



ourTUESDAY

the trio

1,2 & 3 JOHN

FEBRUARY 2018

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introduction

Friends! Sisters!

Lanie Beth here! The holidays are wonderful and the New Year starts with such gusto that by the time we get to February we've all lost a little steam. Or maybe that's just me? A few of my goals for the 2018 are to get my closet in a workable condition- I'd like to mumble something about a creative brain needs space to decompress or something like that but the truth is that it's just messy! I want to get my kids outside as much as possible once the weather warms up. I think it's time for Brad and I to step in to some of the things that the Lord is calling us to, but we've been too afraid to take the plunge. And last, but certainly not least, continue to write and serve you ladies here at Our Tuesday.

I can't tell you what this gathering has done in my heart and I pray it's moved yours, as well. We have lots coming for this year, and some exciting things on the horizon, and we are asking the Lord to increase our capacity. Will you join us in that prayer? Not just for OT but for your life as well? That no matter the season, no matter the circumstances that are all around, that you'd ask the Lord to move in your own life. I pray for you to have strengthened resolve, brave prayers and open hands as you ask God what he has in store for you and your family. Soft hearts and calloused knees are some of the most overlooked blessings from the Lord.

In the same way that you pray for your family or your community, John prayed for his people, too. He was authentic, endearing and fervent in his plea for the church to not forget who Jesus was. As the last disciple to walk on earth, John had the image and personhood of Christ seared into his memory. This isn't a story that's been passed down to him over years, this is his account and desire to see the Christians of that day not be swayed by the Gnostic collective. The Gnostics basically thought they knew everything about everything. Ever met someone like that? Super enjoyable, right? Well, they fired John up. He was not going to let them bully his Christian community into thinking that they didn't know Jesus.

And thus 1, 2 and 3 John were born. The letters are honest and forthright. Simple yet complex. Wide ranging in topic and theologically rich yet palatable. In my mind, The Trio (1, 2 and 3 John) are a sort of friend that I think you'll just love so I can't wait to introduce you to him at a party. I've always fancied myself as a friend matchmaker of sorts!

Know that this study has been prayed over, edited and even cried over, yet it wouldn't be in your hands right now without two ladies I simply must thank. Jennifer Strawn- for your guidance and eagle eye editing abilities....you are a wealth of grammar knowledge but also theological wisdom. Thanks for putting up with me and my terrible sentence structure. And Hannah Chandler- girl, you take after our great and wonderful God in that you are one of the most creative people I've ever met. You make a rough draft turn into something worth looking at! Thank you for your late nights and early mornings bringing these studies to life. You both are indispensable to me. Please always be my friends.

That's about enough babbling from me. Thank you for coming back to scripture. Our time is never wasted in these pages. Praying for you. Fighting with you. Rooting you on.

Let's do this,
Lanie Beth

a note from jeff & courtney

Hi Ladies!!!! We are SO excited to be back at Our Tuesday!!!

Jeff and I wanted to share a quick note with you all about what the Father has been speaking to us regarding worship. Worship within our hearts, our homes and our families. As I was praying for our family one morning, I remembered the scripture Matthew 5:15-16, *“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on it’s stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.”*

As I was praying that morning that my family would be a light to others, I heard the father say, “Lighthouses cannot shine to the lost if the fire is not first ignited in the home.”

Jesus! What a sweet revelation! He stirred me that morning. He awakened a fresh urgency in my spirit to fill my home and my heart with a burning light. We have always worshipped with our children when we had a little bit of extra time before bedtime or before school in the morning but this word, this revelation brought a fresh excitement and desire for intimacy. One of our favorite things to do with the children is to pull up youtube on our TV -this can be done on a laptop, phone, or just a worship CD is great too- and we dance. We dance hard. I feel like, for my children, watching a Bethel worship service or a Hillsong concert on the TV really helps them to connect and get excited about worshipping.

Now this is also something that we do individually, as well. I am a visual person so turning on a worship service that I can see really helps me to dance, to sing loud, and clap along with the crowd. Who says your “quiet time” actually has to be quiet??? Jeff on the other hand loves to listen to music with some headphones in, drowning out the world. However you prefer to open your heart and sing to our creator, remember, we are stirring up our spirits. We are “commanding our souls to sing.” Worship in the home shifts the atmosphere of our hearts so that we are able to put Matthew 5:16 into practice.

