

Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:45 AM  
Subject: Tuesday Nite's MOB Study

The "big idea" in John's writings, first in the Gospel of John and then in his epistle of I John--all inspired by the Holy Spirit--simply stated, is that God revealed, or "manifested" Himself to the world in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, for the purpose of dying on the Cross to pay for the sin of the world so that we might believe and receive Him, and thereby have eternal life (John 3:16, etc.). The fact is, as Jesse noted on Sunday, that we could never really know God unless He somehow revealed Himself to us. And He has! In at least three specific ways, noted in Warren Wiersbe's commentary on I John, titled "Be Real"--(1) through the world that He made; (2) through the Son whom He sent (which is what John writes about); and (3) through the Word which He inspired (II Tim. 3:16-17)!

But the fact is that while God's creation "declares the glory of God" (Psa.19), it required God sending His Son to demonstrate the story of His love! And it's through the hearing of God's Word, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that saving faith comes into our lives (Rom. 10:17). And it's also through His Word that we as believers are guided into all truth (John 16:13), and have the "eyes of our heart enlightened" (Eph. 1:17) which, as John MacArthur writes, is the "only means of truly understanding and appreciating the hope and inheritance in Christ and of living obediently for Him." And isn't it amazing to see how all of this relates again to Jesse's message on Sunday when he spoke about the "doctrine of illumination," which he defined as "the supernatural act in which the Holy Spirit gives insight into His Word!"

And so, John said he wrote his epistle "to those who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you (we) may know that we have eternal life" (I John 5:13)! But he also said he wrote it--and let's not forget that it's under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit--that every believer might be able to evaluate the reality of his (or her) faith and be confident in their salvation! And one of the evidences, or tests, is in the way we live! In our first real lesson this past Tuesday nite, we learned that the true believer doesn't "practice" sin! Not that he's perfect and doesn't have to deal with sin in his life! In fact, sin in this life, even for the believer, is a reality--and "...if we say we have no sin, we're deceiving ourselves..." But, if we "confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!" John says we have, "an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous!" This is the reality of the Christian life! And it's in this way that we can "walk in the Light" and have fellowship with Him!" John adds that when we obey Him we have the confidence that we "know" Him! And our life is "real"!

There's lots more in I John that we're going to learn! Next week, Lesson #2, on John 2:7-11, which our study guide labels as "Love, Life, and Light"--and which Wiersbe's "Be Real" commentary titles "Something Old, Something New"! Wow! Can hardly wait! The memory verse we chose for next week, by the way, is John 8:12--"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life!"

Have a great weekend, men! See you next Tuesday nite!

May God, through His Spirit, illumine our hearts as we study His Word and share with it with others! And may it be "real"!

Lowell