1. (v.1-5) Biblical love does not exist in the absence of righteousness—the application of God’s truth.

2. (v.6-7) There are no promises of remedies for the ills of this life. The guarantee is for the final, eternal outcome, not necessarily for the present, temporary situation.

3. (v.8-10) Whereas unrighteousness is actually the condition of being enslaved to things of this world, God’s righteousness is actually a choice in, and expression of, spiritual freedom. (Rom. 6:17-19)

4. (v.11-14) Righteousness comes about through one’s recognition of the bonds holding them and turning to God for release; the godless never turn to God.

5. (v.15-16) The righteous are not exempt from affliction, but are listening to God—evidenced by their obedience to His Word—so that they are led to a place of God’s strength and sustenance.