One of my best friends told me one time, “It will never become comfortable in public until it is common in private.”



IT WILL NEVER BECOME
COMFORTABLE IN
PUBLIC UNTIL IT IS
COMMON IN PRIVATE.

on worship

Worship and intimacy must be common in the home and in the secret place for us and our children to feel comfortable enough to shout it from the rooftops. How amazing would it be to raise up a generation of unashamed lovers of Jesus? How amazing would it be to become that generation?

Keep singing! Keep dancing!

-Jeff and Courtney

The Pastoral Epistle

HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE THE FATHER HAS
LAVISHED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD! AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!
- 1 JOHN 3:1

| THE PASTORAL EPISTLE |

Hello there!

We are getting back into the groove of Bible study! I am so glad you're here! My name is Lanie Beth and I'll be your guide through the fascinating landscape that is 1, 2 & 3 John. To start our 14-day ride together I thought we could take the first day to read all 3 books. (They are short- I promise!) After that, take a minute to write down any verses you'd like to take a deeper look at or any that seem familiar.

Take about 10-15 minutes to read all three books (1 John is 5 chapters and 2 & 3 are only a few paragraphs each).

Write out the verses that stick out to you as ones you've heard repeated before. Or perhaps only heard the paraphrased versions.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

*Hebrews 4:12
(ESV)*

Here are a few of mine!

> 1:5 1:9 2:17 3:1 4:11 4:18-19 5:2 5:14

MacDonald writes, 'While John does use simple words, the thoughts he expresses are often deep, and sometimes difficult to understand. As we study this book we should pray that the Lord will help us to grasp the meaning of His word and obey the truth as He reveals it to us.'

Pray to close your time today and ask the Lord to show you the depth in the simple and to make the complex better understandable that you might gain wisdom and learn more of what he has for you in The Trio. Ask him for a specific prayer request you have for the next 14 days.

He hears you, sister! I'll see you tomorrow.

Word of Life

WE PROCLAIM TO YOU WHAT WE HAVE
SEEN AND HEARD, SO THAT YOU ALSO MAY
HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US.

- 1 JOHN 1:3

TODAY'S READING - 1 John 1:1-4

Our passage for today, 1 John 1:1-4 establishes a theological beachhead. A beachhead is a defended position on a beach taken from the enemy by landing forces, from which an attack can be launched. John was basically flexing his knuckles, clearing his throat and putting ink on his quill as he started into his diatribe on the personhood of Jesus Christ. John's ministry was the oral proclamation of his personal eyewitness testimony of Jesus. His life was spent telling of the Jesus that he saw with his own eyes, listened to with his own ears and touched the nail scarred hands with his own hands. John knew to his bones that Jesus was who he said he was.

1 John 1:1 - Write the 4 ways John experienced Christ.

How do you best experience the Lord? Quiet Study, beautiful music, a good meal, nature or even painting are all ways to experience God.

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and appeared to us. (v.2)

In this seemingly simple statement, John has assured us that 'life appeared' and because 'life appeared' we can 'proclaim to you the eternal life' and that the life 'which was with the Father' came from Heaven to earth to be with us. Wow. Let that sit with you for a moment. This verse is a perfect example of simple words combined to construct deep thoughts. Sometimes, simple is better. Goodness knows that Jesus was always trying to get this point across in the simplest words (that everyone might understand) while conveying the vastness that is heaven come to earth.

Write verse 1 John 1:3 here:

**Blessed is the
man who always
fears the Lord,
but he who hard-
ens his heart falls
into trouble.**

Proverbs 28:14

John wants fellowship with the believers. It's the ancient version of 'friends are friends forever'. In fact, John asserts that not only should believers have fellowship together, but that in remembering and contemplating on the life and death of Jesus Christ, that we '*make our joy complete*' (v.4). If I have something wonderful that happens to me, I usually want to tell someone so that we can enjoy it together. Sometimes it's my husband or a friend or my mom, but someone needs to know. That's part of making the joy complete. Think about it this way as well, part of what makes Christmas so great isn't just Christmas morning, it's the lead up, the conversations, the celebrations, the cultural reminders of what's to come. All of those things combine to make the joy of Christmas complete. Same principle here. We don't just hear about Jesus' life and stop there. We talk about it, write about it, preach about it and encourage others to do so, as well. That's all the by-product but still part of the gift!

