“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word: A Ladies Bible Study on 1 John”

**“Inquisition, Illumination and Inspiration” from 1 John1:1 – 1 John 3:12**

Tuesday, September 24th, 2019

The past school year we studied 51 verses out of the 105 verses in this very clear yet convicting Epistle written by the Apostle John. This year we will continue to study the 54 verses left in this letter. Before we do, let’s spend a little time reviewing those truths that lead us to “examination,” “clarification” and “stimulation” from Chapters 1, 2 and part way through chapter 3.

First, let’s refresh our minds with:

“*Why did John write this epistle?* Let’s look at 1 John 5:13 for **John’s purpose statement**: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” (NKJV) ***John’s main purpose for writing this epistle is that believers might know for certain—without a doubt—that they are born of God.”*** (pg.4)

*John had other purposes for writing 1 John:*

1 John 1:4 “These things *we write*, so that our joy may be made complete.” **FULL JOY!**

1 John 2:1 “My little children, *I am writing these things* to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” **HOLINESS & HOPE!**

1 John 2:21 “*I have not written to you because* you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.” **ASSURANCE!**

1 John 2:26 “These things *I have written* to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.” **WARNING &** **DISCERNMENT!**

Let’s now look at what we have learned already in the first half of 1 John through these three I’s -- Inquisition, Illumination and Inspiration:

**“Inquisition” -- can mean “the act of inquiring; examination”**

In the first 54 verses of 1 John we were challenged to examine our lives to see whether our faith in Christ is genuine or not.

**1 John 1:3** *“what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*

**1 John 2:23** *“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”*

“Do you really believe that Jesus is the Christ?”

Do you accept the facts of Jesus’ life, death, burial and resurrection?

Have you confessed with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

Can you say in your heart that you have submitted your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Are you experiencing true fellowship (partnership) with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ?

**1 John 1:4** *“These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”*

- “Are you joyful?”

- “Does your life exhibit fullness of joy?”

- “Are you running over with calm delight and cheerfulness?”

**1 John 1:9** *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

- “Do you admit that you sin? Do you confess it, hate it, run from it and avoid it?”

- “Do you deny specific acts of sin? Do you justify your sin or minimize it?”

- “Do you call your sin a mistake?”

- “When is the last time you confessed your sins?”

- Do you believe that when you confess your sins that God will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness?

**1 John 2:1** *“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.”*

**1John 3:4-6** *“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.”*

**1 John 3:8** *“the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”*

**1 John 3:9** *“No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*

- “Are you convicted when you sin? Are you determined to turn away from it?”

- “Are you practicing any know sin today?”

- Is there some known sin in your life that you are continuing to hold on to and refusing to repent of?

- “Is your life characterized by doing what is right, by fighting hard against sin?”

- “Have you seen change and growth in your walk since you first believed in Christ?”

- “Is your life as zealous for the Lord today as last year?”

**1 John 2:3-5** *“By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.”*

- “Are you obeying God’s commandments----all of them?”

- Is your love for God the motivation for your obedience?

**1 John 2:*6*** *“the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”*

- “Do you walk as Christ walked?”

- “Does your life reflect the life of the Saviour?”

- “Are you doing what He would do? Are you saying what He would say? Are you going where He would go?”

- “Does your talk match your walk?”

**1 John 2:9-11** *“The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”*

**1 John 3:11** *“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”*

- “Do you love all the brethren?” “Are you actively looking for ways to show that you love your brothers and sisters in Christ?

- “What proof is there in your life that you love the brethren?”

**1 John 2:12-14** *“I am writing you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name’s sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning, I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome, the evil one. I have written to you children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”*

- “Do you know the Father?”

- “Do you daily have the joy of having your sins forgiven?”

- Are you standing strong in the Lord?

- “Is the Word of God grounded in your heart and mind?”

- “Have you overcome the wicked one?”

- “Does Satan have any rule in your heart today?”

**1 John 2:15-17** *“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”*

- What are you living for? The world? or the will of God?

- Is your affection and devotion towards the satanic world system marked by rebellion against God? Or is your affection and devotion towards God marked by love and obedience?

- “Are there any forms of worldliness in your life?”

-“When is the last time you received persecution from the world for your stand for Christ?”

**1 John 2:19** *“They went out from us; but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”*

- “Are you enduring in faith, and fellowship and the truth?”

**1 John 2:20** *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”*

**1 John 2:27** *“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”*

- Are you confidant that the Spirit of God is at work in your life; counselling you, correcting you from error, and convicting you of sin?

- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s work in your life guarding you from error and deception?

- “Are you abiding—remaining in the Father?”

**1 John 2:29** *“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.”*

**1 John 3:3,7** *“And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” “Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”*

- Do you believe that God is righteous? Are you born of God?

- Are you practicing righteousness? Have you replaced the habit of sin with the habit of righteous living?

- Does the hope of Christ’s return motivate you to make righteousness a habit?

- Are you living in a way that reflects your righteous Father’s nature?

- Are you behaving like Jesus? Is His saving grace and power being displayed in your life?

- Are you desiring to become more like your Saviour?

**“Illumination” – can mean “light” “clarification”**

In the first 54 verses of 1 John, the character of God has been illuminated for us:

1 John 1:1 – He is “the Word of Life” (The Son of God, the incarnate Christ, God in the flesh)

1 John 1:2 – He is “the eternal life” (Jesus is the way of salvation)

1 John 1:5 – He is “Light” (God is absolutely perfect and holy and without sin)

1 John 1:9 – “He is faithful” (“God is dependable; we can count on Him to forgive us”)

1 John 1:9; 2:1; 29; 3:7 – “He is righteous” (God always does what is right)

1 John 1:10 – He is truth (“God is not a man, that He should lie…” Num.23:19)

1 John 2:1 – He is our “Advocate” (literally, “one who is called to our side” “Jesus Christ, the righteous defends us as not being guilty because of His shed blood” “Christ not only died for you but continues to love you as evidenced by His continually pleading on your behalf before the Father.”)

1 John 2:5; 3:1 – He is “love”

1 John 2:22 – He is the Messiah. He is the Saviour “Jesus is the Christ”

1 John 2:25 – He is a promise keeper

1 John 3:3 – “He is pure and holy”

This illumination of who John declares God to be lays down a foundation for us as children of God. A solid rock foundation on which the fundamentals of our faith is built. If we stay faithful to the truth, if we walk in obedience to the truth, if we practice love for others according to the truth, God will produce joy in our lives. God will produce holiness in our lives. God will produce hope in our lives. God will produce discernment in our lives. And God will produce assurance in our lives. Our confession of Jesus Christ as Lord, our conviction and confession of sin, and our Christ-like character and conduct will bring Him glory because apart from Christ we can do nothing.

**“Inspiration” – can mean “the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something”**

In the first 54 verses of 1 John we have been “mentally stimulated” by the aged old Apostle to quickly discern false doctrine and false teachers that can creep into the church with their lies and deception.

Through this epistle, John sets a beautiful example before us that when we do “draw the line in the sand” between Christ and antichrists; between truth and error; between righteousness and unrighteousness; between what is right and what is wrong… that we do it in love.

Through the Apostle John’s fatherly appeal, have you been *inspired* to “be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness” but “grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?” (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Also, in the first 54 verses of 1 John we have been “mentally stimulated” to be like Jesus and to love Him and other believers more and more.

Through the Apostle John’s fatherly appeal, have you been *inspired* to “Love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and… to love your neighbour as yourself.?” (Matthew 22:37-39)

Ladies, God calls us to live the Christian life in the power of His Spirit. He calls us to lives of increasing consistency. He calls us to learn to live life where He increases and we decrease. He calls us to live a life of humility and dependence upon Him. He calls us to die to self daily, to take up our cross and to follow in His steps. God calls us to give convincing testimony of the saving power of God’s grace that brings Him glory! (Matthew 5:16)

God requires faithfulness from us:

Faithfulness to keep believing in the Father and the Son, faithfulness to keep displaying the joy of the Lord, faithfulness to keep walking in the truth, faithfulness to keep confessing and forsaking our sin, faithfulness to keep obeying His Word, faithfulness to keep walking as Christ walked, faithfulness to keep loving Him and loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, faithfulness to keep living for Christ exclusively, faithfulness to keep persevering, faithfulness to keep relying on the Holy Spirit’s help, faithfulness to keep Christ’s imminent return in the forefront of our minds, faithfulness to keep praying, faithfulness to keep abiding in Him, faithfulness to keep standing up for Christ, faithfulness to keep discerning truth from error…

How can we remain faithful? Not apart from Christ…

Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

Jude 1:24-25 “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Ladies, I concur with Paul, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil.1:6)

With love and gratitude in my heart for you all,

Christyn

\*All of the scripture verses have been taken from the NASB Holy Bible

\*All of the questions that are in quotations under my **“Inquisition”** portion of this review have come from Susan Heck’s Summaries at the end of each chapter in her book “With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word.”