



MAY 12

Passage: 1 John 2:15-17

READ & DIG. Read 1 John 2:15-17

Remember what we discussed yesterday. John was teaching us about love and the greatest commandment. He was reminding us of the confidence we have in God.

Here are some things that jump out to me from what he writes next.

LOVE (v15)

He continues the idea of love, but he is telling us what to not love. He says to not love the world or the things of this world. Well at first glance, that sounds pretty harsh, but let's take a closer look.

When John tells us this, he's not being a party pooper. He's telling us this, so we won't treasure this world or it's things. He doesn't want that to be what makes us ultimately happy, gives us fulfillment or is the point of our worship. When the things of this world have taken priority in our lives, our loves are out of order. If the things of this world have become ultimate, our first love, then the love of Jesus is not in us.

IDOLS (v16)

John gives us greater detail and insight into the things of this world. You see, he's not just trying to ruin all our fun, but rather show us the core of these things. He tells us that these things aren't so innocent after all. They're described as "the desires of the flesh...the desires of the eyes...the pride of life." Doesn't sound so great anymore, does it? John is teaching us that these things that have taken first priority, our idols, aren't from God. They are evil. They are products of a sin-sick and fallen world.

PASSING AWAY/ABIDING FOREVER (v17)

John finishes this section by telling us how it's going to end. He teaches us that the fallen things that we have come to love, aren't just ultimate, because he says so. He's teaching they aren't ultimate, because they won't stand on the final day. They are going to pass away. The great news is that he doesn't leave us on a negative, hopeless note. He tells us that for those who do the will of God will abide forever.

Those who are doing the will of God are the people whose hope, happiness, fulfillment, faith, and love are set on God. This is major hope for you and me!

Apply & GO

So, what now? What do we do with this? Always remember. God's Word means what it means. There is no "what does this mean to you, and to you, and to you." That's wrong. The Bible means what it means. How we apply it may be different, specifically. It means what it means.

SO...let me ask you. What will you do after hearing this truth?

What can we learn about God? What can we learn about His Word?

What can we learn about the confidence we have in God and in His Word?

Take some time to identify what you love? What fulfills your or makes you the happiest? What are these idols?