**OUTLINE (last three weeks)**

**IV. Body of the Epistle: The life that leads to boldness before the Judgment Seat (2:28-4:19)**

**A. The Theme Verse: Abide to be bold (2:28)**

**B. Learning to see God’s Children (2:29-3:10a)**

**Manifesting the “real you”.**

**C. Learning to see God’s love (3:10b-23)**

**To abide in God, you have to love His children**

**D. Learning to see the God of love (3:24-4:16)**

**1. God’s indwelling acknowledged (3:24)**

**2. God’s Spirit recognized (4:1-6)**

**Review**

**2:29-3:10a – The only way children of God manifest themselves is by doing righteousness. After all, the “real me” doesn’t sin!**

**3:10b-23 - To stay close to God, we have to love His children and that leads to boldness in prayer**

**So, doing righteousness and loving our brethren by abiding are key aspects of manifesting ourselves and being bold before Jesus when He comes (2:28)**

**1 John 3:24-4:6: Truth matters!**

**MAIN IDEA: Fellowship with God is protected by His Word**

**1. The New theme: God abiding in the believer - 3:24 (Jn. 14:21-23; 15:1-5)**

**2. The Command - 4:1**

* **God expects us to check for false teaching and false teachers.**
* **God expects us to think and question - 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 Jn. 2:18-22**

**3. The Test: Do they confess Jesus as the Christ come in the flesh? 4:2-3**

* **Truth is not subjective, but objective and in God’s Word.**
* **Our emotions can betray us (3:18-20), but God’s Word will not.**
* **He is the Christ. And He alone gives life – Acts 4:11-12**
* **Study on other ways to express the message of life:**
* **Every good teaching believes in the Lordship of Christ. The real issue is, “How do I get there?” One thing is certain: It’s not without the Spirit of God! Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 7:14-8:11; Gal. 5:14-16**
* **The spirit of antichrist is to deny the sufficiency of Jesus Christ**

**5. The connection: Abiders will listen, others will not - 4:4-6**

* **Those in sync with God will listen to the Word of God**
* **Those out of sync with God will not listen to the Word.**
* **We determine who is right and wrong by adherence to the truth of God’s Word. This is different than “what we believe.”**
* **The battle is for the mind:** 
  + **Eph. 6:10-17**
  + **1 Tim. 4:1-5**
  + **2 Tim. 2:15**
  + **Rom. 12:1-2**
  + **Rom. 8:5-6**
  + **2 Cor. 10:3-5**
  + **Your life and the life of your family is at stake**
* **Satan is a liar. He attacks truth because he knows where the battle is. Jn. 8:44**
* **How do I test the spirits? Against the Scriptures (Apostolic doctrine) 1 Jn. 4:1-5; 2:18-22. The Central battle? The truth about Jesus**
* **As objective truth has died, so has assurance, security, and passion.**

**Closing observations**