

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Chosen to be Love

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
June 11, 2023



- **We can't give what we don't have but we can give what God gives to us!**

**How do we live in these days as wait for Christ's imminent return?
What do we need to know and embrace to live well & love well?**

- **You were chosen to be loved by God.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NLT) "As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth."

John 3:35 (NLT) "The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands."

- **You were chosen to love others.**

2 Thessalonians 2:14-17 (NLT) "He [God] called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, ¹⁷ comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say."

"To love abundantly is to live abundantly, and to love forever is to live forever. Hence, eternal life is inextricably bound up with love." Henry Drummond

"In the Book of Matthew, where the Judgment Day is depicted for us in the imagery of One seated upon a throne and dividing the sheep from the goats, the test of a man then is not, "How have I believed?" but "How have I loved?" The test of religion, the final test of religion, is not religiousness, but Love. I say the final test of religion at that great Day is not religiousness, but Love; not what I have done, not what I have believed, not what I have achieved, but how I have discharged the common charities of life. Sins of commission in that awful indictment are not even referred to. By what we have not done, by sins of omission, we are judged. It could not be otherwise. For the withholding of love is the negation of the spirit of Christ, the proof that we never knew Him, that for us He lived in vain. It means that He suggested nothing in all our thoughts, that He inspired nothing in all our lives, that we were not once near enough to Him, to be seized with the spell of His compassion for the world." Henry Drummond The Greatest Thing in the World

1 John 4:19 (NLT) "We love each other because he loved us first."

Big Idea: Receive God's love & extend God's love to others.

- **Allow God to love you.**
- **Love others as you have been loved by God.**

Ephesians 3:16-21 (NLT) I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will **empower** you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's **love** and keep you strong.¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his **love** is. ¹⁹ May you experience the **love** of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and **power** that comes from God. ²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty **power** at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

John 7:37-39 (NLT) On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of **living water** will flow from his heart.'" ³⁹ (When he said '**living water**,' he was speaking of the **Spirit**, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the **Spirit** had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Chosen to Grow

#4 of 5 - June 11, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at 2 Peter 1:1-11 and how God has chosen us to grow. How has the Lord been speaking to you this week? How were you able to apply this message?
- 2) Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about how we are loved by God as believers?
- 5) Read 1 John 4:19. Where does our love come from? How does this encourage you as you seek to live well and love well. How does this help as you consider loving those who are hard to love?
- 6) Read Ephesians 3:16-21 and John 7:37-39. Where does our "power to love others" come from?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this study? (Take some time for Listening Prayer).
- 8) What is one thing you can do this week to receive God's love in greater measure so you can extend God's love to others?



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