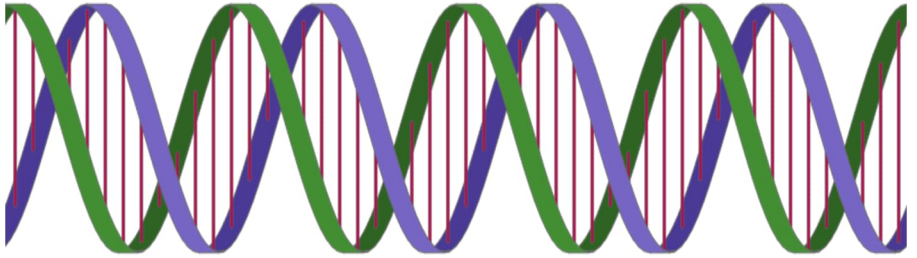


Possessing



God's DNA

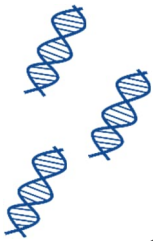
reading, thinking, & praying through

First, Second & Third

JOHN

Daily Devotion

Monday 29 August – Sunday 23 October 2022



Introduction

First John does not read like a letter but a sermon—it indicates neither the writer nor to whom it is addressed—while the Second and Third John are written by one who identifies himself as The Elder. The language and style of these three epistles are identical to the Fourth Gospel and this makes many scholars attribute all of them to the disciple that Jesus loved.¹ That could be John Zebedee, one of The Twelve or another John among Jesus' earliest disciples.

Whichever John it was, he's now in his old age and he's overseeing a network of house church communities that are likely around the city of ancient Ephesus.

These faith communities—going by various clues from within these letters—had recently gone through a crisis that motivated John to write these letters. He mentions that a group of people had broken off from these churches; these people² no longer acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah or as the Son of God and they are stirring up hostility among those who stayed faithful to the churches.

In fact, Second and Third John clearly address this conflict. Second John is a warning to a specific house church that there are people who deny Jesus - John calls them deceivers - and they're probably going to come looking for validation or support and this church community is not to offer any.

Third John is written to Gaius, a member of one of these house churches, and the elder asks him to welcome legitimate missionaries who are going to arrive soon. He tells him to do this because the leader of that church community, Diotrephes, who is self-serving, rejects anyone associated with John the elder. So, these letters give us a window into the tension and conflict John faced in these churches.

¹ John 21:24. A more critical study of the Fourth Gospel shows only one named disciple whom Jesus loved 😊. Check that for yourself!

² See **Helpful Background** page

Compared to the Pauline letters these are very much more personal. John seemed to have either led the addressees to the Lord or disciplined them and we get the sense that he is looking back on his life of service. You get the impression that he, as a spiritual father, is writing to his children.

As we read them in the present, we can still sense that he is writing to you and to me, collectively and individually. He has written to us *that we may know that we have eternal life*,³ and *that your joy may be full*.⁴

We might intellectually believe that we have eternal life when we accept Christ as Saviour and Lord but to **know** it at the core of our being is a different thing. It will transform the way we allow Christ to live through us and our relationship with Him and those around us.

Let John speak to you of your relationship with Christ.

Every Blessing

Adewale Adefuye, Philip Ash & Stanley Sithole

16 August 2022

³ 1 John 5:13

⁴ 1John 1:4

Helpful Background

As Gentiles (non-Jews) joined the church in greater numbers, they brought much of their philosophical ideas with them. Gnosticism was an attempt by some in the church to fuse Greek philosophical ideas with Christian theology. This was done to make the Christian religion more palatable to educated Greeks. **John's letters deal with the problem of Gnosticism.**

In simple terms, Gnosticism taught that "spirit" was good and "matter" was evil. Salvation, therefore, required one to escape the physical realm of matter and enter the realm of spirit. These ideas were connected to the Greek concept of "duality."

The basic Gnostic myth depicts God as incomprehensible and unknowable. This idea conflicts with the Gospel's concept of a personal God who desires a relationship with human beings.

Salvation: The Gospel teaches that salvation is available to everyone, not just a special few and that it comes from grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9), and not from study or works. The only source of truth is the Bible. Gnosticism claims "knowledge"—what the word *gnosis* means—as the basis for salvation. Not any knowledge however, but the special knowledge held in secret by these same Gnostic teachers. Only those superior, divinely enlightened persons could comprehend the secret teachings and obtain true salvation.

