**Blessed Assurance – I John 2:4**

**Focal Truth: The self – deceived live in false assurance saying they know God but disobeying His commandments & hating others**

Three qualities described the unsaved sinner – self – deceit, self – righteousness, self – assurance

*John reminds us that self – deceit is at the heart of sin & false assurance: the truth is not in him*

1:8 – *if we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves & the truth is not in us*

*Note the words of the self – deceived – “the one who says” 2:4,9*

**Observations**

1. **The self – deceived say they know God but disobey His commandments 2:4**

*The one who says, I have come to know Him and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in Him*

1. The self – deceived live in hypocrisy saying they know God but disobeying the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ – the saved obey Christ’s commands - 2:3

*by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments*

1. They do not love others nor do they deny themselves & follow Jesus
2. They do not draw near to God
3. They judge others
4. They refuse to forgive others of their offenses toward them
5. They do not live by the commands of Jesus Christ

Matt. 7:26 – *everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and slammed against the house and it fell and great was the fall*

**2 Tim 3:13 – but evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived**

1. **The self – deceived say they live in God’s Light but hate others 2:9**

*The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now*

1. The self – deceit practices ungodliness while confessing holiness

“The one who says I am in the light – yet hates his brother”

1. The self – deceived hater acts like Cain who murdered his brother – 3:12 – *not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother, and for what reason did he slay him? Because His deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous*

**Gen. 4:8 – Cain rose up against his brother and murdered him**

1. Cain was of the evil one – like the devil a murderer & liar
2. Cain murdered his brother because of anger & jealousy
3. Cain murdered his brother because his deeds were evil & his brothers were righteous
4. Cain left the presence of God & wandered without direction or peace for the rest of his life Gn.4:16

**Cain lived in the land of Nod = wandering – He wandered in exile from God for life!**

Tit. 3:5 – the self - deceived sinner lives “as a hateful and hating person”

Hateful & hating others because of anger, jealousy, superiority

Hateful & hating others because of self – centeredness

Hateful & hating others because of the sinfulness of self – deceit

**1 John 3:15 – everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and no murderer has**

**eternal life abiding in him - Hatred destroys the hater**

1. **The self – deceived live in the darkness of sin blinded by their hatred for others 2:11**

*But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes*

1. Hatred is a world of darkness - sinfulness
2. Hated is a lifestyle of darkness – sinfulness
3. Hatred blinds & confuses the mind of the hater
4. Absalom was an example of the blinding power of hatred

2 Sam. 13:22 Absalom did not speak to Amnon either good or bad, for

Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar

1. Absalom killed Amnon his brother because he raped his sister

2 Sam. 13:32 – for Amnon alone is dead because by the intent of Absalom this has been determined since the day that he violated his sister Tamar

1. Absalom hated his father King David & sought to kill him

2 Sam. 14:28 – Absalom lived 2 years in Jerusalem and did not see the kings face

2 Sam. 14:33 - …he came to the king and prostrated himself on his face to the ground before the king and the king kissed Absalom

**The marks of a self – deceived hater**

The hater is self – deceived disobedient to the commands of God

The hater is driven by anger, rage & self – centered delusion

The hater learns hate from the world

The hater seeks to murder the life & reputation of others

The hater seeks to steal what belongs to others

The hater seeks to destroy the life of others

The hater hates others and hates God

**Self – deceit produces liars & haters**

**Self – deceit produces public deceit**

**Pro. 12:20 - Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil**

**Things to remember & do**

1. **Disobedience to God & hatred for others are marks of the unsaved** - 3:10 – by this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother
2. **Self – deceit falsely assures sinners who remain in their sin**
3. **Put aside all self – deceit & come to Jesus – 1Pet. 2:1 -2**
4. **Confess your self – deceit, obey God’s commands & love others!**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**