

An
Expositional
Study
Of
2nd & 3rd
John
&
Jude

By Pastor W. Jack Casey

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A
Study
Of
The
Second Letter
Of
The
Apostle John
To
God's
Elect Children

By Pastor W. Jack Case

Preface

This is one in an on-going series of studies taught by Pastor Casey. These are edited to contain the basic thoughts of the teacher and not the details that would have been brought in the class room setting. There has been no attempt to make them exhaustive or to fill them with lofty words. Every attempt has been made to make them readable by any and all, so they might grow in grace and the nature of the Lord.

These studies were done during a busy pastorate. They are geared towards life, "where the rubber meets the road" as a dear old preacher used to say. I have modeled this teaching on his style.

Therefore, this study goes out to God's children in a hope to help them in their walk and that our heavenly Father may be glorified for his excellent love and grace.

The Second Letter of John

Intro:

This is the second of three letters written by the apostle John, either to a particular church that was dear to him as noted by his words in the first verse or it was written to a sister in Christ who had been a great blessing to him. Now either way this was the Lord's words for then and now. The letter is a short one but is very important.

Author and Date

The writer is the beloved apostle John who identifies himself as an elder.

This conveys his age. This letter like the others written by John was written sometime during the years 90 to 95 AD. John wrote this letter shortly after First John during his ministry to Ephesus.

Background and Settings

This letter continues his line of thought from First John. False teachers influenced by Gnosticism this is a philosophy held by some by this time that they had a superior knowledge and had received extra biblical revelations from God that superseded the Apostles authority. This letter was written to a specific house church. These false teachers were going through the house congregations trying to draw believers away. John has no fear of them and point them out in no uncertain terms for what they were and who they served!

Theme

A calling to go back to the fundamentals of the faith, "back to the basics," John adds one more basic and that is Bible-based guidelines for hospitality. Sound doctrine is to serve as the

test of fellowship and the basis of separation between those who profess Christianity and those who really are.

Basic Outline

- I. The foundation of a believer's hospitality (1-3)
- II. The way a believer shows hospitality (4-6)
- III. The limits of a believer's hospitality (7-11)
- IV. The reward of a believer's hospitality (12-13)

II John

Verse 1: The elder unto the elect lady
and her children, whom I love in truth;
and not I only, but also all they that
know the truth;

The Elder: John uses the word "elder" to identify his advanced age and his spiritual authority over his congregations.

Elect lady and Her Children: This is a metaphorical statement for a church (elect body). A local assembly and her children are the members of this local assembly. It is a warm greeting from a spiritual leader to those he cares about.

Whom I Love In Truth: The basic of Christian hospitality is the truth. John will accentuate the need to keep to the truth by repeating it 5 times in 4 verses. The truth here is the Word of God.

Also all Those Who Have Known the Truth: This is a statement of unity based on the sound belief in Christ and obedience to Him and His word.

Verse 2: for the truth`s sake which
abideth in us, and it shall be with us
for ever:

Because Of The Truth Which Abides In Us Will Be With Us: This is the word of God dwelling in us and being active and real in us, guiding us in all areas of life? We are to defend God's word and its truth. The word must be in us, before we will know how to defend it. In truth, God's word will be with us until eternity Jesus said that not one jot or title would pass away; the jot and title were the two smallest marks above a Hebrew alphabet. We live in a day when few can be believed. It is good to have something to stand on. One old preacher said

"What is true is not new, and what is new is not true". I have found this to be true in so many cases.

Verse 3 will give us a different greeting than the normal one used in the other letters.

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

Grace, Mercy, and Peace: the usual greeting is grace and peace, because this is what man needs.

John puts mercy in the middle to show the order from the notion of God to the satisfaction of man. These are in the confines of truth and love. God's grace that is; His unmerited favor toward those who were at enmity with Him. Was shown down to us through the mercy seat of the cross; brings peace between man and God.

From The Father and The Son: God the Father and Jesus the son who died for us provided grace, mercy and peace in truth and love. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;

Verse 4: I rejoice greatly that I have found [certain] of thy children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.

I Rejoiced Greatly: John is blessed, overjoyed, and excited as he learned of the condition of the elect body.

