHERS WILL SEE CHRIST IN US.

*** AND OF COURSE, JESUS MADE THIS VERY CLEAR IN HIS UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE IN THE FAMILIAR WORDS OF JOHN 13:34&35 (QUOTE THEM).

**** AND JOHN, THE BELOVED DISCIPLE, THE APOSTLE OF LOVE, CLEARLY AFFIRMS THIS GREAT TRUTH AGAIN IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

(6) AND BELOVED, THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT PLATFORMS FOR EVANGELIZING TODAY, LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE THAT THE WORLD DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT SEES THE ACTIONS OF AGAPE SACRIFICIAL, UNCONDITIONAL, UNDESERVED LOVE, WHICH IN SOME CASES GIVES US THE OPEN DOOR TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, TO EVANGELIZE THE LOST.

* FOR FEWER AND FEWER PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCHES, FEWER AND FEWER PEOPLE WILL LISTEN TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD, AND FEWER PEOPLE ARE READING THE BIBLE IN OUR NATION.

** SO THE PLATFORM OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS PUT GOD ON DISPLAY AND GOD IS SEEN IN THIS SACRIFICIAL ACTION.

*** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "HOW TO SEE GOD!" EXCLAMATION POINT.

**** AND AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH I JOHN 4:12-16 WE'LL LOOK AT 4 MAIN POINTS UNDER THIS THEME.

(7) NO. 1 THE DISPLAY OF GOD'S LOVE, V. 12; NO. 2 THE DEPOSIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH ENABLES US TO LOVE, V. 13; NO. 3 THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE, V. 14; AND NO. 4 THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE IN CONFESSING CHRIST AND IN THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS LOVE, VV. 15&16.

* AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS TO HANG YOUR THOUGHTS ON, LOOK AT V. 12 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE DISPLAY OF GOD'S LOVE. LOOK AT I JOHN 4:12 PLEASE.

I. THE DISPLAY, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW JOHN BEGINS IN V. 12 BY MAKING THE STATEMENT OF FACT THAT NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME.

* MEANING, NO LIVING HUMAN BEING HAS SEEN GOD IN HIS SPIRIT BEING, IN HIS ETERNAL BEING AND GLORIFIED STATE, AND LIVED.

** WE WOULD DIE INSTANTANEOUSLY IF GOD DID NOT VEIL HIMSELF AS HE DID WITH MOSES BY THE CLEFT OF THE ROCK, FOR SEEING GOD IN HIS BRILLIANT LIGHT AND GLORIOUS HOLY PURE BEING WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR A HUMAN BEING TO HANDLE, PLUS GOD IS SPIRIT. QUOTE JOHN 4:24.

*** THEN IN I TIMOTHY IN THE GREAT DOXOLOGY OF I TIMOTHY 1:17 IT SAYS: “NOW TO THE KING ETERNAL, IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, THE ONLY GOD, BE HONOR AND GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.”

**** AND THEN AT THE END OF I TIMOTHY IT SAYS IN 6:16 – “WHO ALONE POSSESSES IMMORTALITY AND DWELLS IN UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT, WHOM NO MAN HAS SEEN OR CAN SEE. TO HIM BE HONOR AND ETERNAL DOMINION! AMEN.”

1. AND THEN JOHN HIMSELF WOULD SAY IN HIS GOSPEL IN JOHN 1:18, THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM).

* NOW THE SON HERE IS JESUS CHRIST. AND JESUS CHRIST IN HIS INCARNATION OR ADVENT TO EARTH AS THE GOD-MAN REVEALS GOD.

** IT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, THAT GOD IS REVEALED, COLOSSIANS 1:15.

*** AND JESUS EXPLAINS, DECLARES AND REVEALS GOD, AS GOD INCARNATE MAKES GOD KNOWN.

**** NOW WITH ALL OF THAT SAID, WE GO BACK TO THE TRUTH THAT NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD IN HIS GLORIOUS ETERNAL BEING AT ANY TIME.

