

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June	1John 1
2) 14 June	1John 2
3) 21 June	1John 3
4) 28 June	1John 4
5) 05 July	1John 5
6) 12 July	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July	Rev 1
8) 26 July	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August	Rev 18
13) 30 August	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- A fundamental craving of every human being is for acceptance. We want to be liked, we want to fit in, and we want it now
- In this chapter the apostle exhorts us to live a holy life, and more specifically, to exemplify brotherly love – which provides acceptance of others, and shows our acceptance by God

Passage	Comments
1John 3:1-3	<p>Recognition of Being a Child of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. And we are His Child NOW, not later <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Note that we will become something even greater when Christ returns. What could that be? • v3. He who knows Christ “purifies himself” – HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We actively participate in our sanctification process (make our calling and election sure...2Pet 1:5-10)
3:4-10	<p>Those Who Habitually Sin are Not of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the outside we cannot tell the difference between a backslidden believer and a non-believer, BUT a backslidden Christian is often ridden with guilt and disciplined by their Holy Father through trials • And those who call themselves Christians, yet have no interest in studying God’s word or fellowshiping with other saints, but prefer to live selfishly and sinfully are fooling themselves thinking they are saved
3:11-18	<p>Brotherly Love Shows We Belong to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Who is our brother, our neighbor? Is it anyone in any need or just those with an honest need? Are there any conditions to helping them? Or do we open our checkbooks to anyone for anything? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does helping the needy include those who would harm us or who live a prodigal lifestyle?
3:19-22	<p>Whatever We Can Think to Ask – We Can Get!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv19-21. God knows everything, including our heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Nothing takes God by surprise. He even knows what we will do tomorrow & what will come our way ♦ Yet, we are not robots. God tries us in every moment, & we can to choose to obey or not • v22. If our heart is right with God and we live an obedient life, THEN we can expect God to answer our prayers positively and expectantly – see “Food for That”
3:23-24	<p>Obedience is Key to Abiding (Acceptance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st commandment to obey → Believe in Christ • The 2nd → Love one another (thy neighbor) • Results → We are become accepted by God as we abide in Him and He in us • His Spirit is given to us to empower us for service and give us assurance of His acceptance of us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How does this assurance come to us? By feelings or by comprehension of the truth of His word?

Food for That	
Is Asking and Getting Conditional?	<p>John 16:25. These things I have spoken to you <u>figuratively</u> (NASB), <u>in proverbs</u> (KJ), <u>parables</u> (Amp), <u>figures of speech</u> (HSCB), <u>in similitudes</u> (YLT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In light of Jesus speaking “figuratively” in chaps 14-16, how should we interpret these passages, then? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John 14:13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do.... 2. John 14:14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 3. John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 4. John 15:16 ...whatever you ask of the Father in My name He will give to you 5. John 16:23 If you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 6. John 16:24 ...ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John clarifies that all these precious promises should be viewed with an eternal heavenly kingdom focus and not with a focus on temporal earthly comfort
Consider John 14-16, Discourse at the Last Supper	
Apostle John was not a Prosperity Preacher since he intended such passages to be interpreted “figuratively”, as Jesus specified	
Good Examples (“In Him is Yes” – 1Cor 1:19-20)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lord, mold us into your Son’s image 2. Give us laborers for the harvest 3. Help us win this community for Christ 4. Let our testimony glorify You in every situation 5. Give us your wisdom so we may succeed in all areas
Bad Examples (Crap-shoot praying)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lord, give me an extra \$1,000 2. Heal me of my hang nail 3. Zap my boss for not promoting me 4. May my Bundt cake turn out OK 5. Let my team win the ball game
<p>Caveat. God does take an interest in every area of our life to include our health, social, economic, and even culinary desires, but when our interests supersede His will don’t expect our will to be done</p>	

APPLICATION: Unfortunately, many evangelical churches have done a disservice to unbelievers through “easy believism” – i.e., get them to walk the aisle and say a magic sinner’s prayer; – and we think they got saved and they think they are saved.

- ♦ The only way to fix this is to share the Gospel as strongly as the Apostles did – We must get people to count the cost and produce fruit worthy of repentance, such as brotherly love

NEXT WEEK: 1John 4. Not only are we to discern God’s will, we need to “discern the spirits” as well, for we are marked as targets for deception by the enemy

