

2025 Fall Bible School Class #2

Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 PM (Break at 7:15)

A Look at some Difficult, Important Topics in the New Testament

- Introduction from last week – fill in the blanks
- Does God say that I must love myself to properly love others?

One more passage and truth about **the hierarchy (supremacy) of the Bible as authority in our lives.**

What is the most reliable?

What or who can we rely upon to speak **infallible** truth to us?

2 Peter 1:16-21 For we did not follow **cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (*but are they infallible? See below*), but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Mindset - what is God’s purpose in this passage? Exegesis versus Eisegesis.

Words that are important-

v.20 _____, Scripture does not come from someone’s own interpretation.

v.21 _____ men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

v.19 _____ we have the prophetic word _____ (emphatic statement), to which you will do well to pay attention

Context- more fully confirmed than what?

v.16 _____

v.17, 18 their own experience on the **holy mountain**, what they saw and heard, v.18.

Purpose – the best source for us to v.16 to hear from God for such important things such as to **know the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Extra reading (& more on this in a future class)- What is the role or work of the Holy Spirit after Jesus ascended (includes our time)?

John 15:26 “**But** when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness,

Context

Specifically for times of persecution v.18-25, 16:1-4

Especially in regard to sin, judgement and who Jesus is. *The Spirit's work (16:5–15).*

16:5–6. Learning of Jesus' departure brought depression to the disciples. They were obsessed by their coming personal loss of His immediate physical presence. If they could have understood why He was going and to whom He was going, then they would have rejoiced. Later (v. 22) Jesus predicted that their time of sorrow would be suddenly transformed into great joy. Jesus' statement, **Now I am going to Him who sent Me**, should have led the disciples to ask questions, but they didn't (Even Thomas [14:5] did not ask, **Where are You going?**) Their preoccupation with their own problems prevented their understanding the crucial nature of the time ("now") and the momentous significance of the events (His death, burial, resurrection, and Ascension).

16:7. The departure of Jesus was necessary—though painful and difficult—for the disciples. In fact, His leaving was profitable and beneficial (the meaning of the Gr. *sympherei*, here rendered **good**). Without His departing (which included His death, burial, resurrection, and Ascension) there would have been no gospel. Atonement for sin was necessary for Jesus to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Also **unless** he departed there would have been no glorified Lord to **send ... the Counselor** (the Holy Spirit) to apply the atonement. "The Counselor" translates the Greek *paraklētos*. This word was used of legal assistants who pleaded a cause or presented a case. This Counselor is the promised Spirit who came into the world in a new and distinctive sense on the day of Pentecost.

16:8. One of the Spirit's new ministries was to **convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment**. Conviction is not the same as conversion but is necessary to it. The words "convict ... of guilt" translate the one word *elenxei*, "to present or expose facts, to convince of the truth." The Spirit works on the minds of the unsaved to show them the truth of God for what it is. Normally this process includes human aid (cf. 15:26–27).

16:9. **Sin** is rebellion against God and this rebellion reached its climax in the crucifixion of Jesus. Today the greatest sin is the failure to **believe in** Jesus (cf. 3:18; 15:22, 24). Most people do not readily admit to being guilty of sin. They will admit to failures or vices or even crimes. However, sin is against God, and people have suppressed the truth of God (cf. Rom. 1:18, 21, 25, 28). The mighty working of the Holy Spirit is necessary to convince and convict people of their desperate plight.

16:10. In crucifying Jesus, the Jewish people showed that they thought He was unrighteous, that only a wicked person would be hanged on a tree and thus be under God's curse (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13). But the Resurrection and the Ascension vindicated Jesus as God's righteous Servant (Acts 3:14–15; Isa. 53:11). The Spirit convicts men of their faulty views of Jesus when the gospel with its stress on the Resurrection is proclaimed (1 Cor. 15:3–4).

16:11. The third area of the Holy Spirit's convicting work concerns **judgment**. The death and resurrection of Jesus were a condemnation of Satan (12:31; Col. 2:15), **the prince of this world** (cf. John 14:30). By Jesus' death, He defeated the devil, who held "the power of death" (Heb. 2:14). (Though defeated at the Cross, Satan is still active [1 Peter 5:8]. But, like a condemned criminal, his "execution" is coming [Rev. 20:2, 7–10].)

People in rebellion should take note of Satan's defeat and fear the Lord who holds the power to judge. As the fact of coming judgment (both Satan's and man's) is proclaimed, the Spirit convicts people and prepares them for salvation (cf. Acts 17:30–31).

16:12–13. The disciples were not able to receive any **more** spiritual truth at that time. Their hearts were hardened, their concern was for their own preeminence in an earthly kingdom, so they saw no need for Jesus' death. Sorrow over His departure and dismay over the prophecy of a traitor among them, along with the prediction of their own desertion, rendered them insensitive to more spiritual truth. **But ... the Spirit of Truth** (cf. 15:26) would come after Jesus' death to lead the apostles **into the truth** about Jesus and His work.

The Spirit, Jesus said, would **not** teach the disciples **on His own** (i.e., on His own initiative) but would teach **only what He hears** from the Father. This points up the interdependence of the Persons in the Trinity. The Father would **tell** the Spirit what to teach the apostles about the Son.

Also the Spirit would teach **what is yet to come**. This statement helps one understand the promise, **He will guide you into all truth** (lit., "all *the* truth"). This was a promise to the apostles that their partial understanding of the person and work of Jesus as the Messiah would be completed as the Spirit would give them insight into the meanings of the soon-to-come Cross and the Resurrection as well as truths about Jesus' return (cf. 1 Cor. 2:10). The New Testament books are the fulfillment of this teaching ministry of the Spirit.¹

Does God say that I must love myself to properly love others & does God want me to love myself?