2. WHICH LEADS TO THE QUESTION, WHY WOULD JOHN INSERT THIS TRUTH, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS TREATMENT OF THE TRUTH TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

* WAS JOHN JUST PULLING THIS OUT OF THE AIR AND MAKING ANOTHER POINT IN THE MIDST OF HIS ADMONITIONS TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

** OR IS THERE A CONNECTION OR A LINK?

*** WELL, THERE IS, IT'S THE APPLICATION THAT THE UNSEEN GOD IS MADE VISIBLE, IS SEEN THROUGH HIS PEOPLE LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

**** THE GOD WHO IS LOVE IS SEEN THROUGH OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

3. THE UNSEEN GOD, WHO ONCE REVEALED HIMSELF IN HIS SON, NOW REVEALS HIMSELF IN HIS PEOPLE WHEN THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

* BELOVED, WHEN WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD IS PUT ON DISPLAY, GOD IS SEEN, FOR GOD IS LOVE, VV. 8 & 16 IN I JOHN 4.

** THE UNSEEN GOD THUS REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF LOVE THAT ARE VISIBLE IN HIS PEOPLE, WE DEMONSTRATE WHO GOD IS IN REAL TANGIBLE UNDESERVED ACTS AND ACTIONS OF AGAPE LOVE WHICH IS THE WAY THAT GOD LOVES.

*** FOR GO BACK TO V. 12 PLEASE, NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD AT ANYTIME, IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, WHAT DOES IT SHOW? NO. 1 THAT "GOD ABIDES IN US."

**** MEANING GOD DWELLS IN US, GOD IS PRESENT IN US, AND OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS AN EVIDENCE OF GOD'S INDWELLING PRESENCE, THAT WE ARE TRUE BELIEVERS, SO WE AGAIN CAN KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

4. BUT ALSO LOVING ONE ANOTHER SHOWS SOMETHING ELSE, A SECOND THING, "THAT GOD'S LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US."

* AND THE VERB PERFECTED IN THE GREEK LIT. MEANS TO BRING TO COMPLETION, TO ACCOMPLISH, TO FINISH SOMETHING.

** THEREFORE WE MANIFEST THE CHARACTER OF GOD, WHO IS LOVE, BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER, GOD'S LOVE IN US COMES TO RIPENESS, TO FULLNESS, TO FRUITFULNESS IN US.

*** LOVE HAS GROWN, IT HAS MATURED AND IT BEARS FRUIT, THE FRUIT OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

**** AND IN ESSENCE, JOHN IS SAYING THAT IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, OTHERS WILL SEE GOD IN US. THEY WILL SEE GOD'S LOVE BROUGHT TO RIPE FRUITION IN US BECAUSE GOD HAS CHOSEN TO REVEAL HIS LOVE IN AND THROUGH THOSE WHOM HE HAS REDEEMED, SAVED, COME IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO HIM.

5. AND JOEL BEEKE HAS SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE WORKING THROUGH US IN HIS COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN FROM WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE.

* HE SAID: "IN ONE SENSE, GOD'S LOVE IS UNFINISHED UNTIL IT RADIATES FROM HIS CHILDREN. HIS LOVE IS BROUGHT TO FULLNESS 'IN US', OR PERHAPS MORE

ACCURATELY HERE 'AMONG US'. THINK OF A CIRCLE. IF YOU BREAK THE CIRCLE, IT IS INCOMPLETE. A COMPLETED CIRCLE IS USEFUL FOR MANY THINGS, WHEREAS AN INCOMPLETE CIRCLE IS GOOD FOR NOTHING.