Jesus Christ: Gnostics were divided on their beliefs about Jesus Christ. One view held that he only appeared to have human form but that he was spirit only. The other view contended that his divine spirit came upon his human body at baptism and departed before the crucifixion. The Gospel, on the other hand, holds that Jesus was fully man and fully God and that his human and divine natures were both present and necessary to provide a suitable sacrifice for humanity's sin.

Mon, 29th Aug

Eternal Life Revealed



1 John 1:1-2

BSB

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have gazed upon and touched with our own hands—this is the Word of life. ²And this is the life that was revealed; we have seen it and testified to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

ESV

¹That 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— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—



John introduces himself as a witness of the Person of Jesus Christ. He describes his experience of interacting with the Word of Life—Eternal Life.

- a. In what form did John experience the Word?
- b. Can you identify with his experience?
- c. In what form have you contacted, interacted with the Word?
- d. Discuss how the Word of life can be experienced now

Tue, 30th Aug

Invitation to Participate in Eternal Life



1 John 1:3-4

BSB

³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write these things so that our joy may be complete.

ESV

³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.



What we have seen and heard

This is not a hearsay but a personal encounter of the Personal of Eternal Life. He heard, saw, gazed upon, and touched.

a. What did John see? What did he hear?

We proclaim...we write...

b. Why does John share his experience?

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

c. What is joy?

d. How can your joy be complete?

Wed, 31st Aug

God is Light



1 John 1:5

BSB

⁵And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

ESV

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.



- a. What message is John sharing and preaching?

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

- b. What is light?
- c. What is the nature of light?

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12, ESV)

- d. What jumps at you?
- e. What, if any, does it tell or show about Christ?
- f. Would you like to copy what you have seen of Jesus?
- g. What is God saying to you?
- h. What are you going to do about it?

Thu, 1st Sept

Fellowship with/in Light



1 John 1:6-7

BSB

⁶If we say we have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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.

ESV

⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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.



The Greek word translated “fellowship” is *koinonia* (koy-nohn-ee'-ah) which literally means partnership, contributory help, participation, sharing in, communion.

Fellowship with Light thus means sharing, participating receiving contributory help from Light.

- a. Describe in your own words what ‘fellowship with Him’ means?
- b. What should we expect as we fellowship with Him?
- c. How do we walk in the light?

Fri, 2nd Sept

Sin is Real, So is God's Forgiveness



1 John 1:8-9

BSB

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ESV

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Some say they have no sin by stressing their morality, their benevolence, and their religious observances. Can any sane person deny their own sinfulness?

- a. What jumps at you?
- b. What, if any, does it tell or show about Christ?
- c. Would you like to copy what you have seen of Jesus?
- d. What is God saying to you?
- e. What are you going to do about it?

Sat, 3rd Sept

All Have Sinned



1 John 1:10

BSB

¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar, and His word is not in us.

ESV

¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



Not a repetition, but “a strengthening of 1 John 1:8”

The message of the Gospel is that Man—the whole of humanity—is a fallen being and needs a Saviour. Unless a person admits that, of course (s)he cannot be saved.

- a. What jumps at you?
- b. What, if any, does it tell or show about Christ?
- c. Would you like to copy what you have seen of Jesus?
- d. What is God saying to you?
- e. What are you going to do about it?

Sun, 4th Sept

1 John 1:1-10

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 1:1-10? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Mon, 5th Sept

Advocate & Atoning Sacrifice



1 John 2:1-2

BSB

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He Himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

ESV

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.



Septuagenarians will still look like children to a man who is a hundred years old.

a. How does the Disciple of love treat the subject of sin?

The same word rendered “advocate” here is translated “comforter” in the Gospel; we have a Comforter with the Father, a Paraclete with the Father. The very word that is applied to God the Holy Ghost is applied to God the Son.

b. What, if any, does it tell or show about Christ?

c. What is God saying to you?

d. What are you going to do about it?

Tue 6th Sept

Certainty of Eternal Life



1 John 2:3-4

BSB

³By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments. ⁴If anyone says, “I know Him,” but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

ESV

³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.



