

TRUTH BE TOLD | 2 & 3 JOHN | PASTOR MIKE JACOB 7/26/26

Today we will be looking at 2nd and 3rd John

Pastor Mark has a study titled, Knowing God Series on 1st John check it out you will be blessed, thank you Pastor Mark

Let's turn to 2nd John in your Bibles

The letters of 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John are believed to have been written between AD 85 and AD 95

The apostle John is an old man most likely in his 90's when he writes these letters. John was the last original apostle and would die of natural causes.

So, it is safe to say that John has seen it all.

I have titled today's message "TRUTH BE TOLD"

Let's read verse 1-3

When I was looking at these two Letters, I found that two words were used often and those words were Truth and Love.

Looking at the Gospel of John, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, I found that the word love is mentioned in all these books 95 times and the word truth is used 43 times.

So, you could say that John is the apostle of truth and Love.

Pastor Mark last week gave the Heart check.

Today John is going to gives us the Truth and Love test.

In verse 1, John is the writer of this book, and he identifies himself as the Elder and he says to the elect lady and her children, let's stop right there. Who is John talking to?

Well, there are a couple of schools of thought.

The 1st thought is that this was an individual Christian woman who had a home fellowship and the Children are those who attended.

The 2nd thought is that John did not use real names because this was written during a time of persecution. Perhaps John didn't want to implicate anyone by name in a written letter. If the letter was intercepted and the authorities knew who it was written to, that could mean death for those people.

Either way, John is writing to encourage them and warn them.

In verse 1, John says: Whom I love in the truth

Let's focus on the word truth, the word "truth" is used five times in the first four verses.

Today, more than ever **The Truth MUST Be Told.**

In this world with so many people having their own ideas of the truth, not to mention the social media outlets putting out their version of the truth, and it's also pretty bad when we see something on our phones or TV and say: is that true or is it AI?

That is why it so important for us as followers of Christ to tell the truth, The truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what a Dying world needs to hear, they need to hear the truth.

Not bits and pieces, but the whole Truth from Genesis to Revelation and every book in between.

PA - Always remember when sharing the truth do it in Love, never bash anyone with it. That only drives people away from hearing the truth that is being told.

V1 says: whom I love in truth and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth. John is talking about brothers and sisters who know the Lord and His Truth.

If we know and love the truth, we will love those who also know and love the truth.

Then how do we know the truth, where do we look?

(Col 1:4-5) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your LOVE for all the saints; because of the hope, which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the Word of the TRUTH of the Gospel, of Jesus Christ.

In **(1 Ti 2:4)** it says: who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

How can you find such truth, by asking Jesus into your heart. Jesus would say in John 14:6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

There is no other way.

If you think there is another way, your wrong. Jesus says: He is the only way and that is the Truth Being Told!

Jesus says in (John 8:32) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth will set you free, but you must be open to receive it. it's a gift of God. That's what happened to me 27 years ago when I heard the truth, and it set me free and my life changed forever.

LTT – (John 18: 37-38) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

The Truth was standing right in front of Pilate yet; he still didn't see it. The same thing happens today when people don't believe the truth when its right in front of them.

This shows us, what binds Christian's together is not social, political or class. What binds us together is a common **Truth**. This is why truth is so important to Christians.

Can I just say on a side note, that is why it is so important for us to meet and fellowship together on Sundays.

(Heb 10:24-25) ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

.PA - Never fall into the trap that you can just stay home and be your own church, watching it on the Internet. You need to be in fellowship. If not, you're easy prey for the enemy and he will do his best to take you out. We must fellowship together, so we can talk about the truth together. If you think you can do it on your own here's a verse for you.

Jesus would say in (John 15:5) I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

V2 - Because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: Now we look at the truth in us.

Do you know that the truth lives in you?

In (John 14:15) Jesus speaking say's If you love Me, I keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Here are some other scriptures that speak of the truth in us, the Holy Spirit. I'll put them up on the screen.

