

A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament

2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness
(II Tim 3:16)

I John: an invitation to experience divine life

I. An invitation to experience divine life in fellowship with God I John 1:1-4

II. Confidently experiencing divine life through fellowship with God

I John 1:5-4:6

- A. The basics of fellowship with God- walking in the light 1:5-2:2
 - eternal life can only be found in the light of a perfect relationship with God 1:5-7
 - even though we are imperfect, we are able to have this sinless experience because of God's provision 1:8-2:2
- B. The 2 basic principles of divine life 2:3-11
 - walking as He walked 2:3-6
 - loving as He loved 2:7-11
- C. But we must be aware of the threat to divine life 2:12-27
 - we must see ourselves in perspective 2:12-14
 - we must see the dangers of world system 2:15-17
 - we must see the danger even from those who claim to have life 2:18-27
- D. Despite the dangers we can experience divine life by abiding in Christ 2:28-4:6
 - 2:28 summary verse: abiding in Christ is what we need to engage with confidence in the promise of divine life. This is expressed in 3 areas (which corresponds to the basic principles of 2:3-11)
 1. living as obedient, pure children of a loving Father despite the problem of sin 2:28-3:9
 2. loving in word and deed 3:10-23
 3. living in the Spirit of truth 3:24-4:6

III. Concluding challenges 4:7-5:21

- A. Live a life of love towards others 4:7- 4:21
 - because love flows from the character of God 4:8-11
 - because our love for Him is made complete by loving others 4:12-21
- B. Love God by keeping his commandments 5:1-3
- C. Live by faith in Jesus who is proven to be the Son of God by the witness of heaven and earth 5:4-13
- D. Live with confidence in our relationship with Him 5:14-19
- E. Remember true life is only in Jesus, the Christ (our redeemer. King) 5:20-21