** GOD AND HIS CHILDREN ARE A CIRCLE OF LOVE. IF CHRISTIANS DO NOT LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD'S LOVE REMAINS, IN A SENSE, UNFINISHED. THE WORLD LOOKS AT UNLOVING CHRISTIANS AND DOES NOT SEE ANYTHING ATTRACTIVE ABOUT BELIEVING IN GOD. WHAT IT SEES IS INCOMPLETE. BUT WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTS GOD'S PEOPLE TO GROW IN THE GRACE OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER, GOD'S LOVE IS BROUGHT TO COMPLETION. (END QUOTE)

*** NOW UNDERSTAND GOD'S LOVE IS COMPLETE IN ITS PURPOSE IN MISSION IN SENDING CHRIST TO BE THE PROPITIATION, THE SATISFACTION, THE APPEASEMENT FOR HIS PEOPLE'S SIN, I JOHN 4:10&11.

**** BUT IT IS ONLY INCOMPLETE IN THE SENSE, THAT HIS LOVE IS NOT SEEN, IS BLURRED BY A CHRISTIAN'S DISOBEDIENCE IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

6. AND IF THAT DISOBEDIENCE IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS THE NORM, THE PATTERN, THE FRUIT OF A PERSON'S LIFE, JOHN HAS BEEN SAYING THAT PERSON IS NOT A TRUE BELIEVER, I JOHN 4:7&8. (QUOTE THEM).

* HOWEVER, AS TRUE BELIEVERS LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR NEIGHBORS, GOD'S LOVE IS PUT ON DISPLAY IN ITS FULLNESS.

** AND THAT IS THE DISPLAY OF LOVE IN V. 12, WHICH I NEED TO GET INTO GEAR TO FINISH OUR TEXT TODAY. SO LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE DEPOSIT OF GOD'S LOVE.

II. THE DEPOSIT, (READ V. 13)

A. NOW IN THE BEGINNING PHRASE OF V. 13, "BY THIS WE KNOW," OR "HEREBY WE KNOW," OR "WE KNOW THAT," DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE TAKE US BACK TO THE PRECEDING CONTEXT.

* AND IN THE CONTEXT OF I JOHN 4:7 TO THE END OF THE CHAPTER, JOHN COMMUNICATES TO US THAT IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD LIVES IN US, HE ABIDES IN US, AND WE ARE IN HIM.

** 6 TIMES IN OUR TEXT TODAY JOHN USES THE WORDS ABIDE OR ABIDES TO TALK ABOUT A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

*** THEREFORE JOHN'S DISCUSSION IS A THEME OF LOVE THAT SHOWS RELATIONSHIP IN CHAPTER 4, WHICH THE WORD LOVE AND LOVES AND LOVED ARE USED 27 TIMES IN THIS CHAPTER ALONE.

**** LOVE THEN IS THE BACKDROP OF CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE OF KNOWING CHRIST.

1. SO GO BACK TO V. 13, SO BY THIS, BY LOVE AND LOVING ONE ANOTHER WE KNOW, A KEY WORD USED IN JOHN 36 TIMES, WE KNOW THAT WE ABIDE IN GOD AND HE IS US, BECAUSE, BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US (BELIEVERS) HIS SPIRIT SPEAKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

* NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S DEPOSIT IN US, THE DOWN PAYMENT THAT OUR BODIES WILL BE REDEEMED ONE DAY, MADE NEW, THAT GOD HAS SEALED THE DEAL, QUOTE EPHESIANS 1:13&14.

** NOW EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN HIM OR HER, WHICH HAPPENS AT SALVATION.

*** AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, ROMANS 8:16.

**** AND HE GIVES US THE SUPERNATURAL CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH SACRIFICIAL LOVE WHICH IS BEYOND NATURAL HUMAN LOVE, QUOTE ROMANS 5:5 AND GALATIANS 5:22.

2. THEREFORE THE DEPOSIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US AND THE FRUIT THAT FOLLOWS AS WE WALK IN HIM, GIVES EVIDENCE SO THAT WE KNOW WE ARE IN CHRIST AND HE IN US THROUGH HIS SPIRIT. AND THE EVIDENCE OF THAT IS LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

* NOW WITH THAT SAID, WE ARE TO DISPLAY GOD'S LOVE BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER, WE HAVE THE DEPOSIT OF GOD THAT ENABLES US TO KNOW WE ARE THE LORD'S AND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHICH LEADS US TO THE DEMONSTRATION AND REMINDER OF THE REALITY OF GOD'S LOVE, THE ACTION OF GOD'S LOVE.