Knowing Christ is beyond mere intellectual assent—such as the Gnostic postulated— or emotional appreciation but a moral and spiritual affection and activity.

To know Christ is to experience Christ; to experience Christ is to love Him, and to love Him is to obey and imitate Him.

- a. How do we know that we know Christ, and know God?
- b. Can one be a liar and not know?

Wed, 7th Sept

Living Liars



1 John 2:4-6

BSB

⁴If anyone says, “I know Him,” but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone keeps His word, the love of God has been truly perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him:

⁶Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk as Jesus walked.

ESV

⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



"If anyone says..."

John changes direction from first-person plural —“We have heard,” “We have seen,” “If we say,” “If we walk in the light,” “If we confess,” “Hereby we do know”— to third person singular.

Thu, 8th Sept

The Old but New Commandment



1 John 2:7-8

BSB

⁷ Beloved, I am not writing to you a new commandment, but an old one, which you have had from the beginning. This commandment is the message you have heard.

⁸ Then again, I am also writing to you a new commandment, which is true in Him and also in you. For the darkness is fading and the true light is already shining.

ESV

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.



What is the commandment which is at once new and old?

"Love your neighbour as yourself" is the old command in the Mosaic Law. But the standard is new "Even as I loved you;"

The motive is new as well: because "God so loved us" (1 John 4:11).

This new and yet old command sums up the practical side of the gospel.

Fri 9th Sept

Light Loves, Darkness Hates



1 John 2:9-11

BSB

⁹If anyone claims to be in the light but hates his brother, he is still in the darkness.

¹⁰Whoever loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause of stumbling in him.

¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. He does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

ESV

⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.



Love is love, and hate is hate. Between the two there is no neutral ground, any more than between life and death, or between Christ and antichrist. "He that is not with me is against me."

Hatred is a form of darkness. Walking in the light excludes all hatred towards brethren.



1 John 2:12-14

BSB

¹²I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven through His name.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁴I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.

I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

ESV

¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.



John classifies the church into i) little children, ii) young men (and women too) and iii) fathers.

i. What does he say about each category?

ii. Where do you fit in?

iii. Have your sins been forgiven?

iv. Do you know the Father?

v. Do you know him who is from the beginning?

vi. Have you overcome the evil one?

vii. Are you strong?

viii. Does the word of God abide in you?

Sun, 11th Sept

1 John 2:1-14

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 2:1-14? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Church INFO



Ipswich International Church
Website: <https://ipswichinternational.church>

Barrack Corner / Portman Road
Ipswich, Suffolk
IP1 2NB England
Phone: 01473 281614

Weekly Sunday Services at 11:00am



Colchester Elim Church
Website: <http://elimcolchester.co.uk>

Elim Church,
Clematis Way,
Greenstead, Colchester.
CO4 3PY England
Phone: 07759 414 630

Weekly Sunday Services at 10:30am



1 John 2:15-17

BSB

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.

ESV

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



- a. Would you agree that the love for the world comes from not being rooted and grounded in the love of the Father?
- b. What is the difference between the love of God and the love for God?
- c. How is the love of the world demonstrated?

Tue, 13th Sept

They Were with Us But Not of Us



1 John 2:18-19

BSB

¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us.

ESV

¹⁸Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.



Bob was an animal rights campaigner. At least he attended meetings and took part in protests. He even met—and would later have a child with Jacqui, a fellow activist. When the child was two, Bob vanished after telling Jacqui and others that police were close to arresting him. Jacqui was left to raise their son on her own, and he grew up believing that his father was a political activist who had had no choice but to flee abroad to avoid jail.

Twenty-five years later, Bob was unmasked. He was Bob Lambert, not Bob Robinson as he claimed. He was an undercover operative, deployed to infiltrate the protest group.

He was with the London Greenpeace for many years but was he ever of them?



1 John 2:20-23

BSB

²⁰ You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I have not written to you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

ESV

²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me...”⁵

You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One...

- a. Who are the “you”?
- b. What is the ‘anointing from the Holy One’?
- c. How do you read “...and all of you know the truth”?
- d. Who is a liar?
- e. How do you read “...No one who denies the Son has the Father”?

⁵ Luke 4:18

Thu, 15th Sept

Eternal Life is the Objective



1 John 2:24-26

BSB

²⁴ As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If it does, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life.