Thy Children walking In the Truth: this church and its members were living in obedience to the commands of God. The Lord rejoices when believers are living faithful lives before Him. Obeying the Word of God given to them by the Apostles under the new covenant this always brings joy not only to God the Father and the Son but to the elders as well.

Have Received a Commandment from The Father: the command John wrote in the First Letter and said: "Walk in the light as He is in the light." This is referring to peoples lives being ordered by the truth of God's word.

Verse 5: And now I beseech thee, lady,
not as though I wrote to thee a new
commandment, but that which we had
from the beginning, that we love one
another.

Now I beseech Thee lady: John is pleading for this church to heed him. He is trying to warn them for there own benefit not his. As an Apostle and an Elder he could see his duty to warn local churches and the members of every danger that might come along. This aspect of an elders responsibility has not disappeared though they are listened to less today as they warn of the dangers facing Christians not from the outside now as much as it is from the inside.

Not As Though I Wrote a New: John wants them and us to know that what he is saying is not new, or something he made up. He is giving the same command that he was given by the Lord and that is to love one another.

That Which We had From the Beginning: the beginning here is Christ at his incarnation in the flesh and imparted to the Apostles during His time of public ministry. John records Jesus words about this in Jn. 14:15 - "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Also here in Jn. 13:25 - "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples." Unity and love: that is keeping the truth and living out God's love in our lives.

Verse 6: And this is love, that we should walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, even as ye heard from the beginning, that ye should walk in it.

And This Is Love: Here is the real impact of love. After Jesus gives the command to; Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, body and your neighbors as yourself.

Ye Should Walk In It: we are to live out this idea, this principle, of total love from every part of our being everyday of our lives; look at these references John gives I Jn. 5:2, 3; I Jn. 2:3-11, Jn. 14:15, 21 and 15:10. Now John will give his reason for wanting us to walk in love.

Verse 7: For many deceivers are gone forth into the world, [even] they that confess not that Jesus Christ cometh in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

For Many Deceivers: Look here at what is recorded in Mk. 13: 22, 23 "for there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show signs and wonders, that they may lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have told you all things beforehand" also what Paul told Timothy in II Tim. 3:13 But evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. John gives limits for Christian hospitality. What Peter said was just starting, had turned into 30 years down the road of time.

Who Confess Not That Jesus Is Come: This is habitual denying of Jesus as God in the flesh, wholly God, fully man? Those who hold any other view is an Antichrist or one who is opposed to Christ.

This is a Deceiver and an Antichrist: the spirit of Antichrist works in many today. One day in the future it will head up in the one individual the Bible calls THE Antichrist. This will be actually 2 men: one political and one religious. In Rev.13 the politician will be against Christ and the religious one will imitate Christ. They will move the world to its final state prior to judgment; one political realm, one religious order. We are headed there on a fast road. There is rarely a day goes by that we are not inundated with news articles about the European Union and United Nations and their desire to first rid the world of Israel and then establish a New World Order. The most common talk is of global communities and commerce.

Verse 8: Look to yourselves, that ye lose not the things which we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward.

Look to Yourselves: check yourselves and see where you are spiritually. Do you hold the truth, or do you hold onto error or some combination of both? Are you living in obedience or not? The answer to this question bears upon your eternal reward.

Lose Not Those Things: this is about rewards earned for faithful service and what might happen if you decide to go after a false teacher and embrace error – Paul gives us some detail on this in II Cor. 5:9, 10 “Wherefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well-pleasing unto him. 10 For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad”.

Receive A Full Reward: John's desire is that his readers will cling to the truth, live in obedience, and receive all they are entitled to. Let's look here at II Tim. 4:7, 8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: 8 henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall

give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing". Paul wanted to be sure and not be taken in by deceivers.

Verse 9: Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.

Whoso Transgresses And Abides Not: To "transgress" means to go farther than what is right, go to some extreme. Gnostics were this way; they claimed to have super knowledge. The word "Abide" means to remain or to make a permanent arrangement. The person who does not live in Christ or who tries to create a Christ to suit them never has been born again. The fundamentals are not open to change to satisfy the latest trends or philosophies.

