

Rm
Jg 16
DA

Title: The Grounds of our Assurance

Text: I John 4:12-16

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to I John chapter 4. We will begin where we left off this morning. I John chapter 4 verse 12

(Read Vs 12-16)

Prayer

These verses are part of John's teaching on LOVE. It began back at Vs 7 and continues through chapter 5 verse 5. So, let's review, quickly, what we studied this morning.

(1) In Vs 7 and 8 love is described. Here we have one of the great description of love found in the entire Bible. It is just tremendous

(2) Then secondly, in verses 9 and 10 we have a wonderful demonstration of the meaning of love. Christ death on the cross.

~~(3)~~ Then we concluded this morning with the challenge of Vs 11. "Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

You see, once you know what love is all about. And you see love's greatest demonstration in verses 9 and 10. THEN the natural out-flow of that experience is to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, we are studying the doctrine of assurance. How we can know without a shadow of a doubt that we have eternal life...that we are saved.

(3B) So, building upon this love theme John now says in verses 12 through 16 that we can experience this assurance through the EXAMPLE OF THE FATHER. Vs 12 says "No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us. (1C) So, the first fact we can learn about the example of the Father is HIS ABIDING IN US.

Did you know that the Bible teaches that the FATHER abides in the believer And that is very interesting because the Bible, also, teaches that the Holy Spirit abides in the believer. And to confuss the matter, the Bible teaches that Jesus abides in the believer. HOW ABOUT THAT? Care to explain it?

Well I think it is simple. You must remember that God in essences and being is ONE...If God indwells you and God indwells me, then all three parts of the Trunity indwells you and me in the final analysis. WHY? Because God is one. Thus we can say that God indwells the believer: Father, son and Holy Spirit.

So, in Vs 12 we learn that God abides in us. Also, notice Vs 15..... "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in Him."

So, according to theses two verses God abides in the believer. And the evidence of this, to give you reall assurance in your life IS, VS 12, WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

(10) The test to know whether God the Father is abiding in me is IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER. And I notice that this effects my GROWTH IN THE LORD. Look at that last phrase of Vs 12..."HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US."

The word "perfected means "Mature" or "to come to completion." His love has been made "mature" in us.

So, the more that I am loving...the more I am growing in Christian maturity...Dear friends, this is an amazing concept. Let me show you how it works.....Turn, please, to Ephesians chapter 4. Ephesians chapter 4 beginning with Vs 11.....(READ Vs 11-12, 15-16)

Now, I want you to follow this carefully. *This is how it work* When the Pastor-teacher equips the Saints, that is christians, through the knowledge of the Word of God, the result is that the body of Christ is edified...meaning "built-up".

O.K. what is it that we ought to be built up in?

Vs 15...says "We are to grow up in all aspects to Him.....HOW?
By "speaking the truth.".....IN WHAT?.....IN LOVE..... Understand?.....

Notice the end of Vs 16...Casuses the growth of the body for the building up of itself....HOW?.....IN LOVE!....

The body is built up in the spere of love. This great gift from God. Loves comes from God. The Holy Spirit produces love. And the evidence that I am really ~~a christian~~ is, as a habit of life, I AM LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

*operating my Life
By AGAPo (Love)*

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How? "Speaking the truth." In what? In love. ^{you see} In the sphere of love. Notice the end of Vs 16 "causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself - How? By what means? IN LOVE. THE BODY IS BUILT UP IN THE SPHERE OF LOVE. / ^{This} ~~THIS~~ GREAT GIFT FROM GOD. LOVE COMES FROM GOD. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES LOVE. AND THE EVIDENCE THAT I AM REALLY A CHRISTIAN IS, AS A HABIT OF LIFE, I AM LOVING ONE ANOTHER. ^{And my friends when we start doing this this kind of growth spiritual as well as numerical}

And the result of christians loving one another is that the body of Christ is being built up. Qualitive as well as Quantitive. You know flies are attracted to honey better then they are veinger.....

