

BOOK OF 1 JOHN

Lesson #4 -Spiritual Progression
Scripture Reading: 1John 2:12-14

Introduction:

1. John is addressing an audience of varying spiritual levels.
 - a. Little children -New converts to Christ
 - b. Young men -Mature in the faith
 - c. Fathers -Those steadfast in the faith for many years (i.e. pillars in the church)
2. We must constantly progress spiritually throughout the various levels of maturity.
3. We progress spiritually by knowing...

I. OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

A. THE FACT

1. They had obeyed the gospel -2Th 1:7, 8; Ro 6:3, 4
2. Salvation is only in the name of Jesus
 - a. He is our Advocate -1Jn 2:1
 - b. He is the Way -Jn 14:6
 - c. He has the only name by which we can be saved -Ac 4:12
 - d. We were baptized into His name -Ac 2:38

B. THE APPLICATION

1. We don't allow guilt to pull us back
 - a. Paul was in the ministry -1Ti 1:12-15
 - b. Paul pressed on to the goal -Ph 3:12-14
2. We don't allow pleasure to allure us back
 - a. The death of the old man of sin -Co 3:5-11
 - b. Putting on the new man -Co 3:12-17
 - c. Learn from the example of Demas -2Ti 4:10

II. HIM WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING

A. THE LITTLE CHILDREN KNEW THE FATHER

1. Salvation was not possible without knowing Him
2. Their salvation is evidence that they know Him

B. THE FATHERS KNEW HIM

1. We can look at nature and know some things about Him -Ro 1:20, 21
 - a. He is intricate in His ways
 - b. He is the Creator of beauty
2. We can only truly know Him through His word
 - a. He is from the very beginning -Jn 1:1, 2; 17:5
 - b. He is revealed to us through the word -1Jn 1:1-3

III. THE STRATEGY OF OVERCOMING THE WICKED ONE

A. BE STRONG

1. We are to be strong in the power of His might -Ep 6:10-12
2. Our weapons are not carnal -2Co 10:4, 5
3. We do not have a spirit of fear, but of power... -2Ti 1:7

B. HAVE THE WORD OF GOD ABIDE IN YOU

1. People are destroyed for a lack of knowledge -Hos 4:6
 - a. The famine for God's word -Amos 8:11, 12
 - b. The harmful effects of the word of God sitting dormant -2Ki 22:3-20
 - c. How the word of God was to be treated
 - i. The king -De 17:18-20
 - ii. The priest and the people -De 31:9-13
2. The benefits of knowing the word of God
 - a. It keeps us from sinning against Him
 - i. E.g. David -Ps 119:11
 - ii. E.g. Jesus -Mt 4:1-11
 - b. It reveals to us pitfalls to avoid -Ps 119:105
 - i. There are many things that seem right to us -Pr 14:12; Je 10:23
 - ii. The Bible is our guide to stay away from that which would destroy us.

Conclusion:

1. The Christian life is a continual growth process
2. The only way to grow as we ought, is to...
 - a. Appreciate our salvation
 - b. Continue to learn of God and His will for us
 - c. Let the words of Christ dwell in us richly -Co 3:16
 - d. And to apply all we learn to our everyday living before God.