** SO LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 3'D POINT TODAY, THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE.

III. THE DEMONSTRATION, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY JOHN THAT THE DISPLAY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMAN BEINGS IS THAT GOD HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM, I JOHN 4:9, WHAT WE STUDIED LAST SUNDAY.

* NOW HERE IN V. 14, JOHN REMINDS THE BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR OF GOD'S ACTION OF LOVE AGAIN, TO MOTIVATE US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND TO BE WITNESSES OF THAT LOVE.

** SO JOHN BEGINS IN V. 14 BY SAYING WE HAVE SEEN. AND THE "WE" HERE WOULD BE JOHN AND OTHERS LIKE THE APOSTLES WHOM ACTUALLY WERE EYEWITNESSES OF JESUS CHRIST.

*** AND THEY SAW AND LIVED WITH THE MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND SAW THE RESURRECTED CHRIST, AND THEIR LIVES AFTER BASICALLY WERE LIVED IN TESTIFYING, I.E. WITNESSING TO THE FACT THAT GOD THE FATHER HAS SENT GOD THE SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, OF ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.

**** JOHN AND THE APOSTLES WERE WITNESSES THROUGH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ALL THE WORLD.

1. AND A FOOTNOTE HERE. THE WORD TESTIFY IN V. 14 IS FROM THE GREEK WORD MARTUS USED IN ACTS 1:8 TRANSLATED WITNESSES (QUOTE IT).

* AND MARTUS CAME TO MEAN MARTYRS BECAUSE MANY CHRISTIANS SEALED THEIR WITNESS TO CHRIST WITH THEIR BLOOD. THEY DIED FOR THEIR WITNESS.

** AND AS THE 2'D CENTURY THEOLOGIAN TERTULLIAN SAID: "THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS BECAME THE SEED OF THE CHURCH."

*** AND MANY WERE DRAWN TO FAITH IN CHRIST BY OBSERVING HOW CALMLY AND JOYOUSLY CHRISTIANS MET THEIR DEATH WITNESSING AND TESTIFYING OF THE GOSPEL WHICH STILL HAPPENS A LOT AROUND THE WORLD TODAY IN OTHER CULTURES AND COUNTRIES.

**** BUT GET THIS. THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH TRUE CHRISTIANS DO NOT EVEN CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO BE WITNESSES. THEY ARE WITNESSES AND THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW EFFECTIVE THEIR WITNESS IS.

2. AND AS WE WITNESS TO THE TRUTH IN LOVE AND WITH A HOLY BOLDNESS, AS WE LIVE LOVE AND COMMUNICATE GOD'S LOVE IN SENDING HIS SON TO BE THE SAVIOR, CERTAINLY OUR WITNESS GLORIFIES GOD, AND GOD WILL SOVEREIGNLY GIVE THE INCREASE. SO WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS,

THE WORLD, TO GO INTO ALL THE WORLD TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, THE GOOD NEWS.

* AND AS WE WITNESS BY LIFE AND LIP AND DECLARE THE GOSPEL AS WITNESSES, WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT GOD WILL SAVE SINNERS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

** THE WORK OF SALVATION THEN IS WORLDWIDE IN SCOPE. GOD SAVES SINNERS FROM EVERY NATION, GENTILES AND JEWS, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.

*** AND WHO EMPOWERS US TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL AND SEND OTHERS? THE HOLY SPIRIT GOING BACK TO V. 13. BUT ALSO NOTICE IN V. 14, WE SEE THE FATHER AND SON ARE COMMUNICATED.

**** THEREFORE THE TRINITY, THE TRIUNE GOD IS INVOLVED IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND IT UNDERSCORES THE TRINITARIAN ORIGINS OF LOVE.

