

## I John 2:12-17

### Week 9

#### Introduction

- As MacArthur notes in his comments, John “anticipates his readers’ perspective when they received the letter.” If we send an email or perhaps a form letter to many people, is this something we should consider? Why or why not? Do we each come to the Bible, God’s letters to us, from a different perspective?

#### Verse 12

- **I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.** This harkens back to verse one of this chapter. It speaks to all of the recipients of the letter. (In the Greek, it can mean either little children or a spiritual father or teacher speaking to both young and old. Calvin believes the latter.) In a way, you might say it is an introduction into the next two verses. It is also a simple expression of salvation. (Their foundation is certain.) He is writing to God’s elect!

#### Verses 13 & 14

- **I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young man, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.**  
**I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.**
  1. Name the three groups mentioned in these verses.
  2. How does this relate to our lives?
  3. Think about the parallels between these two verses.

#### Verse 15

- **Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.**
  1. What Greek word do you think is used to mean love in this verse?
  2. What does it mean to “love the world?” Matt. 6:19-24

#### Verse 16 & 17

- **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of this world.**  
**And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**
  1. What sins are John alluding to? How do we avoid them?
  2. What is temporary and what is permanent (Elliot quote).

**Next week:** Lesson 3. Answer *Drawing Near* questions. Read *The Context* and *Keys to the Text*. Read and consider I John 2:18-23.