Is there an event that happened in your life that you needed to talk about to 'make your joy complete'? (ex. graduation, wedding, baby, job promotion, etc.)

Today's lesson was John just getting warmed up. And let me assure you that he, in fact, gets warmed up. As we close for today, ask the Lord to help you make the joy that you find in him complete. Start a conversation with a new friend. Make that phone call that you need to make. Encourage someone in a tough season.

Same time. Same place. Tomorrow.

Walking in the Light

GOD IS LIGHT AND IN HIM
THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.
- 1 JOHN 1:5

TODAY'S READING - 1 John 1:5-10

Hello to you on this third day of The Trio! I hope these words find you well, rested and content. If they don't, I pray they will bring you hope and peace in the midst of your circumstances. You are exactly where you need to be, in the pages of scripture, in order to find rest in the difficult seasons. Speaking of difficult seasons, John knew a thing or two about those. Remember how we talked about our author, John, also being the writer of the Gospel of John? That particular gospel was written in John's early life. He was young and wild and free. Or rather young-ish, not super wild and one of the original 12 disciples. Doesn't have quite the same ring to it though, does it?

Due to the fact that our author actually walked with Jesus, literally and figuratively, there is a difference in the way John references Jesus versus our man, Paul, who while alive during Jesus' life, did not know him personally. John's account isn't hearsay or rumored. He knew Jesus' cadence when he walked, his rhythm when he spoke and the words that he used most often.

Enter 1 John 1:5 onto the scene: 'This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.'

John is telling the readers of his letters and now countless scripture devotees in the centuries since - We heard this from HIM. And now we declare it to YOU.

Him -> You

That's the transmission.

One of the many beautiful parts of our protestant faith is that we believe that we have full access to God. Anytime. Anywhere. There is no priest required- we are the Royal Priesthood of Believers.

Take a minute to write 1 Peter 2:9 here:

I feel like there is someone reading this that needs to be reminded that in God, there is no darkness. This world can feel so dark and oppressive at times, yet God's own character sets the standard for what is right. No matter what you're walking through, or sitting through, or barely being able to breathe through, there is purpose in your suffering. God is not wasting your time on trials that have nothing to do with your life. This isn't homework in high school. There is a reason for EVERYTHING. I'll say it again.... There is a reason for EVERYTHING. Take heart. He's all light and no darkness. He would never allow something that doesn't have eternal value.

*If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness,
we lie and do not live by the truth. (v.6)*

This statement feels a bit like a mic-drop. There are no qualifiers. If you claim to have fellowship and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. I would like to point out that John writes, if we 'walk in darkness'. He's not referencing honest mistakes. His point is around how our lives are wired. How we function every day. Everyone makes mistakes- goodness knows I'm the queen of them. John's point is that we are responsible for how we orient our lives so that we are living in a righteous rhythm, not a path of secrets, manipulation and deception.

Write verse 7 for me:

So verse 7 feels like two thoughts mashed together, but it actually is woven together beautifully when we take it in context. First thought: if we walk in the light then we have fellowship with one another. Second thought: the blood of Jesus purifies our sins. Based on my research, this verse is alluding to the benefits of walking in the light. Think about community, friends, maybe family but not necessarily. John is pretty black and white on this light vs. dark comment. There's no third option. Because he's so cut and dry on this principle, he knows that living according to the precepts of the Lord is how we have true community. He also knows that sometimes our friends tell it like it is. Ya know what I mean?

**Whoever claims
to live in him
must walk as
Jesus did.
*1 John 1:6***

Thank the Lord for those kind of friends who can bring everything right back into focus! The blood of Jesus purifies all sin, and allows us to have healthy relationships. It's a combo situation. Can't have one without the other. Acknowledging our propensity to sin is humbling, which makes us a better friend; living in the light of grace makes us a better spouse; and honesty about our undesirable traits enables us to extend kindness when others exhibit those same traits.