(1 Cor 6:19), (Rom 8:11), (2 Tim 1:14), (Eph 3:16-17)

It's clear, that if we believe in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Truth lives in us and will abide with us forever, if we abide in Him.

Amen

V3 In truth and love: John can hardly write a verse without mentioning these two of his favorite topics. The grace, mercy, and peace God has for us are all given in truth and love. Apart from God's truth and love, we can never really have grace, mercy, and peace. amen

V4 - 6 Read

Now we see Walking in Truth

John rejoiced greatly That he found some of your children walking in truth.

Notice It says, some, not all were walking in truth.

Walking in truth means to live a life of integrity, honesty, and being genuine. It means to align one's actions, thoughts, and words with the truth of God's Word.

Maybe today you're not walking in truth.

Maybe you never believed in the truth, BUT that could change today. That is just up to you.

Or, maybe you're just going through the motions, you're doing your own thing, thinking I got this, but people can tell if you're walking in the truth. John says I found some, but John could tell by their walk if they were truly walking in TRUTH.

If you're all in, then Walk the walk and talk the talk, you need to be real, otherwise, you're just fooling yourself, But you're not Fooling God.

Truth will be with us forever: The truth does not change. The truth will be true forever, and we will have the truth forever in eternity. Many people today think that the truth changes from age to age and from generation to generation, but the Bible SAYS that the truth will be with us forever.

As it says in (Luke 21:33) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

(Heb 13:8) Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the truth

V5 - I plead with you, lady: John was not too proud to plead about such an important matter — not when it came to something as vital in the Christian life as the commandment that we must love one another.

Now the love test

John says, Not as though I wrote a new commandment: John knew this was nothing new to his readers he repeated the theme all through 1 John and his Gospel. Yet because it was so essential, it had to be repeated and used as a reminder.

That we love one another: The integrity of our Christian life can be measured by our love for one another.

(John 13:34-35) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(1 John 4:20-21)

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, ^[d]how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also. wow

Verse 7-11

John warned us against these anti-Christ's in his first letter (1 John 2:18-23, 4:3). They are those who not only oppose Jesus but also offer a substitute "Christ."

Jesus would say in Matt 24 ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Matt 24:²⁴ For false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

John says beware of these deceivers for there are many of them out in the world with their own doctrines, that say: Jesus did not come in the flesh. We are not to give heed to their deception.

When he mentions Anti-christ here, he is talking about those who don't believe that Jesus is who he is. So, they are anti-christ. He says these people don't know God therefore if they should come to you don't even have fellowship with them because we do not want to share in their deeds. Remember, these were all home churches, so you don't want to let someone like a false teacher spread their lies in the fellowship. Check out these verses for more study.

(2 Peter 2:1-3) (1 John 4:1-4)

V 12-13

John finishes 2 John by saying he has many things to write, but he would like to come and speak to them face to face, He again ends the letter the way he starts it by not mentioning any one by name.

Let's move into - 3 John

Let's read - 3 John 1-4

John opens this letter the same as 2 John the Elder

Which we know is John.

To the beloved Gaius: We don't know if this Gaius is connected with the other men by this name mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 19:29, 20:4; 1 Corinthians 1:14; Romans 16:23).

So, the identification is difficult because Gaius was a very common name in the Roman Empire.

Notice John is now using people names which is different from 2 John. Maybe the persecution it's not as bad currently.

V2 - I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers:

John used this common phrase sending best wishes and blessings to Gaius for the work he was doing unto the Lord.

Just as your soul prospers: John here made an analogy between the condition of our health and the condition of our soul.

Quote from Dave Guzik

Many Christians would be desperately ill, if their physical health was instantly in the same state as their spiritual health.

PA - How is your health? A better question, how is your spiritual health? Are you praying and reading your bible?

V4 - John again, is rejoicing greatly at the report from the brethren, about Gaius walking in the Truth. See, people can tell when you're walking in the truth.

John had no other Joy then making disciples and seeing them walking in truth.

