

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 5/4-5/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1 JOHN 3:4 – 23

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN CHAPTER THREE, VERSE 4 OF THE EPISTLE OF FIRST JOHN!

I'll open the meeting about a half hour early, to give you a little to get online, join the meeting and check out your mic and sound.

Phil Twente is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
You'll be given an option to download the Zoom.us app. You don't need that installed to join the meetings, although you can install if you wish.

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend:

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051> for **Monday night 7pm** meeting # **817880051**; hit join, then when asked, give your name and then the **password – 068909**

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS:

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/444504400> for **Tuesday morn 7am** meeting # **444504400**; hit join, when asked, give your name and the **password – 119002**)

FOR PHONE: (please do not use more than one device at a time, such as your computer and your phone, as the feedback between the two devices causes echoing noises, which are most disturbing.)

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7 pm Mon Meeting ID: 817 880 051 7 am Tues Meeting ID: 444504400

Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051>

OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1 JOHN 3:4 – 23

Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4-9

The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10 - 15

The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16 - 23

"Cornerstone" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less)

Hillsong (3:28)

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

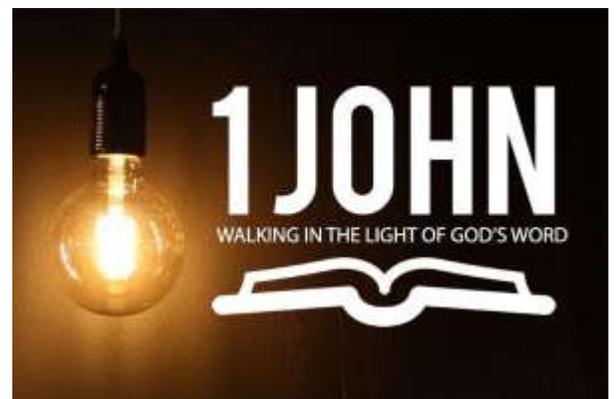
When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!

THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

- FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
- First John has been called the “Holy of Holies” of the New Testament. It takes the believer, the child of God, across the threshold into the fellowship of our Father’s house!
- A comparison or division of First John has been made that the Book of Romans deals with how we come out of the house of bondage; Ephesians is how we enter



the banquet house; Hebrews is how we approach the throne of grace, but I John is how we approach His Divine Presence!

- God has put a desire for relationship in every one of us, a desire He intended to be met with relationships with other people, but most of all, to be met by a relationship with Him.
- In this remarkable letter, John tells us the truth about relationships - and shows us how to have relationships that are real, for both now and eternity. **The purpose of the Epistle is to bring you into relationship with God.**
- It is the “family” epistle! It’s not addressed to any person, city or church. The church is a body of believers in the position where we are blessed, having been given that position when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believing on Christ brings us into the family of God.
- In the family we have a relationship which can be broken by sin, but it is restored when “we confess our sins.” Then “*He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” (1 John 1:9)
- Written around 90 A.D. John was the last living apostle, who at that time was the apostle who hadn’t been martyred for Christ. John was a living eyewitness!
- The heresy of Gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the Church when John wrote this letter. The Gnostics believed that all material was evil and therefore that Jesus was not in a living body like ours but was a phantom when He lived on the Earth and didn't have a body of flesh.
- John sought to correct the heresy by emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ in his writings as one who was with Jesus, walking with Him and observing Him during His public ministry. We will see this testimony of the living Christ in this epistle.
- Four verses in which state John’s purpose in writing this epistle can be summarized:
 - 1 John 1:4 – (J-joy) That your joy may be full!
 - 1 John 2:1 – (A-advocate) That you sin not!
 - 1 John 2:26 – (D-deception) That you be not deceived-prevent heresy!
 - 1 John 5:13 – (E-eternal life) That you may know that you have eternal life!
- Phrases and Words frequently used in 1 John: *he who* – 30x; *we know* – 16x; *if we* – 10x; *by this we know* – 8x; *if we say* – 3x
- Words: *God* - 57x; *know (known)* – 37x; *love* – 36x; *sin/s/ed/ing* - 27x; *Son of God* – 23x; *if* – 21x; *commandment* – 14x; *life* – 13x; *have written* – 13 x; *Jesus* – 11x; *believe* – 10x; *Holy Spirit* – 7x; *light* – 5x.