How we react when other people fail, speaks directly to the condition of our heart. How can walking in the light with community around us help us to guide the condition of our hearts?

Over the course of this study, I really think you're going to fall in love with John as an author but also Jesus in a fresh way. One of the things I love about John is that, although the words he uses are fairly simple and straightforward, there's a depth and richness to it that is almost surprising. Take verse 8 for example.....*'If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.'* Doesn't get much more straightforward than that! Ever had those people in your life who are the perfect parents, the perfect spouse and the perfect Christian - just ask them! John debunks that within the first chapter of his writings. Pretending like you've got it together is deceptive and misleading, but even worse than that, it means that you don't have the light in you. People who have been redeemed sing a song of redemption that is woven in and out of every conversation. Sometimes it's subtle and sometimes it's as profound as a testimony from the stage. *But they talk about it.*

Verse 9 is probably one you've heard if you grew up in church but maybe never knew where it was found. Write it out here so you can see it spelled out:

I pray you've felt the offering of hope today. Before you end your time with the Lord, ask him to help you live in the light today and I'll see you back tomorrow.

Living as Jesus Did

BUT IF ANYBODY DOES SIN, WE HAVE ONE
WHO SPEAKS TO THE FATHER IN OUR DEFENSE
- JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS ONE.
- 1 JOHN 2:1B

TODAY'S READING -1 *John 2:1-11*

Hey there! Welcome to day 4 of our study. Since we only have 14 days together, you're already killing it. Thanks for coming back to the pages of scripture with me. My guess is that you're a bit like me....looking for some encouragement and a fresh word from the Lord. Ask him before we start to meet you! I know he will!

Please take a minute to read through our passage for today. I love how John uses terms of endearment all throughout this book. Our first verse starts out: '*My dear children...*'. Spoken like a father of the faith, John is older and wiser at this point in his life. It's worth noting that age doesn't necessitate wisdom, but in the case of our beloved John, wisdom is teeming from his words. He about can't keep it all together to get to his point because he so badly wants you and me to know that he loves us and that Jesus is worth it. It's hard not to be fond of someone like that!

Take a minute to write 2:1-2 below. They are so powerful that I want you to see them in your own handwriting.

I see verse 1 as something that I'd say to my own daughters. 'I don't want you to sin, but when you do, I'll always be on your side and fight for you.' If you've never had someone fight for you that way, take a minute to let the Lord speak to that place in your heart.

In two verses we find that he uses 4 names for God. Write them below:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Here's the thing about a God that is so multidimensional: We can take great comfort in knowing that he can handle our humanness. Our desire to connect with our God on varying levels that are personal, yet collective. John is making sure that we know that he made restitution for our sins on the cross but also for the sins of the whole world. We are wise to remember that we are loved, sought after and our debt has been paid. We are also wise to remember that he did that for the rest of the world, too. Let's not feel less valuable by that fact, sisters. Let's find a commonality and unity in the fact that God loved us all deeply and personally. That's our Savior!

Our next portion of scripture is a little sharp around the edges so let's all take a deep breath, hold hands and sing Kumbaya. It's gonna be ok.

The man who says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his words, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.'

1 John 2:4-5

I don't know about you but I don't fancy being called a liar. Most people don't. Even in the original language of our author, a blow like that is offensive. There's a strong biblical correlation between what we know and what we do. In 2018, there's less of a relationship between the two. We are scared to 'judge' anyone so we shy away from even asking our believing friends questions about their life choices. Who are we to judge, anyway, right? John, however, is not as shy as myself. His point? If you say that you know Jesus, then you do what he commands. End of story. If you don't, then your actions don't line up with your words and that's a recipe for a liar.

BUT, if anyone obeys his words, then God's love is made complete in him. There is faith and action in the equation. We won't get into the hotly debated theological argument but suffice it to say that, if I went around talking about how much I loved my husband yet nothing about my life spoke the same message, you'd have reason to believe I wasn't telling the truth. When we are honest and forthcoming with the positions of our hearts, our lives and actions naturally line up. It really is that simple.