That is what the vision of CCvenice is: Loving God, Loving People and Making Disciples.

That is why Pastor Mark is always reminding us to read our Bibles. Why, because it is what changed his life, and it will change yours if you'll read it. I know it changed mine.

Read verse 5-8

You do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers:

This was a great compliment: you do faithfully whatever you do. Whatever God gives us to do, we should do it faithfully. Jesus said, when we see Him face to face some will hear the words, *well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful*

*over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your Lord (Matt 25:21)*

Of the good servant, it is said he or she was *faithful*.

V6 Send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God:

In that day, Christian travelers in general and Christian evangelist in particular were greatly dependent upon the hospitality of other Christians.

John knew that when Christians assisted those who were sharing the Truth, they became fellow workers for the Truth.

Jesus promised that even the help offered in a cup of cold water to one of His children would not be forgotten when God brings His reward. (Matthew 10:42)

Manner worthy of God -

We as Christians must first see that they, the evangelist and missionaries are doing something to help the spread of the Gospel. Then we must see that they are doing it in a manner worthy of God. This makes me think of our Missionaries we want to partner with them in the work of the Ministry the spread of the Gospel.

We want to make sure that when we bless them financially. it is going to a ministry that is worthy of God.

God calls every one of us to have a part in the great commission

Matthew 28:19: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

One can have a part by going or have a part by helping, but everyone has a part and should do it well.

Read V9-11

John publicly rebuked this man, and he rebuked him by name. In rebuking him by name the apostle of love did not act outside of love. Instead, he followed the clear command of the Scriptures (**Romans 16:17**) and the example of other apostles (**2 Timothy 4:14-15**).

By presenting himself as a “prominent Christian leader” (at least in his own mind), Diotrephes knew that he was open to public criticism — just as much as he would publicly criticize the apostle John and his associates (coming against us with malicious words).

V9 Who loves to have the preeminence among them: Here lies the problem, for Diotrephes it was his *pride*.

In his pride, he did not receive the apostles such as John. This was the difference between the humble hospitality of Gaius, who walked in the truth.

This happens in churches today, we can imagine a Pastor, a leader in the church in some city, looking at John and saying to himself, “Why should these big shot apostles get all the attention and honor? Look at my ministry! Isn’t it just as good?” And pride would lead him, like many others, to destruction. I have witness it first-hand and it’s not good, it hurts many people.

In (Proverb16:18) **Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.** Pride destroys lives

Comes up against us with malicious words: Diotrephes not only failed to receive John and the other apostles, but he also spoke against them. His malicious gossip against the apostles showed what kind of man he really was. It wasn’t about Jesus it was about him. And that is never Good in a leader.

Putting them out of the church: Diotrephes not only used his influence to forbid others from showing hospitality to John or his associates; he even tried to excommunicate those who tried to show such hospitality. Red flag this guy is bad

John says Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good: John gave us two clear examples, one good (Gaius) and one bad (Diotrephes), and he now applies the point — follow the good, for we serve a good God and those who follow Him will likewise do good.

V12 - Demetrius has a good testimony from all:

We don't know much about this man but John recommended this man to Gaius. Perhaps he was the one who carried the letter from John to Gaius, and John wanted Gaius to know that Demetrius was worthy of Christian hospitality.

Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself: Demetrius was so faithful to the truth that even the truth was a witness on his behalf. Truth Be Told

V13 Peace to you: This is a letter about contention and conflict; yet John appropriately ends the letter with a desire and expectation for peace.

As Christians, we can and should have a sense of peace even in the midst of difficult times. Christians have the resources in Jesus Christ to have peace even in unsettled seasons.

Jesus would say in (John 16:33) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you^[1] will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Amen

So in closing ask Caroline to come up.

So today we have look at Truth and love what we learned.

We are to love the truth.

We are to love those who know the truth.

We are to know the truth.

We are to walk in the truth.

We are to protect the truth.

We have the truth in us and should share that truth with other's.

Truth Be Told how did you do on the test?

Let's pray