Verse 10: If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into [your] house, and give him no greeting:

If There Come Any Unto You: John is referring to anyone who was to come to the church and not have the truth about Jesus as the basis of their life.

Receive Him Not: John tells this congregation that he loved so much to not let this type of antichrist or anyone like him into their fellowship, don't extend any hospitality in your church or home to do so would make them equally culpable in their sin.

Neither Bid God Speed: when he leaves, do not ask God to bless or carry this person along, to do so is a sinful act.

This principle applies equally to our church's today we should not knowingly invite or allow anyone into our midst

that is antichrist. Or who holds heresy as truth contrariwise to the clear teaching of scripture.

Verse 11 for he that giveth him
greeting partaketh in his evil works.

For he that Biddeth Him: if you entertain a false teacher, if you support him, you are as guilty in his deeds as he or she is. There are so many religious scam artists on television today using the word of God to rob people of their money and to rob God's churches of its tithes and offerings. These people may one day try and claim ignorance before God however it will not work. We are commanded to study and rightly divide the Word so that we can discern when we are being manipulated by a con-artist or a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is the reason for Christians holding the truth close so we are not found guilty by God.

Verse 12: Having many things to write
unto you, I would not [write them] with
paper and ink: but I hope to come unto
you, and to speak face to face, that
your joy may be made full.

Having many things to write; John lets them know that there is so much more he needs to say, that instead of writing with paper and ink or actually a papyrus sheet one of which would contain Second John. The ink John is talking about was made using a black mixture of water charcoal and gum resin. John is choosing rather to come to the church and address them face to face. This way he can tell it better than write it. Some people are writers and some are talkers.

That Our Joy Be Full: the blessing of being in the truth, living out the love of Jesus brings a full measure of joy. John is confident that the rest of what he has to say will if taken in the right way bring great joy to their lives. This is the right attitude for all of us to have that when the preacher brings a

message we should take it with the right attitude and we will have joy in our lives.

Verse 13: The children of thine elect
sister salute thee.

Children of The Elect: the members of the church where John was in Ephesus sent their greetings along with John's greeting.

The Book of III John

Introduction

Writer

The writer is the apostle John. He is the beloved disciple of Jesus and the youngest of all the apostles. John now is an old man and the last living apostle. He does not even use the title "Apostle" anymore. Now he is just an Elder.

Date

These brief letters were written sometime during the years 90 to 100 A.D. and after he had finished the book of Revelation. All three letters were written close together.

Theme

In I John, he emphasizes that God's family is bound by love for one another. If one does not love the rest of God's children, they are not his.

In II John, he warns about showing hospitality to false teachers who are Anti-Christ.

These we are not to love. In fact, we are encouraged to try them and if they are false, to expose them. This trying is to revolve around Jesus Christ and the teacher version of him.

In III John, we have an even more personal account. In I John it is to all God's children, in II John it is to a church. In III John it is to an individual about two other individuals, and standing on the truth in the right way.

The Book of III John

Verse 1: The elder unto Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

The Elder: John starts his letter with the informal title of "Elder." Here is a man who has walked and talked with Christ; who was an apostle and could have used that to his benefit but he did not. He is just an Elder in God's church, what a humble way to live. There are so many who need to take a real long deep look at these few humble words and change their attitude.

To The Believer: this is a term of endearment only used between fellow believers. For instance look at these two verses Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as God`s elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; Phil. 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy to see that in the Lord, we are all part of the beloved.

Gaius: this is a rather common name; one of 18 to choose. He was undoubtedly a member of one of the churches John had oversight. John intends to visit Gaius sometime soon. This letter is an anticipation of that.

Whom I Love In the Truth: the true believer's common experiences of the truth is the basis for our common love for each other.

Verse 2: Beloved, I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

I Pray: John offers a prayer for Gaius, who it seems is physically ill or suffering some disease. John's prayer is for his physical health to match that of his spiritual health look at what Paul says in II Cor. 4:16 "Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man

is renewed day by day. Though our outward man may perish, our inward man is renewed day by day.” A balanced life is a healthy and happy life, a life that honors God.

Verse 3: For I rejoiced greatly, when brethren came and bare witness unto thy truth, even as thou walkest in truth.

