

The Epistles

First, Second and Third
John and Jude

- Phil Krauss, Fritz Quitmeyer and Marie Schlosser, and our pastors
- December 10, 2023
- Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

The Epistles

Introduction

- Prayer
- Don't forget to take a handout and sign in
- Review
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Jude in context

The Epistles

Introduction
(Continued)

- Questions and discussion
- Importance
- Christ in the Epistles
- Noteworthy verses

The Epistles

Review

- Apologies over the past two classes
- Hebrews PowerPoint
- Questions
- Observations of this Year



1st 2nd & 3rd John in Context

- 3 letters from the Apostle John (a son of Zebedee, the Elder, the apostle who Jesus loved)
- Written in the 90's
- Written from Patmos (during exile) and/or Ephesus (after)
- Written to the churches and/or maybe individuals in Western Asia (Turkey)

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1st, 2nd, and 3rd John in Context (continued)

- As in his gospel, John's main themes in all three letters is love, God's love for us and our love for each other. He is also emphasizing the Church – our Christian family - and opposing those who would divide it.
- By the time John wrote these letters, he was old. He was probably the last remaining apostle – certainly, Paul and Peter had died (executed under the persecutions of Nero). He had taken on many students and had helped develop many churches.
- The Church needed correction and guidance because it faced divisions.



Context: Jude

- A lot is unknown about this Epistle.
 - Perhaps written by a half-brother of Jesus. The author self-identifies as the “brother of James” (v. 1). However, James and Jude were both common names.
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- Written before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
 - Written to believers in the Middle East from Jerusalem.



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Jude in Context (continued)

- Jude wrote this letter to warn believers about the false teachers, appealing heresies, and Church divisions that were already appearing by about 65 AD.
- He writes with vivid imagery (see verses 12-13 for example).

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Questions/Discussion

- What was hard for you to understand? What seemed out-of-place?

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Questions/Discussion

- Who is the “antichrist” that John is referring to?
1st John 2:18

The Epistles

Questions/Discussion

- Who is the antichrist that John is referring to? (1st John 2:18)
 - Both, the leading antagonist to Christ, particularly during the end-times,
 - But also, as defined by John here, anyone who opposes Christ and His Church, in any age.

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Questions/
Discussion

If we sin, does that mean we aren't "born of God?"

1st John 3:9-10

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Questions/ Discussion

- If we sin, does that mean we aren't "born of God?" 1st John 3:9-10
 - Continuing to purposely sin, without repentance is.
 - Should we judge?

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Questions/
Discussion

*Can we get anything we ask for in prayer?
1st John 3:22*

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Questions/ Discussion

- *Can we get anything we ask for in prayer?
1st John 3:22*
 - *Prayer is not a “blank check” or “wish list.”*
 - *Requests should be about “what pleases Him.”*

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Questions/Discussion

- Just how contentious should we be?
Jude 3-4

The Epistles

Questions/Discussion

- Just how contentious should we be? (Jude V. 3-4)
 - Gentle but resolute. God calls on us to keep the faith pure, to protect the Church, but to be patient and gentle.
 - Don't confuse doctrine for tradition or personal preference.

The Epistles

Importance

These four, short epistles deal with issues we face today, both as individuals and as a Church. They offer invaluable direction and advice on how to live as Christians in today's world and live together as a community of believers.

Christ in the Epistles

Jesus Christ completely permeates all of the epistles.

Some people try to differentiate between the life of Christ found in the Gospels and the teachings of the Epistles. This is a false dichotomy. The Epistles were written by the followers of Christ – they knew Him – but more importantly, the Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Epistles.

Noteworthy Verses

That which was from the beginning,
which we have heard, which we have
seen with our eyes, which we looked
upon and have touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life...

1st John 1:1

Noteworthy Verses

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1st John 1:7

Noteworthy Verses

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1st John 1:8-10



Noteworthy Verses

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1st John 4:19-21



Noteworthy Verses

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1st John 5:4-5

Noteworthy Verses

Grace, mercy, and peace will be
with us, from God the Father and
from Jesus Christ the Father's Son,
in truth and love.

2nd John, verse 3

Noteworthy Verses

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 24-25



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Conclusion

Any final comments or questions?

Next week is the Revelation of John by Pastor Werner