

HUGG Study Guide for the Week of 2/25/2018



“The Resistance to Love”
#REALLOVE
1st John 2:18-3:10 (NLT)
Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

Sermon online @ "YouTube" <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yE0t0ek84euNz419gTgWg>

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST: 1st John 5:14-16

Continue to pray for group requests throughout the week.
Pray for your family and friends and these Ecclesia needs:

- CTBK
- Test the Tithes Pledgers
- The Ecclesia leadership for continue spiritual guidance
- Ecclesia ministries

TEXT UNDER VIEW: 1st John 2:18-3:10 (NLT)

18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. 19 These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us. 20 But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth. 21 So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. 22 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. 23 Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. 25 And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us. 26 I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. 27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit[e] teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. 28 And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. 29 Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. 2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. 5 And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. 6 Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. 7 Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. 8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life[f] is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. 10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers[g] does not belong to God.

COMMENTARY:

At the heart of the matter, according to the author, is that the people who have left are denying that Jesus is the Christ (1 John 2:22) and that he is the incarnate Son of God (1 John 4:2-3). They still understand themselves to be followers of Jesus, but what they believe and confess about him differs from those who remain. Faith, according to this writing, is not simply a matter of cognitive assertion; it is the testimony of the real-life, embodied experience that has been given to them by God. The glue that holds the church together is *God's love*, which has bound them into one family as children of God. Those who have chosen to depart claim fellowship with Jesus, and they also claim that they have no sin (1 John 1:8) -- claims that the author refutes. The specific details of their sin are not spelled out; that is, there is not an enumerated list of behaviors or actions, except that they chose to leave the group: "they went out from us" (2:18-19). From the perspective of 1 John, their departure violates the identity of the community as those who "*love one another*." Although they claim to have the light of Christ, their actions do not show it; they "hate brother or sister" ... <http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary>

LOOK BACK:

1. Read and discuss **Matthews 24:10-12** with your group. How is 'love' described in the last days?

2. Antichrist(s) can be defined as being a substitute or being against Christ. According to Scripture, what message were they promoting?

LOOK UP:

3. Share and describe in your own words how the Father showed His Love towards us?

4. What are some of the indicators described in the sermon that reveal those who are resistant to love in the fellowship?

LOOK FORWARD:

5. Why is it important to continue in 'The Faith'?

HUGG HOSTS & FACILTATORS:

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