John ends this thought with a summary. *'This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.'* Based on my reading, this is not a salvation issue but rather a righteous living issue. We can't 'behave' our way into heaven. That's not what this passage is about. These verses are about living and thriving with Christ as the center of our lives and taking people along the journey with us. None of that can be done without a high level of authenticity and vulnerability.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

Starting in verse 7, John is back at his game. ‘*Dear friends...*’ He’s focusing on an old command that Jesus taught- to love one another. The Gnostics (a new type of religion that focused on knowledge and mystical awareness) were counterfeiting love and parading their teachings around as being new. John was teaching his people something we’d all be wise to remember: If you are having a hard time remembering, then go back to the beginning. What do we recall that Jesus taught? Sometimes old commandments can feel new again when the Holy Spirit breathes on them. Remembering is a God given gift!

Verses 9 -11 are convicting and pinpoint an emotion that few of us want to talk about. Hate. It’s not the easiest topic to bring up over that vanilla latte with a friend. It’s tough for me to come up with a bigger buzzword for our culture right now. Unless it’s Love. Between the two we are volleyed back and forth in a moral game of who will give up first. The world’s version of love/hate are different from God’s version. We know that God is love (1 John 4:16). In him there is no darkness (1 John 1:5) and he so loved us that he made a way for us to have a relationship with him (John 3:16).

Our man John says that you can’t claim to have love for everyone except your (figurative) brother and still walk in the light. There’s not an exception list that gets you off the hook from those especially squirrely people. Isn’t that sad!? Goodness knows I have days where I can feel like I’m rockin’ and rollin’ with my friends and family....everything is blue skies and birds singing. I’m loving everyone! Then ‘he’ comes along. Or ‘she’ comes along. And all that love and those blue skies feel like they shrivel up into a distant memory and it’s all I can do to be cordial and, dare I say, ‘nice’. Here’s John’s point- you have dark parts in your heart and those parts need to be exposed to light so that you won’t stumble. Think about it as if it were snow and ice on the ground. Snow melts when the sun hits it and the roads become dry and drivable. But for the areas of road that remain in the shade, as the snow melts it becomes like ice. And ice is slippery and dangerous to drive or walk on. Same thing with our hearts. If we don’t expose all of it to the light, then the parts that aren’t exposed simply become cause for stumbling.

Today, don’t let the world dictate who and how you love. And don’t let those parts of your heart remain untouched by Jesus. Things get slippery and dangerous when we follow the world’s commands and not the commands our heavenly father gives us.

**All light. No dark. All love. No hate. All truth. No lies. All of you.
Nothing held back. Jesus changes everything.**

Family of God

THE WORLD AND ITS DESIRES PASS AWAY,
BUT THE MAN WHO DOES
THE WILL OF GOD LIVES FOREVER.
- 1 JOHN 2:17

TODAY'S READING -1 *John 2:12-17*

This morning I actually got up, did my coffee thing and sat down on my brown couch that is sagging in the middle from years of love, and didn't feel like I'd been hit by a bus. Can I get an amen? Lately, I've been feeling so run down and exhausted. I'm sure I could write it off as the weather (snow in Georgia!?) or just a 'busy season', but let's be honest- life is a busy season. Of course, there are certain weeks that feel like your schedule is showing you who is boss. And other times we think that filling our time somehow makes it more valuable. Neither is good. There's a difference between swimming laps and treading water. Both are wet. Both are in the pool. Both are exhausting. But one is training you for something and building endurance, while the other is just annoying enough to get chlorine in your hair.

Take a minute to read 1 John 2:12-17.

John, and Jesus for that matter, want us to stay focused and move forward. In other words, swim the laps and be exhausted. That's ok. But don't just tread water, because you won't move forward in life and you'll still be worn out! Let me just be really honest: Our passage for today is going to seem like we are treading water. It might not make sense the first time you read it, well it didn't to me at least. But let's trust that every letter of every word in the Bible is intentional and purposeful that we may not gloss over this passage just because, at first glance, it may appear that it isn't speaking specifically to women. Although the words little children, young men and fathers are used, these passages are very much intended for our ears, as well!

