

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – August 27 – Sept 1
Doing Life Together – Thriving in Babylon –John’s call

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:7

OBSERVATION: John begins with another term of affection: "dear friends" (NIV) or "beloved" (NRSV, NASB).¹ The word is *agapētos*, "pertaining to one who is dearly loved, dear, beloved, prized, valued."² The word occurs six times in 1 John (2:7; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11). When you combine "beloved" with his other term of affection, "little children" (see on 2:1), it is apparent that John's heart goes out to his readers. He loves them dearly -- which is a great segue into his primary theme -- love.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:7-8

OBSERVATION: The command in this context is, of course, to love. While John's opponents are trying to entice followers through "new teachings" or "deep teachings," John assures his readers that the message he brings them is solid. Twice more he will refer to its foundational status: "This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another." (3:11) "I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another." (2 John 5) It is new because it is revealed in Jesus' own lifestyle, as well as in that of the believers. What's more, it is the wave of the future ... Because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining." (2:8)

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: 2 John 2:9-11

OBSERVATION: Now John gets very specific -- probably because the enemies of the church were characterized by hate, not love. They claimed "new light," but their lack of love displayed the darkness in which they lived. Many Christians struggle with hatred, aggravated hurt, bearing a grudge that they just can't seem to get beyond -- or don't really want to get beyond. Forgiveness is not optional, dear friends. It is at the very core of the gospel. In practice, this is what it means to love our neighbor.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:12-14

OBSERVATION: John is assuring the true believers of their status in Christ against the false claims of his opponents. Look at the promises and inducements that John offers: Your sins have been forgiven. You have known him. You have overcome the evil one. You have known the Father. You are strong. The word of God lives in you.

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:15-17

OBSERVATION: In our passage and in Paul's letters, "world" is often used in the third sense, to refer to human (and demonic) existence that is at odds with and hostile towards God -- the worldly realm that is in rebellion against the heavenly realm.⁶ In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to Satan as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31a; 14:30; 16:11). Later in this Letter, John says that "the whole world is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19)

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:17

OBSERVATION: John concludes this section with the reminder: "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." (2:17) "Pass away" is *paragō*, here used in the sense, "to go out of existence, pass away, disappear,"¹³ which we saw earlier in 2:8. Christians who are spiritual see the world and all its powerful strivings for what they are, passing phenomena that will soon be out of date, *passé*. There is a new world order that is coming, the Kingdom of God. We are already part of it and can see it from afar. But one day this vision will be seen as the predominant reality around us.