²⁶ I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

ESV

²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. ²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.



"Beginning" and "eternal" are favourite words with John, both in his Gospel and in this Epistle.

a. What does the word "eternal" mean?

It is not a term of time, of immeasurable time. It is difficult for the human mind to think of eternity in any other way than as a continuation of time. Eternity has no relation to time. It is a quality of life, divinity, blessedness, completeness, restfulness.

Fri, 16th Sept

The Permanent Resident Guide



1 John 2:27

BSB

²⁷ And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as His true and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so remain in Him as you have been taught.

ESV

²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.



A man in honour, but without understanding, is like the beasts; they shall perish. (Psalm 49:20, A Faithful Version)

- a. How and when is this anointing received?
- b. How does the teaching of the anointing operate?

Sat, 17th Sept

Remain in Christ



1 John 2:28-29

BSB

²⁸And now, little children, remain in Christ, so that when He appears, we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁹If you know that He is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

ESV

²⁸And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.



Jesus is coming back again! The coming of Christ suggests the righteousness of Christ; for it is as the righteous Judge that he is coming, and those who would not be ashamed to meet him at His coming must be righteous also.

a. What jumps at you?

b. What, if any, does it tell or show about Christ?

Sun, 18th Sept

1 John 2¹⁵⁻²⁹ **Pause & Ponder**

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 2¹⁵⁻²⁹? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]



1 John 3:1-3

BSB

¹Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ²Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure.

ESV

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.



Ancient Greek—the language of the New Testament—defines different types of love. These include eros, philia, agape, pragma, philautia, and ludus. The one used in our text is agape.

- a. Do you know what agape is?
- b. How great and what kind of love does God have for us?
- c. How has He shown this love for us?
- d. How vital is this assurance for our souls?

Tue, 20th Sept

Christ Took Away Sins



1 John 3:4-7

BSB

⁴Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness as well. Indeed, sin is lawlessness. ⁵But you know that Christ appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶No one who remains in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen Him or known Him.

⁷Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.

ESV

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.



These verses distinguish the natures of Christ and the devil regarding sin--

- In Christ there is no sin.
- The practice of sin (lawlessness) is the trait of the devil.
- a. How do you view sin?
- b. What should be the heart cry of one-in-Christ regarding sin?
- c. What effect does remaining (abiding, residing) in Christ Him have on one who is in Him?

Wed, 21st Sept

Distinguishing Between God's Children & the Devil's Children



1 John 3:8-10

BSB

⁸The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

¹⁰By this the children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil: Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

ESV

⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.



John 8:42-44 in the words of Jesus:

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here... You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires."

Here he distinguishes between children of God and the children of the devil.

- a. How does one become a child of God?
- b. How does one become a child of the devil?
- c. Can one change camp?

Thu, 22nd Sept

Don't Be Like Cain



1 John 3:11-15

BSB

¹¹This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain slay him? Because his own deeds were evil, while those of his brother were righteous. ¹³So do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.

ESV

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.



The story of Cain can be found in Genesis 4. It is worthwhile reading it slowly and meditatively.

- a. Why did Cain kill his brother?
- b. *Love one another* is the command of Scriptures. What can hinder you from obeying?
- c. What can encourage you to obey?

Fri, 23rd Sept

Love In Action & Truth



1 John 3:16-18

BSB

¹⁶By this we know what love is: Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸Little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth.

ESV

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.



Christ is the prime example of self-sacrificing love, as Cain is of brother-sacrificing hate.

Love and hate are known by their works.

Sat, 24th Sept

Gaining Assurance of the Heart



1 John 3:19-24

BSB

¹⁹And by this we will know that we belong to the truth, and will assure our hearts in His presence: ²⁰Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows all things.

²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God, ²²and we will receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight. ²³And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and we should love one another just as He commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps His commandments remains in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He remains in us: by the Spirit He has given us.

ESV

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



(we) will assure our hearts in His presence (verse 19)

This presupposes a relative contrast between "us" and "our hearts."

a. How do we persuade our hearts before Him?

If our hearts condemn us (verse 20)

b. How does God's greatness with His omniscience overcome the condemnation of the heart?

c. How do you walk confidently before God?