Give me a sentence that you feel describes the climate for women in today's society.

What does inclusivity mean to you?

If the 'male and female' vocabulary isn't used, does that mean that one is ostracized from the conversation?

I'm fully aware that this is a hot button topic, so please let me dispel any tension rising up in you. Of course we are pro-women, this is women's bible study! But please don't ever confuse being pro-woman with being anti-man. It's elementary to think that we must cut out half the earth's population to support the other. John is writing about spiritual families. And it is Biblical that the head of the household is male. If you come from a home where that power was abused, please know that I am deeply sorry. Painful wounds arise when concepts like this are discussed but that doesn't mean that we must pretend as though they are not there. Moving forward in light of God's grace is one of the top benefits to being a child of God! We can move forward! We can swim the laps and leave the treading of water to someone else! Women play a vital role in the family of God. VITAL. We can celebrate other roles in the family of God only when we fully understand and appreciate our role. Otherwise we become desperate and backed into a corner. And anyone backed into a corner naturally lashes out of fear and distress. Let's not be women who lash out. Let's appreciate our role fully so that we might also appreciate everyone else's role.

She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21

There are three categories that John discusses. Below, please write the purpose mentioned in the verses for each.

Dear Children of God: (2:12 & 2:13c)

Fathers: (2:13a & 14a)

Young Men: (2:13b & 2:14b)

Did any of those directives stick out to you? It is interesting to me that John jumps from these categories, that were sort of plopped into the middle of his letter, to 3 verses on not loving the world.

Read 2:15-17 and write any phrases that stick out to you.

Honestly, all three verses are Tweetable content. Let's look at the end of verse 16.

*For everything in the world.....
and the boasting of what he has and does-
comes not from the Father but from the world.*

How can we know the difference between simply talking about what is going on in our lives and 'boasting about what we have and do'? It can be a blurry line sometimes. The difference is always the heart, and I know that you know that. This isn't groundbreaking news. But in situations where the line seems too blurry to decipher, we always look to the heart of the person or situation. And sometimes, we have to look real long and hard. *grin* The world seemingly offers a lot. Sort of like the menu at the Cheesecake Factory. (Who knew there were so many options!?) Yet, it never delivers the way we think it will. The world does not and cannot have our best interest in mind. That can only come from the Lord. Even the most persuasive companies, people, relationships- without Jesus, there's always an ulterior motive.

And if we don't have Jesus and operate in His spirit, we also will have deceptions that run so deep we start to believe them ourselves. That's when we know we need a wakeup-call, sisters.

Write 1 John 2:17 here for me.

The world will pass away. These desires will pass. Don't believe me? Think back on something you really wanted from 3 years ago. Hard to even remember something you wanted, isn't it? Much less to think about it satisfying us for that long. It's almost comical really.

'... The man (or woman) who does the will of God lives forever.'

We know life doesn't last forever here on earth. But life eternal lasts forever with Christ in heaven. Let's promise ourselves and the Lord to not focus on the seen but the unseen (2 Corinthians 4:18) because we know that is what God sees.

Father, give me eyes to rightly see the world around me. Let kindness, truth telling and love abound and let it start with me. Amen.

Warning Against Anti-Christ's

BUT YOU HAVE AN ANOINTING
FROM THE HOLY ONE, AND ALL
OF YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
- 1 JOHN 2:20

| WARNING AGAINST ANTI-CHRISTS |

TODAY'S READING -1 John 2:18-27

Good day to you! Does it make you feel all warm and fuzzy on the inside to see the heading for Day 5 and know that we are going to talk about the Warning Against Anti-Christ?!? What could be more exciting than that topic! Kidding. Sort of. We are definitely going to talk through those warnings but hopefully you won't think about it like an episode of The Walking Dead.

Read through our passage a few times just to get a good grasp on it before we start. If you feel comfortable, highlight or underline key sentences that stick out to you.

It is actually an interesting topic that I think may shed some light on current situations. Let's give two definitions before we dive in today.

