

A FATHER’S FINAL WORDS ARE USUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS. HOW DOES JOHN’S ENDING SUMMARIZE THE BOOK AND PROVIDE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY?

1. THE COMMAND

- A. GUARD AGAINST THE IDOLATRY OF ANOTHER _____
- B. GUARD AGAINST THE IDOLATRY OF ANOTHER _____
- C. GUARD AGAINST THE IDOLATRY OF ANOTHER _____

2. THE CONDITIONS

- A. “ _____ *TO GOD*”
(JAMES 4:8)

- B. “ _____/_____ *FROM EVIL*”
(1 COR. 10:14; JAMES 4:7)

3. THE CONFIDENCE

- A. WE ARE ABLE TO GUARD _____ AS WE GUARD _____!

- B. WE ARE ABLE TO GUARD AS _____ ARE _____ GUARDED! (JUDE 24)

KOINONIA SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. THE FINAL VERSE SEEMS TO BE A STRANGE WAY TO END THE BOOK. WHY DO YOU THINK JOHN ENDED THIS WAY? IN WHAT WAY IS 1 JOHN 5:21 A SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE BOOK?

2. WHY IS IDOLATRY AN ISSUE STILL TODAY, EVEN IN SECULAR CULTURES? DISCUSS EXAMPLES OF IDOLS IN THE WORLD.

3. HONESTLY EVALUATE YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST. WHAT ARE THE KINGS AND KINGDOMS THAT YOU STRUGGLE WITH AS IDOLS?

4. CONSIDER THE ALLURE AND SEDUCTION OF IDOLS (GOOD THINGS AND BAD THINGS). WHAT ARE PRACTICAL WAYS THAT YOU CAN BUILD GUARDS AND BOUNDARIES IN YOUR LIFE? AS A GROUP, MAKE PRACTICAL PLANS TO HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.

5. HOW CAN WE AS INDIVIDUALS STAY FOCUSED ON THE MISSION WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TASKED? AS A CHURCH? AS A CONVENTION?

HOMework: WHAT’S MY “P.A.R.T.”?

PRAY: ASK GOD TO HELP YOU BECOME MORE CONFIDENT PRAYER.

ACT: LOOK FOR WAYS TO GUARD AGAINST IDOLATRY.

READ: STUDY 2 JOHN IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

TEACH: FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE WHAT WE’VE LEARNED.