Sun, 25th Sept

1 John 3

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 3? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]



1 John 4:1-3

BSB

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

²By this you will know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and which is already in the world at this time.

ESV

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.



You've probably heard of or done litmus tests in secondary school chemistry class. Litmus paper changes colour when you put it in something that is acidic or basic. It's used to determine roughly how acidic or basic something is.

- a. What is the litmus test in today's text?
- b. What is the significance of incarnation of Jesus?

Tue, 27th Sept

Victory Through the Greater One



1 John 4:4-6

BSB

⁴You, little children, are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

⁵They are of the world. That is why they speak from the world's perspective, and the world listens to them.

⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

ESV

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.



Those who are of God are distinguished from those of the world.

- a. In whom does the Greater One dwell?
- b. Who is the "he" that is in the world?
- c. How do you overcome the "he" that is in the world?



1 John 4:7-10

BSB

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent His one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

¹⁰And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

ESV

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



The Greek word translated love is agape, a love which is awakened by a sense of value in an object which causes one to prize it. It springs from an apprehension of the preciousness of an object. It is a love of esteem and approbation. The quality of this love is determined by the character of the one who loves, and that of the object loved.⁶

- a. Where does agape come from?
- b. How is agape revealed among us?
- c. How can it be experienced?

⁶ Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament



1 John 4:11-16

BSB

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we remain in Him, and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶And we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

ESV

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.



God kind of love is "doing what is right and best for someone, even if it involves negative feelings."⁷

Love can be known only from the actions it prompts.

"...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:5, NKJV)

⁷ Gene Getz, A college and seminary professor, writer, and pastor.

Fri, 30th Sept

The Disciple is Christ's Living Likeness



1 John 4:17-19

BSB

¹⁷In this way, love has been perfected among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; for in this world we are just like Him.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love.

¹⁹We love because He first loved us.

ESV

¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.



"...as He is so also are we in this world."

This is startling, and more startling if you notice that John does not say 'As He was,' in this earthly life of humiliation and filial obedience, but 'as He is,' in His heavenly life and reign and glory.

- a. How is love perfected in us individually and collectively?
- b. What is perfect love?
- c. What does perfect love do to fear?

Sat, 1st Oct

Can I love God and Hate My Sister?



1 John 4:20-21

BSB

²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And we have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must love his brother as well.

ESV

²⁰If 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. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



Mutually exclusive events are events that cannot occur at the same time. The simplest example of a mutually exclusive event is a coin flip. The result of a tossed coin can be heads or tails, but both results cannot appear at the same time.

Other examples are

- Winning and losing a game
- Running and walking

- a. Are “loving God” and “hating one’s brother” mutually exclusive?
- b. Can I say and mean, “I love God” and yet hate my brother?
- c. What is hatred?
- d. What does hatred show itself?

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 4? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Mon, 3rd Oct

The Theory of Brotherly & Sisterly Love



1 John 5:1-3

BSB

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves those born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome,

ESV

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.



- a. What are the knock-on effects of believing that Jesus is the Christ?

Everyone who loves the Father also loves those born of Him.

If you love the Father, according to verse one, you also love those born of Him—your brothers and sisters in Christ—but you may not know.

- b. How much of your born-again-self do you know?
- c. How is the love of God shown?

Tue, 4th Oct

The Triumph of Faith



1 John 5:4-8

BSB

⁴because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. ⁵Who then overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ—not by water alone, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies to this, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.

NKJV

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.



The Strong's concordance defines the word translated overcome—G3529—to subdue (literally or figuratively): - conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.

- a. What is in the world to overcome?
- b. How do we overcome?

Wed, 5th Oct

No Son, No Life



1 John 5:9-12

BSB

⁹Even if we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is greater. For this is the testimony that God has given about His Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within him; whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given about His Son.

¹¹And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

ESV

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.



- a. What has God said of His Son, Jesus Christ?
- b. Can one have eternal outside of God's testimony?
- c. What is eternal life?

Thu, 6th Oct

The Disciple's Title Deed



1 John 5:13-15

BSB

¹³I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.

ESV

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.



- a. Who is this epistle directed at?
- b. Why is it written?
- c. Is the assurance of eternal necessary now?
- d. What gives the Disciple—follower of Christ—confidence before the Father and Jesus Christ?

