

# LOVE'S ANNUAL CHECK-UP

1 John 4:16b-5:5

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

December 26, 2010 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

## Introduction:

Sunday after Christmas and before New Year is always a great time for an **Annual Check-Up**. How am I doing? Spiritual health. Assess the victories (losses) and look forward, making plans (resolutions) so we don't waste the opportunity. Normally Romans 12. 1 John 4 ...

Please Open to 1 John 4:16. Page 864

**LOOK BACK ... Year In Review ... globe, country, state, church and families.**

Personally ... Since January 2010 BLUR, February difficult staff change, Unpleasant March congregational



forums, May Search Committee Hired Amy, July Jack's Surgery, ... tree October. God's presence permeated it all. Blessed beyond belief, the greatest gifts come from God ...

**LOOK FORWARD ... Optimism, confidence, hope.** Leave today EXCITED about what God will do.

Resting in God's faithfulness. Every reason to believe He'll continue to do this year what He did last year.

vv. 16b-18 *God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*<sup>17</sup> *In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.*<sup>18</sup> *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

John writes to assure us that **OUR FUTURE IS PROMISING BECAUSE OF ...**

**1<sup>st</sup> PROOF** John cites ... **INWARD TRANSFORMATION** ... proof that we belong to God, becoming like Him.

**Our future is bright because God lives in us and loves others through us.**

Ill. Esther; needed of confidence ... appear before the King.



When **John F. Kennedy** was President of the United States, he was sitting in the Oval Office conducting important State business. His little son, **John-John** came running into the office and climbed up on the President's lap. Kennedy just laughed and told everyone, "He doesn't know that I'm the President. I'm just his father."

**... the one who fears has lost sight of love.**

Drives out/Casts out ... repeatedly (present tense), over and over again. Not perfect, growing confidence.

**Our FUTURE is promising because God lives in us and loves others through us.**

vv. 19-21<sup>19</sup> *We love because he first loved us.*<sup>20</sup> *If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*<sup>21</sup> *And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

**OUR FUTURE IS PROMISING BECAUSE OF ... INWARD TRANSFORMATION**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PROOF** John cites ... **OUTWARD FOCUS** ... Agape ... seeking highest good of another person.

**Our future is bright because God gives us power to love like He loves.**

Love is not a matter of affinity, a matter of paternity.

**HODGES "This love does not spring from something loveable in the person ... GOD is our Father."**

Loves others solely because God is our Father and we bear His nature. He loved us, so we must love.

Not up to us to choose whom we will love. We are related, we are to love all members of our family.

III. Sister ... "we would never be friends if you weren't my sister." I would never put up with this ... Members of the same family ... we didn't deserve it, none of us could possibly be that loveable.

LUKE 10 What must I do to inherit eternal life? Love your neighbor ... who is my neighbor? **Good Samaritan.** Hate is a strong word ... What does hating your brother look like? Ignoring, abandoning. IMPOSSIBLE to love God and hate his children.

**Promising FUTURE because we are focused on giving our lives away for the good of others.**

vv. 1-5 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.* <sup>2</sup> *This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.* <sup>3</sup> *This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,* <sup>4</sup> *for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* <sup>5</sup> *Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

**OUR FUTURE IS PROMISING BECAUSE OF ... INWARD TRANSFORMATION ... OUTWARD FOCUS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> John cites ... UPWARD OBEDIENCE ...**

**Our future is bright because we have the power to obey His commands.**

Your life = Transformed. Your relationships = Sacrificial Love. Your relationship with God = OBEDIENCE.

**John 13:34,35 "A new command I give you, Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."**

... True believers obey Jesus Command to love one another.

BELIEVING (1 & 5) IS ACTIVE. CARRIES FORCE OF TRUST. Giving it all away, laying it down.

Question (for the future) can I afford to let this go, and depend on God to provide for me? Not just once. BELIEVING IS persistent, continuous faith (present tense). Again and again and again.

So what:

Not BURDENSOME v. 3 ... bring freedom, satisfaction, joy and fulfillment. Frees us to live for Him. Riches. Obedience relieves the burden! Obedience makes us Overcomers. Growing in grace and knowledge.

Conclusion:

While I'm not sure what future holds ... economy, circumstances, health, challenges we might face ... I am sure that 2011 is going to be the best year yet. Belong to the Father, abundant resources, hope of knowing God's plan will overcome. The future is BRIGHT, because God's love never fails.