

The First Epistle of John

13

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we focus on the fourth section of John's first epistle – **2:28-3:24** – which can be divided into three sub-sections:

Read 1 John 2:28-3:3

- Why does John encourage his readers to “continue in him”? (**2:28**).
- Who does John describe as those who are “born of him”? (**2:29**).
- Why does the world not recognize those who are “born of him”? (**3:1**).
- What do we know will happen when Christ appears? (**3:2**).
- What does everyone who has the hope stated in **3:2** do? (**3:3**).

Read 1 John 3:4-10

- How does John describe sin? (**3:4**).
- Why did Christ appear? (**3:5**).
- What does John say concerning the one who lives in Christ? (**3:6**).
- What does John say concerning the one who continues to sin? (**3:6**).
- What was the reason the Son of God appeared and how does this relate to **3:5**? (**3:8**).
- How do we know who the children of God and the children of the devil are? (**3:9-10**).

Read 1 John 3:11-24

- What is the message John's readers had heard from the beginning? (**3:11**).
- What should we not be surprised at? (**3:13**).
- How do we know we have passed from death to life? (**3:14**).
- How does John describe the person who hates his brother? (**3:13**).
- How do we know what love is? (**3:16**).
- How should this love be expressed practically? (**3:17-18**).
- How do we have confidence that we will receive anything we ask? (**3:21-22**).
- What two things prove that we live in him and he in us? (**3:23-24**).

Memory Verse

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!