1 JOHN 3:4 – 23

Review:

The Word of Life: 1Jn 1:1-3

Walking in the Light: 1Jn 1:4-10

Christ Our Advocate: 1Jn 2:1-6

The New Commandment: 1Jn 2:7-14

Do Not Love the World: 1Jn 2:15-17

Warning Concerning Antichrists: 1Jn 2:18-19

Deceptions of the Last Hour: 1Jn 2:20-23

Let Truth Abide in You - 1Jn 2:24-27

The Children of God – What Manner of Love - 1Jn 2:28-29 – 3:1-3

1Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4 – 3:9

1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

- The law of God given to man as a rule of life. The object of the apostle here is to excite them to holiness, and to deter them from committing sin, as stated in **1Jn 3:3**, that everyone who has the hope of heaven will aim to be holy like our Savior. To confirm this, he shows them that those who are born of God do lead lives of obedience.

1Jn 3:4-9; He introduces by showing what is the nature of sin, in these next verses. The Gnostics believed that the spirit and the body were not spiritually connected so that a person could and would always sin in their bodies, but it didn't have any spiritual consequences. Spiritually it didn't matter how you lived! Here we see the truth that the spiritual state of a true Christian is directly and continually connected to our actions. The considerations by which he would deter them from indulging in sin are the following:

(a) **v. 4**; **All sin is a violation of the law of God.**

(b) **v. 5**; **The very object of the coming of Christ was to deliver people from sin.**

(c) **v. 6**; **Those who are true Christians do not habitually sin.**

- (d) v. 8: **Those who sin cannot be true Christians, but are of the devil.**
(e) v. 9: **He who is born of God has a germ or principle of true reverence in him, and cannot sin,**

1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits (practices) ***sin also commits*** (practices) ***lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*** (Rom 4:15) *because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.*

- Sin is basically that which is contrary to the will and law of God.

1Jn 3:5 And you know that He was manifested (1Jn 1:2) *the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— (1Jn 3:8) He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

to take away (aero) ***our sins,*** (Joh 1:29) *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

and in Him there is no sin. (2Co 5:21) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- Only the Lord Jesus can take away sin. He came for that purpose.
- Note two important things. In John's Gospel, we see that Christ died for the sin of the world. Here we are shown also that Christ takes away the practice of sin in the life of the believer.
- He died a redemptive death to pay the penalty of our sin, but He also died that He might deliver us from the power of sin right here and now.
- We sin because we ignore the finished work of Christ.
- He was without sin; He was without spot or blemish; therefore, He is able to remove the guilt of sin and to provide the power to deliver us from the habit of sinning. He has given to us a new nature that we might live for Him today!

1Jn 3:6 Whoever abides in Him does not (practice) ***sin. Whoever*** (practices) ***sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.***

- "***does not sin***" means "does not practice sin." These are pretty powerful words, which should cause us to examine our own lives. God provides the power to deliver us from the habit of sinning. A believer cannot continue in a lifestyle of sin.

1Jn 3:7 Little children (believers), **let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**

- **let no one deceive you** by persuading you that a man may live in sinful practices, and yet be a true child of God.
- This reveals the child of God. To abide in Him does not mean just positionally. It is true believers have a position in Christ that can't be disturbed, but there is also a practical consideration. If you abide in Him in fellowship and service, sin must be given up. Self-righteousness is not acceptable to God; only that produced in our lives when we put our faith in Jesus Christ.

1Jn 3:8 He who (practices) **sins is of the devil, for the devil has** (practiced) **sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, (Mat 13:38) The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. that He might destroy the works of the devil. (Heb 2:14) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Luk 10:18) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**

- He who is living in continual sin is of the devil; for the devil has continually sinned from the beginning. Christ was sent to the Earth to destroy Satan's work in our lives (**John 16:7-11**) *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. [8] And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] of sin, because they do not believe in Me; [10] of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; [11] of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (Rom 6:6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

1Jn 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not (practice) **sin, (Joh 1:3) All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (Joh 3:3) Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**
for His seed remains in him; and he cannot (practice) **sin, because he has been born of God.**

- **"does not sin"** means "does not practice sin." **"His seed"** refers to Christ's seed (*1Pe 1:23*) *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*
- Are you really born again? Do you have a new nature from God? Then you will not be able to live a life of habitual sin. God loves sinners. He loves to save sinners from a life of sin!

