

1 John 2:18-29

How do you best learn to do something?
With other students?
With a teacher?
By yourself?

John believed that his people needed to learn continually by prayer and reading Scripture together

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 2:18-19

We shape our gods and then our gods shape us.

But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.2:20-21

“Anointing” – chrisma

Samuel anoints David with oil when he becomes king. – 1 Samuel 16

In the NT, communities are anointed when they receive the Holy Spirit.

Chrisma is the beautiful fusion of the Spirit and the Word of God.

We’ve had them from the beginning, but...

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us —eternal life.

I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. 2:24-27

“Abide” – Meno
“remaining, living, abiding,
continuing”

Much, much more than daily
devotions.

Modern culture says,

Spiritual stuff is here – prayer,
devotions, etc.

Physical stuff is over here – work,
play, homework, mowing the lawn,
evening commutes, church meetings

Meno (abiding) means that the
Word and Spirit permeate all of life

The best teachers for the church are the Word and the Spirit

They are to be learned from together as a community

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. 2:28-29

“There will come a time, which might indeed come at any time, when, in the great renewal of the world that Easter itself foreshadowed, Jesus himself will be personally present and will be the agent and model of the transformation that will happen both to the whole world and also to believers.”

N.T. Wright - *Surprised by Hope*, p. 226.

What we do in the here and now in
the church reflects what will go on
for eternity