3. AND SUCH LOVE IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE WORK OF EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY. THE FATHER SENDS THE SON IN LOVE FOR THE WORLD, THE SON DIES IN LOVE IN OBEYING HIS FATHER AND LOVING HIS PEOPLE HE WILL SAVE, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DRAWS PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND QUICKENS THEM FROM THE DEAD TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS, WHO ENABLES THOSE PEOPLE THROUGH NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION TO HAVE A NEW NATURE WHICH LOVES THE BRETHREN.

* SO THIS IS ALL INTERCONNECTED IN THE WORK OF THE ONE WHO IS THEY, THE GODHEAD, THE TRINITY, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, PRAISE BE TO OUR GREAT GOD.

** SO IN V. 14, WE SEE THE DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE, THE FATHER SENT THIS SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

*** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE DECLARATION OF LOVE. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

IV. THE DECLARATION, (READ V. 15)

A. NOW WHO ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD JESUS HAS COME TO SAVE?

* THEY ARE THE ONES WHO CONFESS THE DIVINE SONSHIP OF JESUS.

** AND A TRUE BELIEVER CONFESSES THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR, THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHICH COMMUNICATES BOTH HIS HUMANITY AND DEITY.

*** AND IT IS NOT JUST A SURFACE CONFESSION THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, A MERE INTELLECTUAL ASSENT, BUT A CONFESSION THAT INVOLVES THE

COMMITMENT OF ONE'S PERSON TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**** FOR THIS CONFESSION COMES FROM THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, FOR JOHN HERE IN THE BEGINNING OF THE CHAPTER SAID IN I JOHN 4:2: (QUOTE IT).

1. AND TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN A DEMON SPIRIT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES THAT JESUS IS GOD INCARNATE IN HUMAN FLESH.

* AND THEN PAUL SAYS IN I CORINTHIANS 12:3 – THEREFORE I MAKE KNOWN TO YOU THAT NO ONE SPEAKING BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD SAYS, “JESUS IS ACCURSED”; AND NO ONE CAN SAY, “JESUS IS LORD,” EXCEPT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

** AND WHAT A PERSON BELIEVES AND SAYS AND HOW THEY LIVE IS A TEST WHETHER HE SPEAKS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT OR NOT.

*** SO WHAT DOES A PERSON CONFESS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST THAT ASSURES THAT CHRIST LIVES IN THEM AND THEY IN CHRIST?

**** THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, AND SPECIFICALLY IN ROMANS 10:9, 10, 11 AND 13 (QUOTE THEM).

2. NOW WITH THOSE TEXTS BEFORE US, AS WE GO BACK TO OUR TEXT IN I JOHN 4:15 PROPER CONFESSION OF CHRIST GIVES EVIDENCE THAT YOU CAN KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, FOR BELIEVERS CONFESS CHRIST BY LIP AND LIFE AND CONFESS CHRIST BEFORE OTHERS, FOR MATTHEW 10:32 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

* SO TRUE BELIEVERS CONFESS JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD AND LORD, AND PROFESS THEIR FAITH TO OTHERS, THEY PROFESS THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THIS DECLARATION CONTINUES IN V. 16, OUR LAST VERSE FOR TODAY. LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 16. NOW WITH V. 15 BEFORE US, AS WE BELIEVINGLY OR SAVINGLY CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, WE COME TO KNOW AND BELIEVE THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US.

* AND IT IS NOT THAT GOD BEGINS TO LOVE US ONLY WHEN WE CONFESS HIS SON, FOR IT IS HIS PRIOR LOVE FOR US, FORELOVING US THAT ENABLES US TO BELIEVE IN HIS SON AND CONFESS HIM AS SAVIOR AND LORD.

** BUT WHEN WE CONFESS JESUS CHRIST WE COME TO KNOW THAT LOVE IN OUR HEARTS.

*** AND IN V. 16, JOHN LINKS THE THEMES OF BELIEVING AND LOVING.

**** FOR WHEN THERE IS GENUINE SAVING FAITH THAT RESTS ON CHRIST ALONE FOR SALVATION, LOVE WILL AND MUST BE PRESENT, FOR GOD IS LOVE, IT IS WHO GOD IS.

