

IN THE LIGHT

THE LETTERS
OF JOHN



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WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST?

1 John 2:15

COSMOS

John 3:16-17

World = “the organized system of human civilization that is actively _____ to God and _____ from God.” C.J. Mahaney

Epithumia = “a desire that that has taken on too much _____; a craving that has taken on such weight in your life that it _____ you.” J.D. Greear

*“Don’t wear yourself out trying to get rich.
Be wise enough to know when to quit.” Proverbs 23:4*

1 John 5:21

Idolatry = “When you love something more than God; depend on something more than God; obey something more than God. It’s when a good thing becomes an ultimate thing. Idolatry is when a good thing becomes a God thing and turns into a bad thing!” J.D. Greear

1. IDOLATROUS “LOVE OF THE WORLD” SHOWS THAT _____ IS MISSING FROM YOUR _____.

2. THE WAY TO OVERCOME THE _____ IS BY EMBRACING THE LOVE OF THE _____.

1 John 5:4

1 John 4:19

1 John 5:20

PURITANS: “THE EXPULSIVE POWER OF A NEW AFFECTION.”

3. ONLY BY NOT “_____” THE WORLD CAN YOU EVER “_____” THE WORLD.

John 3:16

1 John 2:17

Hebrews 12:2

Fill in the blanks: hostile, alienated, weight, controls, God, life, world, Father, lusting, for, love

This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends, and Life Group.

OPEN UP

What are your first memories of prayer? Did you learn a bedtime prayer as a child?

UNDERSTANDING JOHN'S LETTER

In the context of the false teaching of the day these verses had very clear meaning but today the meaning is not as clear and can have multiple interpretations. Here are some notes to help you understand and apply these passages.

5:6 water and blood. This appears to refer to the totality of Jesus' humanity and ministry on Earth. Baptism (water) at the beginning of his ministry and crucifixion and resurrection (blood) at the end. There were eyewitnesses to these events in the life of Jesus that were still alive to testify to these to counter the false teaching that John and the church faced.

5:16 sin that leads to death. Conjecture as to what this sin is and whether it is "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 12:31-32) is fruitless. The text offers us no clues. Nor is it John's main concern. John is urging us to pray on behalf of someone who is sinning. But why this exception of sin that leads to death? Presumably he is instructing his hearers on how to offer prayers that are effective in leading to eternal life in their context.

FAITH IN THE SON (1-12)

What commands is John speaking of (5:2-3)? Read also Matthew 22:35-40

When in your life have you felt that God's commands were burdensome (5:3)?

What roles do tangible evidence and the Spirit play in your faith in Jesus and assurance of eternal life (5:9-12)?

CONFIDENCE AND COMPASSION IN PRAYER (13-21)

What is John's purpose in writing this letter (5:13)? What are some ways this letter has provided this?

Compare 5:14-15 with 3:21-22. What is the most important thing you gain from these verses about your prayers?

Rather than police or judge our brothers and sisters, how does John want us to go about helping our fellow believers trapped in sin (5:16)?

Why does John follow up talking about Jesus being true with a warning about idols (5:20-21)?

APPLY

Who is one person that you see struggling with sin in their life? How can you use John's instructions to pray for them this week?

CHALLENGE

What specific step can you take this week to take more confidence in God and less in the idols of the world?

This Week's Bible Reading

- Day 1 - 1 John 5:1-5
- Day 2 - 1 John 5:6-9
- Day 3 - 1 John 5:10-12
- Day 4 - 1 John 5:13-17
- Day 5 - 1 John 5:18-21

SOAP Study

The SOAP study method is a simple, yet powerful tool to help guide you into deeper understanding and life application of the Bible. There is a section in the Growth Binder that introduces you to this method and provides pages to help you get the most out of your personal Bible study.