

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: The Love God Hate's 4
Mike Teel, Pastor

FOCAL PASSAGE: I John 2:12-17

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

WE ARE TO NOT LOVE THE WORLD . . . BECAUSE OF WHAT THE WORLD IS.

WE ARE TO NOT LOVE THE WORLD . . . BECAUSE OF WHAT IT DOES TO US.

WE ARE TO NOT LOVE THE WORLD . . . BECAUSE OF WHAT A _____ IS.

I John 2:12-14

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1. A CHRISTIAN IS _____ OF GOD

--To begin with, “dear Children”(v. 12) refers to all believers. The word “children” literally means “born ones or of the same womb.” All Christians have been born into the God’s family through their faith in Jesus Christ, and their sins have been forgiven.

John 3:1-21

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” (CAME TO THE RIGHT PERSON)

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” (ASKED THE RIGHT QUESTION)

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. (RECEIVED THE RIGHT ANSWER)

--The very fact that one is in God’s family, sharing His nature, ought to discourage us from becoming friendly with the world.

--To be friendly with the world is to become an enemy of God.

James 4:4

⁴ You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

--A Christian is one who has been born of God.

2. A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO IS GROWING _____

1 John 2:12-14

¹² *I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.* ¹³ *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.* ¹⁴ *I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

--Notice the progression in John's statement. We begin as dear children – born ones – but we must not stay that way. When a Christian grows spiritually, he has the tools to overcome the world.

--John mentions three kinds of Christians in a local church family:

a. "FATHERS / ADULTS" -- 1 John 2:13a ... *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.*

--These are mature believers who have an intimate personal knowledge of God. Because they know God, they know the dangers of the world. No Christian who has experienced the joys and wonders of authentic fellowship with God, and of service for God, will want to live on the substitute pleasures this world offers.

b. "YOUNG MEN / MATURING" -- 1 John 2:13b ... *I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.*

--These are the conquerors: they have overcome the wicked one, Satan, who is the prince of this world system. How did they overcome him? Through the Word of God!

1 John 2:14c

^{14c} *I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

--Note the example of how Jesus overcame the three tools of temptation to worldliness that Satan uses against us.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* ² *After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* ³ *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."* (THE LUST OF THE FLESH) ⁴ *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that*

comes from the mouth of God.”⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” (THE LUST OF THE EYES)⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” (THE PRIDE OF LIFE)¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

--These young men are not fully mature, but they are maturing.

c. **“DEAR CHILDREN / IMMATURE” are different than “young men” 1 John 2:14a ... I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.**

--The word for “dear children” carries the idea of “immature ones,” or little children still under the authority of teachers and tutors. These are young Christians who not yet grown up in Christ. Like physical children, they know their father but they still have some growing to do.

--Here, then, is the Christian family! All are “born ones,” but some of them have grown out of infancy into spiritual adulthood. It is the growing, maturing Christian to whom the world does not appeal.

--A maturing Christian stays away from the world because of what the world is (a Satanic system that hates and opposes Christ), because what the world does to us (attracts us to live on sinful substitutes), and because of what he (the Christian) is – a son of God.

--Where are you this morning in your spiritual growth? Are you a dear child or young adult or even a father? Remember fathers reproduce!

WE ARE NOT TO LOVE THE WORLD . . . BECAUSE OF WHERE THE WORLD IS _____.

1 John 2:17

¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away,

--This world is NOT permanent! The only sure thing about this world system is that it is not going to be here forever. One day the system will be gone, and the pleasant attractions within it will be gone: all are passing away.

1. WHAT IS GOING TO _____?

--Only what is part of the will of God! Authentic mature Spiritual Christians keep themselves “loosely attached” to this world because they live for something far better. They are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (**Hebrews 11:13**) In the Bible times, many believers live in tents because God did not want them to settle down and feel at home in this world.

2. TWO _____ OF LIFE CONTRASTED

--John is contrasting two ways of life: a life lived for eternity and a life lived for time. A worldly person lives for pleasures of the flesh, but a dedicated Christian lives for the joys of the Spirit. A worldly believer lives for what he can see, the lust of the eyes; but the spiritual believer lives for the unseen realities of God.