And so people will come to Christ when they see the disciples of Christ loving one antoher. Jesus said by this shall all men know that you are my dâsciples, if you love one another. LOVE IS ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST. As well, as the fact that the believers, themselves, are being built up.

Now, don't you like to be loved? Don't lie. Pyschogist say that is the basic need of all individucals, to be loved. Doesn't it do something to you to be loved? ^{Love one another}

Now, come back to I John 4:12. John is teaching that God abides in us and His love comes to maturity in us, if we love one another.

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20 Also, God's abiding in us, ~~relating to loving one another,~~ ^{and because of this guarantee} is ~~related~~? RELATED TO A GUARINTEE. And ~~THIS~~ WE HAVE ASSURANCE. According to Vs 13, ^{John} says: "By this we know....not we hope so....we know by this method... what method...loving one another...We have a guarntee...It rest on solid ground.." by this we know that we abide in Him and He in us." WHY?

Because no person could love in this manner except God be in Him.

30 And it is also related to a gift. Look at the end of Vs 13: "because He has given us ~~a~~ His Spirit." The Holy Spirit of God who comes to live in the believer has this love. And ~~He~~ ^{through} is the one who is shedding it aboard ~~in~~ our lives.

(20)

So, assurance comes through the example of the Father. First of all, through His abiding in us. ^{But} Secondly, Vs 14 - THROUGH HIS REAL ACT OF LOVE. Look at Vs 14: "And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World."

The Father sent his own Son to be the Saviour of the World. I am not going ^{to} explain this thought because we did ^{the morning} so last week in Verses 9-10.

But, only this: If you really want to know what this love is all about, you must come to the foot of the cross. It is there where the greatest demonstration of love was ever seen. ~~AND I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT.~~

"God so loved ~~that~~ ^{the} world that he gave his only begotten son." God loves us, deeply. And the evidence of that love is the giving of His own Son, to be the saviour of the world.

(30) Now, third, Assurance comes through the ^{example of the} Father when we see His affection for us, personal. Look at Vs 16 : "And we have come to know and have believed the love in which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

This is tremendous. We have known and have believed the love in which God has for us. In Jeeremiah we read that God loved us with ["]an everlasting love." That is comforting, isn't it?

We are so up and down. We change. We love, today. But, tomorrow we are not ^{so} sure about it. But, God is everlasting Love. He loves us so much. Really, the words of the Bible are not strong enough to explain that love. He loves us.

"And that brings Assurance to us." "We have known and Believed that God loved us. And that love draws me to Him. And it is building an Assurance in my life that God truly is in me. And I am in Him. That I do possess eternal life. That I am really salved. ASSURANCE ** AND IT COMES THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF THE FATHER, HIMSELF."

**** *Close & Pray*

My friends, DO YOU HAVE THAT ASSURANCE. Do you have the assurance that God is, without a shadow of a doubt, ~~with~~ abiding in you?

You can. HOW? By accepting Jesus Christ as Your Saviour. Ephesians chapter 2 verse 1 says that without Christ we are dead in our trespasses and sins. But down in Verse 8 we read that through simple Faith and trust in what Jesus did for us on the ~~cross~~ cross, we are saved. WE ARE SAVED.

And you know what it says in Ephesians chapter 1 verse 13? It says that if we have listened to the message of truth, which is the gospel of our salvation - AND WE HAVE BELIEVED ~~that/believed~~ THAT MESSAGE -- WE WILL BE SEALED IN HIM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. THUS ASSURANCE COMES.

Would you accept Christ, today? Right now. Simple ask Christ to come into your heart and life.

And my Christian friends, IS THE LOVE OF GOD--AGAPE*** CAUSING YOU TO GROW, SPIRITUAL? ~~and~~ maturity comes IF we ~~love~~ are, as a habit of life, loving one another.

And this involves YEIELDING. Yielding our will to the will of God.

SHALL WE CLOSE WITH PRAYER

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