1. AND IF GOD ABIDES IN US, AND HE IS LOVE, THEN HIS INDWELLING PRESENCE WILL CONVEY ITSELF IN A LOVING LIFESTYLE FOR ONE ANOTHER, WHERE SELF-INTEREST IS BEING REPLACED BY SELF-SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS.

* AND AS WE GROW IN SANCTIFICATION, WE GROW IN LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, AND WE TESTIFY AND WITNESS OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE IN THE GOSPEL. AND GOD IS SEEN IN OUR WORLD.

** AND THE WORLD NEEDS A SAVIOR, AND OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS ONE WAY THAT TESTIFIES OF THAT SAVIOR WHO CAME TO TAKE AWAY HIS PEOPLE'S SINS.

*** AND WHEN WE LIVE IN LOVE, IT SHOWS, IT GIVES TESTIMONY AND SHOULD ASSURE US THAT GOD ABIDES IN US, LIVES IN US AND WE IN HIM, THE END OF V. 16.

IN WRAP UP: (1) IN OUR WORLD MANY PEOPLE ARE TWO OR THREE GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM ANYTHING CHRISTIAN.

* CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP WITHOUT LEARNING ABOUT JESUS.

** THE BIBLE REMAINS CLOSED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE MANY CHURCHES AND HOMES.

*** MANY PEOPLE DO NOT READ THE BIBLE OR HEAR THE PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD.

**** SO FOR MANY, THEY WILL LEARN ABOUT CHRIST BY SEEING HIM IN CHRISTIANS, WHICH MUST LEAD US TO THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL, I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT EVANGELISM CAN BE DONE WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD, IT CANNOT.

(2) WE MUST PROCLAIM THE BAD NEWS OF SIN AND THE GOOD NEWS OF THE SAVIOR AND CALL PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

* BUT A POWERFUL WAY TO OPEN DOORS FOR THAT PROCLAMATION IS LIVES THAT HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND MANIFEST IT BY SACRIFICIAL, UNSELFISH, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, LIKE GOD'S AGAPE LOVE.

** SO LIVING THE LIFE, LIFE AND LIP MUST BE CONNECTED TOGETHER.

*** AND JESUS CHRIST WILL BE SEEN, AND OUR REDEEMED LIVES WILL GIVE TESTIMONY TO THE REDEEMER. AS PAUL SAID TO THE CORINTHIANS IN II CORINTHIANS 3:2: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 2:15 AND MATTHEW 5:14-16.

**** AND THE GOOD WORK OF LOVE IS A FRUIT OF TRULY KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

(3) AND ONE OF GOD'S PURPOSES FOR HIS REDEEMED IS THAT HIS GLORY WILL RADIATE FROM THE LIVES AND LIFESTYLES OF HIS PEOPLE.

* SO WHEN WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH CALVARY LOVE, GOD'S LOVE TRULY ABIDES IN US AND HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US.

** THEREFORE THE CHURCH SCATTERED IS THE WORLD'S WINDOW TO CHRIST.

*** SO IN APPLICATION, WHAT DOES THE WORLD AROUND YOU SEE OF THE GLORY OF GOD?

**** DO WE RADIATE TO THE WORLD THAT GOD IS LOVE? DO WE RADIATE HE IS HOLY BY OUR LIVES?

(4) DO YOU TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR?

* ONE TEST IS LOVE. IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE IT, CRY OUT IN REPENTANT FAITH AND ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS TODAY.

** AND IF YOU LIVE LOVE AND ARE GROWING IN LOVE, REMEMBER, GOD WILL BE SEEN IN OUR WORLD TODAY THROUGH YOU.

*** LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS ONE WAY, NOT THE ONLY WAY, BUT ONE WAY FOR PEOPLE TO SEE GOD. AND AS THEY SEE GOD, GIVE THEM THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD IN THE GOSPEL. (LET'S PRAY)