This thesis comes from some teacher's interpretation of Matthew 22:36-40. Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.³⁹ And a second is like it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Biblical principles about love to build a foundation on truth using the simple approach to Bible interpretation. (remember John 17:17).

From class #1 - Purpose of the bible Great Reveal

_____ is the great reveal. One of the reasons He came was to reveal the true nature of God. Jesus came to fully reveal the _____ and how it should play out in our lives.

He could have come for a day, died and rose again. His time on earth allowed us to see that...

Colossians 1:15 **He is the image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

& 19 For **in him all** the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the **glory** of God **and** the **exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

¹ Edwin A. Blum, "[John](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 328–329.

What attribute of His glory, His character is overarching? Galatians 5:22 first one listed, _____

1 John 4 God is _____, John 3:16 God so _____ the world that He gave

1 John 4:1-17 Beloved, do not believe every **spirit** (words are important), but test the **spirits** to see whether they are from **God**, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the **Spirit of God**: every spirit that confesses that **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh** (fully man) is from **God**, ³and every **spirit** that does not confess **Jesus is not from God** (& fully God, Christianity is the ONLY religion that believes both). This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from **God** and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they **speak from the world**, (not truth from God) and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from **God**. Whoever knows **God** listens to us (scripture is truth from God); whoever is not from **God** does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the **spirit** of error.

*What is the **Purpose** of this passage, what **Words** are important and what does the **Context** speak to?*

Important **Words** in bold. Repetition and emphasis.

Context – 3:23, 24. *And* this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us (this is what disciples do). ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Purpose - An admonition – test them, v.1, if someone does not speak the truth about who Christ is, don't listen to them. Specifically, about God things, don't "listen" to the world, non-Christians. Cf. 2:26 confirms. "I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you."

⁷Beloved, (*noticed the change in focus, but not a change in topic*) let us **love one another**, for **love is from God**, and whoever **loves** has been born of **God** and knows **God**. ⁸Anyone who does not **love** does not know **God**, because **God is love**. ⁹In this the **love of God** was made manifest among us, that **God** sent his only **Son** into the world, so that we might live through **him**. ¹⁰In this is **love, not that we have loved God** but that **he loved us** and sent **his Son** to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if **God so loved us**, we also **ought to love one another**. ¹²No one has ever seen **God**; if we **love one another, God** abides in us and **his love** is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in **him** and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent **his Son** to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the **Son of God, God** abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that **God** has for us. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him**. ¹⁷By this is **love** perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

Important **Words** & short phrases in bold. Repetition and emphasis. What are they?

Context - In the book of 1 John, 5 chapters, 31 times the love of God and one another is referenced.

What are some of **Purposes** of this passage? Teach us the truth about God's love; how much He loves us, and how He demonstrated it and what it does when it is in our lives. Warns us that ones from the world,

v.5, will teach error v.6 about God's love in Christ. They distort or misrepresent the great offering of Christ and what He accomplished on the cross because of God's love.

Because the concept of self-love is not in 1 John, even though this is the most extensive treatise about the love of God and loving others, doesn't guarantee that it is contrary. We will look into it further but first,

Let's build a Biblical definition of love, for God and for others.

Love for God

The highest level of love toward God is demonstrated **by** _____. John 14:15 If you love me, you will obey me. Cf. John 13:35 By this all people will know that you (love me) are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Love for one another and our neighbors.

Love is ...pick one that is the most descriptive of the love we read about in 1 John 4 & other passages:

an intense feeling of emotion

a great interest and pleasure in doing something

a deep feeling of affection, attraction for someone

something you like or enjoy very much (the list could go on)

an action, doing something for another person

Love is **doing** ...pick one

whatever they want

whatever I want

what the world say is best

what makes them feel good

the highest good

Love is doing the highest good for the other person, **as defined by (humility is the door to ministry)**

me

psychology

the world

my neighbor

God (in the bible)

Love is doing the highest good for the other person as defined by God

as long as I don't get hurt

as long as it fits in my schedule

as long as I benefit from it

as long as I can write it off

no matter what the cost

Love is doing the highest good for the other person, as defined by God, no matter what the cost.

Quintessential verse that speaks to all of this. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Cf. John 15:13.

What does God say about Loving Myself?

“What Jesus was saying here (Matthew 22:39) is, “Give your neighbor the same amount of devotion that you give yourself.” The assumption is that there is already a level of care and attention you devote to yourself. Whether you struggle with pride or insecurity, you are consumed with your own welfare.

While not everyone has what we might call a “high self-esteem,” everyone is naturally committed to their own survival, comfort, and happiness. This logic is used again in Paul’s teaching to men in Ephesians 5. “In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.” No one reads this passage and thinks it is about how men should go to the gym and care for their bodies. We all know it is calling husbands to unselfishly love their wives.” Juli Slattery Blog.

Do we have a tendency to pay more attention, devote more care to ourselves or others?

In Matthew 16:13-25 Jesus interacts with the disciples and Peter. Checks his current testimony, tells him God’s plan, Peter rebukes him says he has a better way, Jesus says you are not thinking like God but man, deny yourself if you want to be my disciple. Self-love will invariably lead us down the wrong path.

Natural Progression

2 Timothy 3:1-6 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. Question – do we need to push ourselves toward greater lovers of self or resist the tendency?

Biblical balance!

Philippians 2:1-5 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Homework assignment – read the blog by Juli Slattery.