

**Prayer for the Week of February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Continue praying for the Crossroads Women's Refresh called "I am Known" coming up on February 22nd. Pray that the Lord will be exalted through the presentation of the gospel and that the women would be drawn closer to him through the music, teaching, and testimonies of the leaders. Pray the women would be refreshed and renewed in their desire to tell others of their hope in Christ.

### **1 John 2:15-29**

Last week, we began a study on the New Testament letter of 1 John. John wrote this letter to a group of believers who had recently been influenced by false teachers. As a result of this influence, they had begun to question the teachings they received concerning Christ. John's heart for all believers is that we would "abide in [Christ], so that when he appears, we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming." The first week of our study focused on the value of eyewitness testimony and what John's "tests" reveal about our faith. This week we turn our focus to what John has to say about our love for God and abiding in Christ.

### **Read 1 John 2:15-17**

1. We read in Matthew 22:37, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." John echoes this commandment when he tells us that love for the "things of this world" replaces our love for God.

- What does he mean by the "things of this world?" Write a list of examples for each and try to include things that are subtle, or you may not normally associate with this phrase.
- Why are believers often drawn into loving these things?
- Are there any of your answers to the first question you find difficult to accept?

### **Read 1 John 2:18-27**

2. Following his charge that believers should not get swept up by things other than God, John turns his attention to the false teachers who had injected doubt into the minds of these believers. He doesn't want them to be influenced in this way again, so John helps them identify those who are against Christ. Even today there are many antichrist messages all around us, some more subtle than others.

- What are the various ways you have heard the denial of Christ in our world today?
- What impact have these messages had on you in your personal life? In your relationships?

3. The false teachers claimed to have special knowledge about God and private access to Him. We see these same claims made today. John states that believers aren't in need of special access or information as they already possess the Son of God and should abide in His truth.

- Why are believers susceptible to believing these sorts of lies despite having the truth?
- What steps can you take to guard against such lies? To abide in Christ?
- How does abiding in Christ help us recognize when we have traded our love for God with a love for the world? When we live in ways that deny Christ's power?

If you haven't already, prayerfully consider signing up for one of our community mission projects. You can find the registration links at <https://crossroads-summerville.org/community/>.