Fri, 7th Oct

Sin Unto Death



1 John 5:16-17

BSB

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he should ask God, who will give life to those who commit this kind of sin. There is a sin that leads to death; I am not saying he should ask regarding that sin. ¹⁷All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is sin that does not lead to death.

ESV

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.



If anyone one sees his brother

Disciples are called to be one another's keeper in an accountable, selfless, and responsible relationship. No one is an island

...he should ask, and God (ESV)

...he should ask God, who will (BSB)

A responsibility we owe one another in the community of faith

a. What is sin that leads to death?

1 Corinthians mentions of some the weak and sick brethren in the Church in Corinth, and several of whom died for taking the communion meal unworthily.

b. What manner of death does John mean – eternal or physical?

Sat, 8th Oct

We Know, Do We?



1 John 5:18-21

BSB

¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; the One who was born of God protects him, and the evil one cannot touch him.

¹⁹We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one. ²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

NKJV

¹⁸We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. ¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one. ²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.



Our three convictions, “we know’s:”

- i. The power of divine birth – verse 18
- ii. Our possession of eternal life – verse 19
- iii. The revealing power of the incarnation – verse 20

Sun, 9th Oct

1 John 5

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 1 John 5? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Mon, 10th Oct

The Elect Lady



2 John 1-3

BSB

¹The elder,

To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I alone, but also all who know the truth—²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, will be with us in truth and love.

ESV

¹The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.



Elder John writes to the elect (chosen) lady and her children.

"Whom I love," not "truly" but "in truth" (ESV); "in the truth" (BSB)

John uses agape, God kind of love. Such a love as this between human beings grows up and is fostered in an atmosphere of truthfulness. It is grounded not on feeling or passion, but on a reciprocal conviction of simplicity of purpose; and, being true in its origin, it is true at every stage of its development.

- a. How does it look to you to give and to receive agape, God kind of love?

Grace, mercy, and peace...

- b. What are these qualities from God and how are they received?

Tue, 11th Oct

The Elder's Chief Joy



2 John 4-6

BSB

⁴I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father has commanded us. ⁵And now I urge you, dear lady—not as a new commandment to you, but one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the very commandment you have heard from the beginning, that you must walk in love.

ESV

⁴I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.



Walking in the truth should be expected of all Christians; yet does it fully accompany every Christian profession?

The life of one who walks in the truth will be governed by Divine principles. The standard of the new life is fixed by God, not by us; the reason of the new life is the will of the Father, not our will; a life lived in the strength, not ours.

- a. What practical steps do you take to love as the Father has commanded?
- b. Are there difficulties or obstacles on the path of obedience?

Wed, 12th Oct

Warning Against False Teachers



2 John 7-8

BSB

⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be fully rewarded.

ESV

⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.



False teaching is harmful to faith, especially the faith of young Disciples. Gnosticism is not actively taught in our day, but other forms of evil teaching abound.

a. What forms of injurious teachings abound today?

Some say it matters not what we believe. The elder says beliefs matter.

b. How does belief affect or shape character?

c. Do beliefs have consequences?

d. Deceivers went out into the world, but from where? Could they be coming out of the Church?

Thu, 13th Oct

Big Differences Little Things Make



2 John 9

BSB

⁹ Anyone who runs ahead without remaining in the teaching of Christ does not have God. Whoever remains in His teaching has both the Father and the Son.

ESV

⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.



If you're going somewhere and you're off course by just one degree, after one metre, you'll miss your target by 1.7cm. Inconsequential, right?

But what about as you get farther out? After a kilometre, you'll be off by 17metre. Not huge, but noticeable. One degree is starting to make a difference.

If you were traveling from Ipswich to Liverpool, you'd be off by 4 miles. Going to the sun, you'd miss by over 1.6 million miles (just about twice the diameter of the sun).

So, a small deviation in the notion of truth could make a substantial difference in the practice of godliness.

In his gospel narrative, John reminds us thus:

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (John 8:31, NKJV)

- a. What is required to be Jesus' disciples?
- b. What does it mean to remain in the teachings of Christ.

Fri, 14th Oct

Loyalty to Christ



2 John 10-11

BSB

¹⁰If anyone comes to you but does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home or even greet him. ¹¹Whoever greets such a person shares in his evil deeds.