II Corinthian 4:8-18

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³ It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

--A worldly minded person lives for the pride of life, the vainglory that appeals to men; but a Christian who does the will of God lives for God's approval – and he abides forever!

3. HISTORY SUPPORTS THE WORLD'S _____

--Every great nation in history has become self-indulgent and in moral decline and has finally been conquered by another nation. There is no reason why we should suppose that our nation will be an exception. Some 19 world civilizations, in the past, have slipped into oblivion. Again there is no reason to think that our present civilization will endure forever.

--We are told here in verse 17 that Christians who dedicate themselves to doing God's Will—to obeying God—**“live (remain) forever.”** Long after this world system, with its vaunted culture, its proud philosophies, its egocentric intellectualism, and its godless materialism, had been forgotten, and long after this planet has been replaced by the new heavens and the new earth, faithful servants will remain—sharing the glory of God for all eternity.

4. WHAT THE _____ SAYS ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD

1 John 2:17

¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

a. _____ THE WILL OF GOD

--One of the “fringe benefits” of salvation is the privilege of knowing God's Will.

Acts 22:14

¹⁴ “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.’

--In fact God wants us to be **“filled with the knowledge of His will”** (Colossians 1:9).

--The will of God is not something we consult occasionally like an encyclopedia. It is something that completely controls (or should) our lives. The issue for authentic dedicated Christians is not simply, “Is it right or wrong? Or Is it good or bad?” but “Is it the will of God for me?”

b. GOD WANTS US TO _____ HIS WILL

Ephesians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Psalms 103:7

⁷ He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel.

--Israel knew what God was doing, but Moses knew why He was doing it. It is important we understand God's will for our lives and see the purpose He is fulfilling.

c. _____ **GOD'S WILL**

--After we know the Will of God, we should do it from the heart.

Ephesian 6:6

⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

--It is not by talking about the Lord's will that we please Him, but by doing what He tells us.

Matthew 7:21

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

--Realize, the more we obey God, the better we are to find and follow God's will.

Romans 12:2

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

--More we obey God, the more successful we become in knowing what He wants us to do. God's goal for us is that we will **"stand . . . complete in all the will of God"** (**Colossians 4:12**). This means to be mature in God's Will. Little children ask what is right or wrong or what their parents want them to do – but as they mature they learn what their parents expect.

d. _____ **THE WILL OF GOD**

--How do we discover the will of God?

SURRENDER – It begins with surrendering yourself to God.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer (PRESENT) your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve (BY EXPERIENCE) what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

--A Christian who loves the world will never know the will of God in this way. God's will is not something we get to choose what we want to do and ignore other. We must be fully obedient to His Will through personal surrender.

WORD – God reveals His will to us through His Word.

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

--A worldly believer has no appetite for the Bible. When he reads it, he gets little out of it because it is Spiritually revealed. Remember how Jesus defeated the devil in the wilderness? Why it is important to have a quiet time and spend time in God's word each day?

CIRCUMSTANCE – We may also learn God's will through circumstances.

--God moves in wonderful ways to open and close doors. When relying on circumstances we must rely on the Word and test every inclination of our heart to make sure it is indeed God's Will. Judges 6, Gideon fleecing the Lord.

PRAYER – Finally, God leads us into His will through prayer and the working of His Holy Spirit in our hearts.

--As we pray about a decision, the Spirit speaks to us in an "inner voice" that will line up with His Word and circumstances. Always test the "inner voice" by the Bible for it is possible for the flesh to use circumstances—or "feelings"—to lead us completely astray. Lastly anything that robs a Christian of his enjoyment of the Father's love, or of his desire to do the Father's will, is worldly and must be avoided.

**LOVE FOR THE WORLD IS THE LOVE THAT GOD HATES.
IT IS A LOVE CHRISTIANS MUST SHUN AT ALL COSTS.**

LIVE IT OUT

What tactic or tool is Satan using to draw you into the world?

How important is God's will to you?

Are you following God's will this morning?