

1 2nd & 3rd JOHN:BACKGROUND

AUTHOR: The Apostle John who along with Peter and James was part of Christ's "inner circle". AKA the disciple whom Jesus loved.

The only disciple at the cross. Given care of Mary by Jesus

Also authored the Gospel of John, 1st John & Revelation

RECEIPIENTS: 2nd John; the chosen lady
3rd John; Gaius, beloved friend
Churches are implied

DATE: Toward the end of the first century

WRITTEN FROM: Ephesus before being exiled to the Island of Patmos around 95 A.D.

2 2nd & 3rd JOHN:THEME

DEDICATED TO GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF SOUND DOCTRINE

Colossians 1:9-11... For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

3 MY CONCERNS:A ROADMAP FOR THIS MESSAGE

1. It is easy to move the pursuit of doctrinal depth to a lower priority than church involvement and the necessary activities of the church including mission.
2. It is very easy to be satisfied with your current level of doctrinal understanding.
3. It is too easy to believe that doctrinal purity and integrity for this church is only the responsible of the pastor and staff
4. It is also possible to forget that doctrinal purity and integrity is a serious battle between God and Satan.

4 **GENERAL TRUTH:LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING**

Hebrews 5:12-6:1...you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness,...but solid food is for the mature,... therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity,...

5 **AN ELEMENTARY UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION (milk)**

JESUS DIED A SACRIFICIAL, SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS. HE PAID THE PENALTY THAT WAS DUE ME. I AM TRUSTING IN HIS SHED BLOOD TO CLEANSE ME FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. I AM SAVED BY HIS DEATH.

6 **AN MATURE UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION (meat)**

MILK

Jesus died a sacrificial substitutionary death on the cross. He paid the penalty that was due me. I am trusting in His shed blood to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I am saved by His death.

MEAT

I was chosen and set apart before the foundation of the world. I was called. I was justified. I was sanctified. I was made alive. I was given the gift of faith. I was baptized and sealed by the Holy Spirit. I was adopted into the family of God. I was made a citizen of heaven.

7 **SOUND DOCTRINE:THE URGENCY**

2 John 7-8... For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2 John 10-11... If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

8 **SOUND DOCTRINE + RIGHTEOUS BEHAVIOR=PROOF OF LIFE**

2 John 9-10... Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the

Father and the Son.

3 John 9-10... I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.

3 John 11... Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

9 **WEAK, INFERIOR DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION**

IF YOU WERE TO DIE IN THE NEXT 5 MINUTES, ARE YOU 100% SURE YOU WOULD GO TO HEAVEN?

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.

10 **WEAK, INFERIOR DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION**

IF YOU WERE TO STAND BEFORE GOD AND HE SAID TO YOU; "WHY SHOULD I LET YOU IN MY HEAVEN?"

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

11 **WEAK, INFERIOR DOCTRINE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

Romans 8:28-29... And we know that God causes ALL things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,...

Genesis 50:19-20... But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...

12 **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:BE VIGILANT**

1 John 4:1.. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Acts 17:11... Now these (Bereans) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

13 **TESTING THE TEACHING**

Is the teaching Bible saturated? Avoid one verse theology

Does the teaching exalt Christ? Is the teaching about Christ scriptural?

Avoid teaching that that is Holy Spirit focused. The H.S. exalts Christ.

Avoid teaching that is man-centered. God is much more concerned about our holiness than about our earthly happiness.

Avoid teachers who talk a lot about money.

Avoid teachers who de-emphasize sin.

Analyze the teaching for salvation that is Jesus + something.

14 **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

**STUDY THE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT
ON OUR WEBSITE**

Look up the Westminster Shorter Catechism (a document widely accepted by evangelicals as biblical)

Use you tube with great wisdom. Search specific topics

John MacArthur or John Piper or R.C. Sproul and others whom you have vetted.