ESV

¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.



When someone is known to suffer from covid-19, an easily spreadable disease, no one will come near them. There is little need to warn them off. They are too alarmed to draw near.

a. Should we not as much be afraid of the contagion of vice or evil doctrine?

Those who come to undermine people's faith in Christ are on an evil errand. Their work is an "evil work."

b. How can indifference, false motives of courtesy or liberality lead one to give any assistance or encouragement to such?

Christ is the sole hope of the world. For the sake of our own souls, and all the souls around us, and for all that are coming to be born into this world, let us be faithful. A tremendous responsibility rests upon us today.

Sat, 15th Oct

Face to Face



2 John 12-13

BSB

¹²I have many things to write to you, but I would prefer not to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come and speak with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your elect sister send you greetings.

ESV

¹²Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete. ¹³The children of your elect sister greet you.



Elder John has many things to share but opts not to write them down. He seems to have written what is of urgent importance to prevent fatal mistakes during the present time. Everything else can wait until they see face to face.

The power of the spoken word is underestimated, but John found it more fitting for his immediate hearers to hear the spoken word.

Sun, 16th Oct

2 John

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 2 John? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Mon, 17th Oct

Beloved Gaius



3 John 1-2

BSB

¹The elder,

To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth:

²Beloved, I pray that in every way you may prosper and enjoy good health, as your soul also prospers.

ESV

¹The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.



This Epistle, like the Second, and most others in the New Testament, has a definite address, but of a very short and simple kind.

The name Gaius—perhaps the most common of all names in the Roman Empire—means “to rejoice.” Loving in truth allows for heartfelt prayers as John does for Gaius.

- a. What does it look like to love in truth?
- b. How do you love in truth?
- c. Is it possible to love not in truth?
- d. What steps are you take to love in truth?

Tue, 18th Oct

The Joy of Walking in the Truth



3 John 3-4

BSB

³For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

ESV

³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.



Once again John talks about walking in truth and the joy it gives him to hear of his spiritual children.

- a. What joy does our heavenly Father derive in seeing us walk in the truth?
- b. Why should walking in the truth cause so much joy?
- c. What is truth?

Truth is the best defence against deception. What do you think?



3 John 5-8

BSB

⁵Beloved, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, and especially since they are strangers to you. ⁶They have testified to the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. ⁷For they went out on behalf of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

ESV

⁵ Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.



-it is always good to welcome brothers and sisters in Christ because some have entertained angels.

-Supporting Christians in the work of our Lord is the burden of the Kingdom and not that of non-Believers, so we should eagerly desire to partake as fellow workers.

-If we are not supporting any brothers or sisters who are pushing the name of Christ forward ask the Father to help you identify who to support.



3 John 9-10

BSB

⁹I have written to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not accept our instruction. ¹⁰So if I come, I will call attention to his malicious slander against us. And unsatisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers and forbids those who want to do so, even putting them out of the church.

ESV

⁹I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.



Diotrephes belongs to the class of these who love to have the pre-eminence, who are bent, not on the peace and prosperity of the Church, but on their being first in the Church, even at the expense of its peace and prosperity.

- a. Where does this "love of the pre-eminence" come from?
- b. Is this love of the pre-eminence consistent with a state of grace?
- c. But why is a love of the pre-eminence so utterly condemned in the Word of God?

Fri, 21st Oct

Doing Good is Good Business



3 John:11-12

BSB

¹¹Beloved, 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.

¹²Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also testify for him, and you know that our testimony is true.

ESV

¹¹Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

¹²Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.



Doing good is not to win GOD over. Only Christ won the Father over. Doing good is an exhibit of our identity.

- When we do good GOD and man will testify of that good.

Sat, 22nd Oct

Greet the Friends by Name



3 John:13-14

BSB

¹³I have many things to write to you, but I would prefer not to do so with pen and ink. ¹⁴Instead, I hope to see you soon and speak with you face to face.

Peace to you.

The friends here send you greetings.

Greet each of our friends there by name.

ESV

¹³ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.



-Once again John opts not to write the many things that he wants to say but wants to say them face to face.

-May we use our words to make others joyful, peaceful and complete.

John imitates that Good Shepherd who "calls His sheep by name."

Sun, 23rd Oct

3 John

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 3 John? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Our Priorities