The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10 - 15

1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (1Jn 4:7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

- We see here two things which manifest the child of God. Now God knows our hearts and knows whether or not we have really been born again and are His children. But those around us don't know that. The only way for them to know is for the life of God to be manifested in us by our living.
- True Christians are to be loved for God's and Christ's sake. Those who do not love them, but despise, hate, and persecute them, have the Devil's nature still abiding in them. (*Mat 7:20*) *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (Joh 13:34) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (Joh 15:12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- Our faith in Christ should produce love in our hearts for each other, which is lacking all too often.

1Jn 3:12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (Gen 4:4) Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, (Gen 4:8) Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

- We are shown vividly here what love is not! Not loving because of envy, which may be the best word to describe Cain's problem. He was envious in his heart of his brother, and it led to murder.

- Envy and jealousy among believers in the church hurt the cause of Christ today probably more than anything else.

1Jn 3:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (Joh 15:18) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (Joh 17:14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- As a child of God, we need to recognize that the world will hate us.

1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love (practices not loving) his brother abides in death.

- Now how do I know that I've passed from death to life? Because I love the family of God and I love my brothers. Jesus said to His disciples, (**Joh 13:35**) *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* How do you know that you have passed from death unto life? Because God has given you such a love for the body of Christ, those within the body of Christ.

1Jn 3:15 Whoever hates (practices) his brother is a murderer, and you know that (Mat 5:21) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (Gal 5:20-21) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, [21] envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- This passage does not teach that an actual murderer cannot be saved. Christ paid the penalty for all sins—even taking the life of another. However, when a man is saved, he will no longer live in hatred.

The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16 – 23

In verses 16-18 we see love responding to the needs of others.

1Jn 3:16 By this we know love, (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (Joh 10:11) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (Joh 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- We cannot really know God through nature because nature is fallen. Though nature does speak to us of God, the only way we can know of God's love is through Jesus Christ. **(Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

1Jn 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods (adequate food, clothing and shelter), **and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (Jas 2:15-16) If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? (1Jn 4:20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?**

- Christian love is not a sentiment. It is that which expresses itself in action.

1Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue (only), **but in deed and in truth. (Eze 33:31) So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. (1Pe 1:22) Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.**

- Self-sacrificing love is required of us as believers. It may not be necessary to give our lives as martyrs for Christ, but certainly it's necessary to give of our substance. Christianity is a love relationship.

In verses 19-22 we know we are a Christian by the assurance in our own hearts.

1Jn 3:19 And by this (by the fact) **we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure** (persuade, set at rest) **our hearts before Him. (Joh 18:37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."**

- When I'm willing to show my love in a self-sacrificing way, it gives that confidence and assurance that this is a genuine experience.

1Jn 3:20 *For if our heart condemns (kataginosko, find fault, note against) us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. (Joh 21:17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. (1Co 4:4-5) For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. [5] Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.*

- God is greater than your heart; He will hear your prayers. He is going to deal with you. He will hear and answer according to His will. You can depend on Him.

1Jn 3:21 *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. (1Jn 2:28) And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1Jn 5:14) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

- If our heart does not condemn us, it gives us a confidence, an assurance in prayer.

1Jn 3:22 *And whatever we ask (day by day) we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments (Psa 34:15) The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.*

and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (Joh 8:29) And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (Joh 15:7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- Love in action gives assurance in prayer, not as a reward, but our love in action furnishes evidence that we are His children and that in fellowship, He hears! When your life is pleasing to God, you can expect Him to hear and answer your prayers.

In verse 23 we know we are a Christian by our acceptance of Jesus Christ and His commandments.