The Anti-Christ: A single person. Exhibited as The Man of Lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9. This man will represent an incarnation of Satan during the end-times. Counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders will characterize this man. We don't believe this man has lived or is living. His appearance will signal the fulfillment of Revelation.

Anti-Christ (aka. the spirit of anti-christ or a anti-christian spirit): Many in number have been on the earth since the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The multitude of people with this anti-christian spirit is what John is most concerned about. A sign of the end times is that there will be multitudes of people with anti-christian spirits. We will reference this concept again in 1 John 4:3.

When your friends ask you what you're reading these days, you can tell them you're reading about the incarnation of Satan. So. You know...That's fun. In all seriousness, John was not joking around about this topic. Remember how we said that by the time our beloved disciple wrote these letters that he had lived a lot of life? At minimum he was 65 years old, having walked with Jesus in his 20s. His warning doesn't fall on deaf ears as his readers would have been able to feel what he was talking about even though there were no news programs or constant updates to be seen.

We can heed warnings and understand eschatology (study of the end-times) while not being a paranoid conspiracy theorist. I say that because in verse 18, John is talking to us as a Father or Grandfather figure again, telling us that the end is near. In verses 18-19, John is making it clear that these people were once a part of their body of believers, or church, and now they have left and gone off on their own. I would venture to say that they physically went off on their own- there

weren't a dozen other churches to choose from in those days- and they probably mentally went off on their own, spouting out enough of perversion of Christianity to be dangerous. Christianity twinged with self-righteousness is not of Christ. Nothing about Jesus came so that we might do as we so please. It's always been about other people. John's point is that, if one of those people comes and tries to sell you a bag of tricks that looks like Christ but doesn't function as Christ did, you've been hoodwinked.

Don't buy it! 1 John 2:20-21 tells us why...write it here:

If we had to divide today's reading into three sections I think it would be as follows. Please read and then give each section your own title.

1 - 1 John 2:15-19 -

2 - 1 John 2:20-23 -

3 - 1 John 2:24-27 -

Section 1 focuses on the warning against antichrists. Section 2 focuses on the anointing that believers have from the Holy One (God). Section 3 focuses on steadfastness of Christian beliefs.

Exercises like this always help me read for comprehension. If you have been a believer, or in church for a long time, it can be easy to gloss over without reading to understand. Take the extra few minutes to make sure it sinks in. This is how we sit in the Word of God and rightly divide truth.

Quickly look up and jot down 2 Timothy 2:15 here:

Which verses were impactful to you today? Why?

I pray you're reminded today that you do have an anointing on you from the Holy One and you do know the truth. The following would be a great couple of verses to memorize:

*See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.
If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.
And this is what he promised us-even eternal life. - 1 John 2:24-25*

**I do not write
to you because
you do not know
the truth, but
because you do
know it...**
1 John 2:21

How many times do things get overwhelming in life? Circumstances can be going smoothly and then panic sets in before we have time to hardly speak against it. The two verses above remind us to go back to the beginning. Remember what the Lord has told you. If he hasn't spoken to you recently, think back to the last time you were sure you heard his voice. That's your point of reference. Start there. My friend Lindsay in Missouri always reminds me of this truth. Aren't friends like that a gift? I pray you have someone in your life like that, as well.

Our last verse (v. 27) is what we will end with today. *'As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and as that anointing is real-not counterfeit- just as he has taught you, remain in him.'*

What does anointing mean to you? Can you give an example of it in your life or in the life of someone close to you?

We are obviously big students here at Our Tuesday. There are scholars and prophets and professors that have gone before us that have more intelligence in their pinkies than I could ever hope to have in my whole body. However. And that's a capital-H, However...

The basis for all knowledge is knowing God. And we learn the purest version of God through His Word and by our relationship with him. Everything else is commentary. God tells us who we are. We don't have to find ourselves when we know him. God makes sure we know through countless examples in scripture that it's ok to mess up but it's not ok to be disobedient. That he loves us more than we can measure.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:13-16.

He is real and His love is real. It's not counterfeit and it's not limited to what we understand. In prayer today, thank him that he defines who you are and that you don't have to go around asking the world who you are any longer. There is another way.

