

A WALK THROUGH LENT with 1 John

1) Walking in the light 1:1 - 2:2 week beginning 23rd Feb

2) Walking in fellowship

1 John 2:3-17 week beginning **2nd Mar**

3) Walking in the truth 2:18-29 week beginning 9th Mar

4) Walking in love (1) 3:1 - 4:6 week beginning 16th Mar

5) Walking in love (2) 4:7-21 week beginning 23rd Mar

6) Walking in life 5:1-21 **Joint Service** 2nd April
Maundy Thursday 7.30pm St Andrew's



READ: 1 John 2:3-17 (NIV)

³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

¹²I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁴I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever.

REFLECT:

1. What are some of the enemies that we Christians are up against, and how do they threaten us?

1 John 2:3-8

2. From v3, if I am not obeying God's commands, what has gone wrong?
3. In v4-6 there are three sentences (which don't coincide with the three verses); each sentence is covering more or less the same ground. In your own words write out here what John is saying.
4. How does John 13:34 help us to understand the apparent contradiction in vv7-8? From v8, what does John see in his readers as they obey this old/new command?

1 John 2:9-11

5. John relates three things together here (each one expressed both positively and negatively): the claims we make about ourselves, the way we treat our fellow Christians, and whether or not we are stumbling in darkness. Discuss which of the three comes first (if any), and how in practice each one might influence the others.

1 John 2:12-17

6. Note that in vv12-14 John twice addresses his readers as 'children', 'fathers' and 'young men'. What do you think John means by these three groups?

7. 'The evil one' is mentioned in vv13-14, and 'the world' in vv15-17. How do you think 'the evil one' and 'the world' relate to each other? How do we overcome the evil one, and how do we avoid loving the world?

RESPOND:

8. Read 1John 3:23 and Matthew 7:21 and reflect on the seriousness of God's commands.

9. How does this Bible passage help you to renew your spiritual battle? Are there practical steps you can take to resist the world's attractions mentioned in v16?

Pray: Thank the Father for forgiving your sins, for giving you light, for bringing you to know him, and for giving you the strength to overcome the evil one.