1Jn 3:23 And this is His commandment (the bottom line): ***that we should believe*** (today) ***on the name of His Son Jesus*** (God is Salvation) ***Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*** (Mat 22:39) *And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'*

- These are the commandments the child of God is required to keep, (***Mat 5:44-46***) *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, [45] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*
- We're not to say we believe on Him and then not love one another. His love is not just something we talk about or our language but it's our life! It's our actions! It will be expressed in genuine concern for the individual, not gossiping or hurting them in any way.
- ***“Believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another.”***

SUMMARY- Benefits/Application:

Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4 – 3:9

- **Sin is contrary to God's will and law. Only Jesus Christ can take away sin. He died a redemptive death for the sin of the world. Also, He takes away the practice and power of sin in every believer. Being without sin, spot or blemish, He is able to remove the guilt of sin, providing the power to deliver us from the habit of sinning. He gives us a new nature that we may live for Him today!**
- ***He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. This reveals the child of God. If you abide in Him in fellowship and service, sin must be given up.***
- **He who is living in continual sin is of the devil, who has continually sinned. Christ was sent to the Earth to destroy Satan's work in our lives.**
- **Self-examination Questions: Am I sinning, or living righteously at the present time? Do I understand that Christ died for my sins, has defeated Satan, and has given me the power over sin? Does my life reflect my new nature as I live for Him today?**

The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10 - 15

- **Whoever does not practice righteousness and does not love his brother is not born of God! Those who do not love other believers, but despise, hate, and persecute them, have the Devil's nature still abiding in them.**
- **We are to love one another! Our faith in Christ should produce love in our hearts for each other.**
- **Envy best describes Cain's problem leading to the murder of Able. Envy and jealousy among believers in the church hurt the cause of Christ today probably more than anything else.**
- **As a child of God, we need to recognize that the world will hate us.**
- **How do I know that I've passed from death to life? Because I love the family of God, I love those within the body of Christ.**
- **"No murderer has eternal life abiding in him" does not teach that an actual murderer cannot be saved. Christ paid the penalty for all sins—even taking the life of another. But, when a man is saved, he will no longer live in hatred.**

- **Self-examination Questions: How is my life observed as to whom my real father is? Am I a child of God or a child of the Devil? Am I indeed practicing righteousness and loving my brother/s?**

The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16 - 23

- **The only way we can know of God's love is through Jesus Christ.**
- **Christian love is not a sentiment, but that which expresses itself in action.**
- **Self-sacrificing love is required of us as believers. Although we may never become a martyr for Christ, it is necessary, out of love, to give of our substance. Christianity is a love relationship.**
- **Living a Christian life as we are being taught here, will give us an assurance when we come before God in prayer.**
- **God is greater than your heart; He will hear your prayer. He will deal with you. He will hear and answer according to His will. You can depend on Him.**
- **Love in action gives assurance in prayer. When your life is pleasing to God, you can expect Him to hear and answer your prayer.**
- **Loving Christ and one another, are the commandments the child of God is required to keep.**

- **Self-examination Questions: How do I respond to the needs of others? Do I remember Christ's example rooted in sacrifice? Recognize my**

responsibility of the goods which I have been given? React with compassion? Respond by refusing to love in words only?

- Do I “*Believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another?*”

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

To Maximize Your growth by the study of His Word and drawing yourself closer to Him.

Be a Berean! *Act 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

- **Read the entire Epistle of 1 John each day** (takes 15 min to read the 105 verses in the 5 chapters)
- **Study the use of the words “The Son of God), ” – such a key phrase, used 8 times in 7 verses in this epistle (It’s used 47 times in 46 verses of the Bible); Note its importance and the context in which it’s used.**
- ***1Jn 3:8*** *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
- ***1Jn 4:15*** *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
- ***1Jn 5:5*** *Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- ***1Jn 5:10*** *He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.*
- ***1Jn 5:12*** *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*
- ***1Jn 5:13*** *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*
- ***1Jn 5:20*** *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
- **Notes and audio of previous studies are on www.ptwente.com**

- **If you're not getting weekly email regarding the meetings and want to receive, please email me so you can be added!**
- **Phil Twente 714 425 9221 ptwente@gmail.com**