**Jesus, I will no longer think _____ about myself, no
matter what _____ says. I will believe I am
_____, _____, & _____
because you tell me I am. I take you at your word, Father. Amen.**

Confident & Unashamed

HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE THE FATHER
HAS LAVISHED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD
BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! AND
THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!
- 1 JOHN 3:1

TODAY'S READING - 1 John 2:28-3:10

Hey you! You're looking lovely today! I sure do hope you're enjoying (& learning) as much as I am from John. Talk about a wealth of knowledge and truth in an often overlooked book! Sometimes the hardest truths to digest are the simplest. Restraint is often what defines gifted communicators. Anyone can say or write anything and everything that comes to mind- a wise and true communicator knows when to speak, what to say and not to say, and how to say it so that it's like a balm to wounds (Proverbs 12:18) and not salt to wounds. That perfectly sums up our main man, John. He has a kindness and a rhythm to his writing that is endearing and comforting. No doubt he had kind eyes and a warm smile.

Go ahead and read our portion of scripture for today. Look for any verses that are familiar to you and be sure to make note of those below.

Our first verse today jumps right into a thought that immediately puts a lump in my throat. You? Read 1 John 2:28 again, real quick. I'll wait right here.

I know, right!? Whew. When we strip all the layers of life back and we have a lucid moment to look through time and see ourselves standing before God at the end of our lives, don't we all just want to be confident and unashamed. Those two words are moving and provide fresh wind in my sails. It is SO HARD to remain confident in the work of Christ on this earth while also being unashamed of who God made you to be. A synonym would be unapologetic. Oh, if we could be humble and unapologetic. Confident and unashamed. But if we stay focused on Jesus. I mean, locked in, zeroed in on who he is and the guidelines he gives us to live a full and healthy life. Sister, we will be confident and unashamed in the present and when we see him again one day! Goosebumps!

Is there anyone in your life that you feel embodies this trait? Confident and unashamed? Humble and unapologetic?

Remember how I asked you to make note of any verses that sounded familiar in your first reading? This was one that I was thinking of that I learned growing up. My NIV puts it this way:

*'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!'* 1 John 3:1

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall have everlasting life.
John 3:16

The last 6 words of the second sentence are what get me. *‘And that is what we are!’* Ever wonder what you are? Who you are? Why you are the way you are? Verses like this remind us that there’s always an answer in scripture. This is hope soaked in confidence, brimming with love: We are his children! He loves us! He wants good for us! He’s on our side!

Verse 3 is a plea for purity. Christ’s blood and sacrifice makes us clean and pure at salvation but there is a life of purity that comes along with God’s standard for righteousness. Believers don’t live in habitual sin. It’s not about being perfect- John makes that super clear -but it is about not living in the pattern of sin day in and day out. In the Disciples Study Bible, the writers put it this way: That Jesus came from heaven to earth to destroy what Satan had accomplished and to atone (pay the debt) for our sins. We don’t usually think about satan having accomplished things because that’s not the prettiest picture.

How does that make you feel? Do you agree?

1 John 3:5-6 words this concept pretty plainly. *‘He (Jesus) appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.’* Only a Savior without sin can take it away from us. Otherwise it’s the pot calling the kettle black, right?

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. (v.7)

It’s safe to assume that if scripture is warning us to not be lead astray then that’s probably because people are going to try to lead us astray! We’ve got to wise up and pay attention. John’s warnings are simple. Believers should love one another. If they don’t, then something is wrong. Believers should do what is right even when no one is watching. If they don’t, then something is wrong. Believers should not be in a habit of sin. If they are, then something is wrong.

Do any other verses or phrases within verses 7-10 stand out to you?

If you had one take away from today’s passage, what would it be?

Whatever satan had accomplished on this earth, Christ came to make another way. Although we still fight against the forces of this world, we have hope in a savior named Jesus Christ. To close out our time together today, take one more look at the verse you wrote just above. Pray and ask the Lord to help you understand it better, to bring it to fulfillment in your life, and to help you teach it to someone close to you. The Lord honors our requests when brought to him with an honest heart. See you tomorrow, sister!