

Questions

1. When was the last time you deeply considered that you are a son of God, a daughter of God, because in God's other-worldly love for you, He caused you to be born again? Take some time and do so now.
2. How should having awe for God's regenerating-love for you compel you to live in ways pleasing to Him?
3. In what ways can you be deceived into thinking that what you do doesn't matter?
4. Look at v.4. How does John's description of sin motivate you to stop sinning?
5. Look at vv.6 & 9. How does abiding with Christ motivate you to stop sinning?
6. Look at vv.5 & 8b. How do the purposes of Christ's first appearance motivate you to stop sinning?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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A Sermon Series on 1 John

ASSURANCE

The Children of God

1 John 2:29-3:10

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In view of the themes of progeny and practice found in 1 John 2:29 and 3:10, in 1 John 3:1-9, John gives God's children 2 exhortations to live out together to give evidence of the genuineness of our faith.

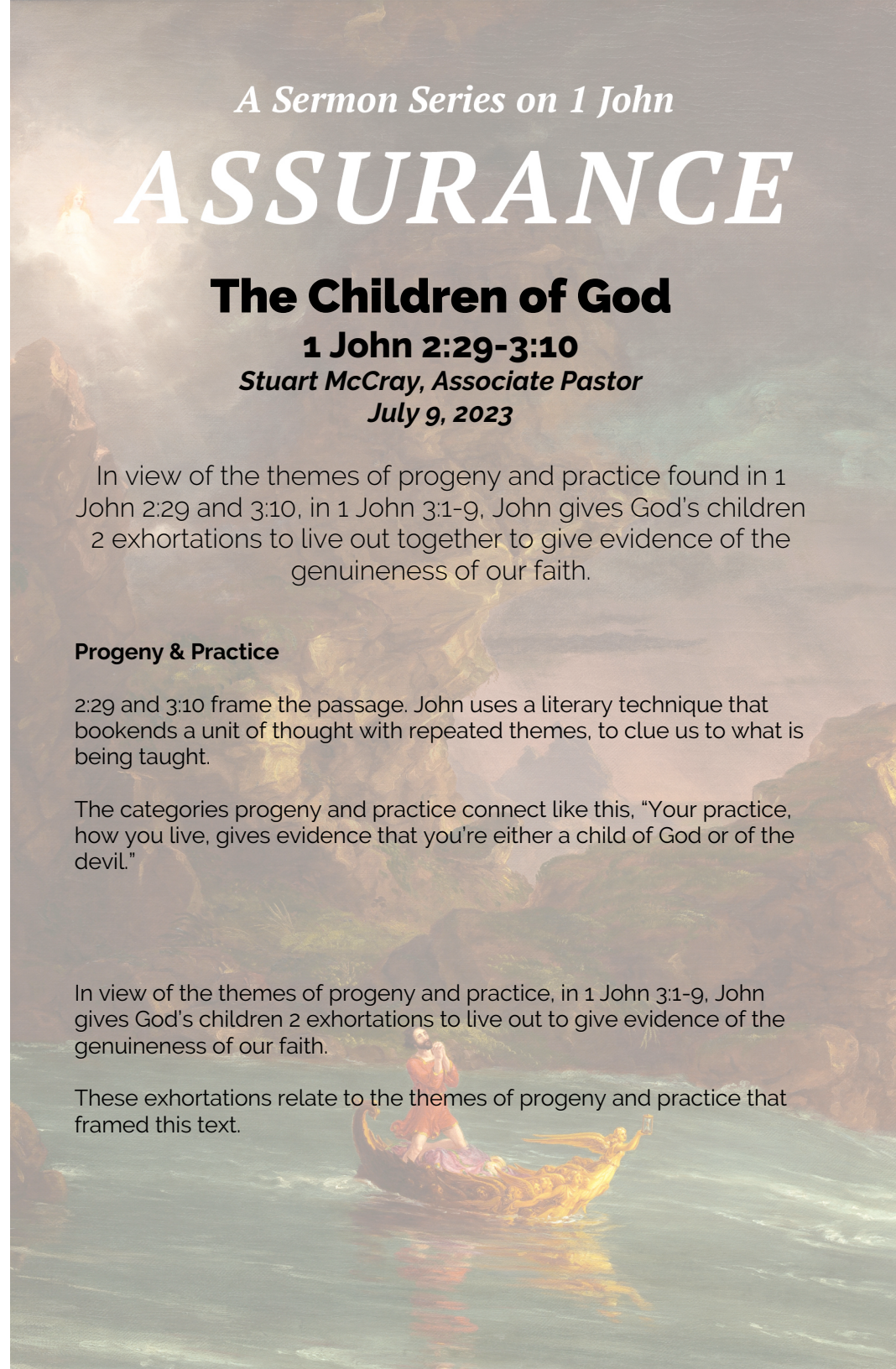
Progeny & Practice

2:29 and 3:10 frame the passage. John uses a literary technique that bookends a unit of thought with repeated themes, to clue us to what is being taught.

The categories progeny and practice connect like this, "Your practice, how you live, gives evidence that you're either a child of God or of the devil."

In view of the themes of progeny and practice, in 1 John 3:1-9, John gives God's children 2 exhortations to live out to give evidence of the genuineness of our faith.

These exhortations relate to the themes of progeny and practice that framed this text.



1. Be amazed by our Father's regenerating-love for us. (vv.1-3)

The exhortation is in verse 1, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us..."

Two Results for being a child of God.

1. Verse 2: God's children are promised, they will be in the end (either when Christs return or when they go home to be the Lord) transformed into God's perfect family image, Jesus Christ.

2. Verse 3: God's children have purifying-power in the confident-hope of Christ's return to pursue purity now.

Argument One: The Nature of Sin (3:4)

Argument Two: Abiding with Christ (3:6 & 9)

Argument Three: Christ Purposefully Appeared (3:5 & 8b)

2. Resist the deception, how we live doesn't matter. (vv.4-9)

The exhortation is in verse 7, "let no one deceive you".

"Practice"

To make a practice something is to do it willfully and habitually. John isn't referring to occasional acts but to a dedicated lifestyle.

In the surrounding verses (4, 5, 6, the second half of 8, and verse 9), John argues that what you do *does* matter.