I JOHN – LESSON 3

I. **KNOWING GOD BY PROPER ACTION (2:1-17)**
   A. We know God if we keep His commandments (2:1-6) .
      1. Jesus' sufficient sacrifice makes saving relationship with God possible (v.1-2).
      2. Keeping commandments is essential to knowing God (v. 3-4).
      3. Love for God is perfected and the relationship with God is conditioned upon keeping His word (v. 5).
      4. If we say that we abide in Him, we ought to walk as He walked (v. 6).

   B. We abide in the light if we love our brother (2:7-11).
      1. Old commandment – had been taught by the Lord and had not changed (v.7)
      2. New commandment – its character manifested in the unique self-sacrifice of Christ (v. 8).
      3. In darkness if one hates brother – regardless of what one professes (v. 9).
      4. Abides in light if one loves brother (v. 10)
      5. In darkness subjects one to many pitfalls (v. 11).

   C. We know that to love the world means that we do not love the Father (2:12-17)
      1. Readers are at different stages of spiritual development (v. 12-14).

      2. Cannot give oneself over to the principles that motivate the world and still love the Father (v. 15-17).
         a. The world: no higher goal than to satisfy one's fleshly desires.
         b. Doing God's will key to abiding forever while the world passes away.

      3. Speak with God that one has sinned.

QUESTIONS:

`1.   Give one purpose for John writing this letter:

2.   What *two facts* about Jesus make Him the only Savior will ever need?

3.   What *two wonderful assurances* do we have when we keep God's commandments and His word?

4.   What ought we do if we say that we abide in the light?

5,   What commandment is both new and old?   Explain:

6.   By walking in the light, what consequence is avoided?

7.   What is suffered if we walk in darkness?

8.   Name *two characteristics* of the "little children"?

9.   What characterizes the "fathers"?

10.   How can we overcome the evil one?

11.   How do we "love the world"?

12.   What *two facts* should strengthen you against loving the world?