I Rejoiced Greatly When Brethren Came: John had a wonderful time rejoicing and praising God. It would seem that on a regular basis, travelers came by Ephesus where John was ministering and testified of Gaius's steadfast walk in the truth of God.

You Walk In The Truth: his walk matched his talk. He really practiced what he preached. John's commendation of Gaius is one of the greatest in the New Testament. This man Gaius stands in direct contrast to Diotrophes.

Verse 4: Greater joy have I none than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

I Have No Greater Joy: John was elated; his personal affection for Gaius was well founded, because of Gaius's life. There is no greater joy or pleasure in a pastor's life than to hear of one of his own serving the Lord tirelessly.

My Children: John has a strong fatherly affection for his spiritual children, especially those who were walking in truth. Let's look here at what Paul has to say on this in I Cor. 4:14-16 I write not these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though ye have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [have ye] not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel. I beseech you therefore, be ye imitators of me. And also here in 1 Th. 2:11 as ye know how we [dealt with] each one of

you, as a father with his own children, exhorting you, and encouraging [you], and testifying, and 3:1-10.

Verse 5: Beloved, thou doest a faithful work in whatsoever thou doest toward them that are brethren and strangers withal;

You Do Faithfully: Our faith must be proven by our works and our love must be expressed by deeds not just words. There are 4 motivational facts for this practical ministry: (1) It honors God, (2) it is a witness to the lost, (3) there is Obedience to God - Gal. 6:6-16 and I Cor. 9:8-11 *"Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"* (4) And we become joint workers together; look here at what Paul says in Phil. 4:17 *Not that I seek for the gift; but I seek for the fruit that increaseth to your account.*

Real faith produces real works. It would seem that God blessed whatever Gaius put his hand to. There was no partiality in Gaius's service. He treated those brethren he knew well and he showed great hospitality to the preachers, missionaries, and teachers who came by his house church. If they spoke the truth, he was good to them - feeding, housing, clothing, and possibly even providing traveling money for them.

Verse 6: who bare witness to thy love before the church: whom thou wilt do well to set forward on their journey worthily of God:

Who Have Borne Witness: when these traveling preachers and evangelists came back, they would no doubt stand and give testimony of how the Lord had worked. Invariably they get to the part where they came to Gaius's village and there they received greatly for the Lord through him.

Gaius's only desire was to know what they believed. They were all put to the test. It is a wonderful blessing to show hospitality to a traveling minister and to find out they are faithful to the word and Christ makes it a double blessing.

In II John, there was a warning to not help false teachers because doing so even to a small degree makes one a partaker with the false one and guilty before a Holy God. John says here, it is a commendable thing to help a true teacher on his way. You are doing and living well when you do. God will honor and bless those who help his preachers who travel around this country proclaiming the truth.

Verse 7: because that for the sake of the Name they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

Because That For His Name's Sake They Went Forth: these traveling evangelists, teachers out from their home church, went with great sacrifice - going out without money, no salary, no food or extra clothes, no campers or anything like we have today.

They had just their clothes and possibly a staff. Sometimes they left a village with some offering, sometimes with nothing in their purses but dust. Their only reward being was seeing souls saved.

Taking Nothing Of The Gentiles: John now here gives another test of what is a genuine worker for the Lord. What are you supporting; something that is just religion as a toy or is it a real work of the Lord.

Depending on the Lord's people, these Gentiles represent unbelievers; these true preachers wouldn't take anything from them.

In the Old Testament, the priests carried the ark not even using a cart. Today we are the priests carrying the ark of the gospel and we are not to be carrying anything else along with it. God cannot bless the things of unbelievers.

Verse 8: We therefore ought to welcome such, that we may be fellow-workers for the truth.

We Therefore Ought To Receive Such: men, who are traveling and preaching for God, standing in the truth forsaking everything for the gospel, deserve our support and help. If men come who are walking in the light, in God's love, which are living in the spirit, we should receive them.

That We Might Be Fellow helpers To the Truth: Every one of these men we help on their way, we receive a part in their reward of souls. We should be looking for ways to help these kinds of men, like Gaius and the men he helped.

It would be wonderful if all men in every church would be like Gaius. Unfortunately they are not. Some are like our next man John writes to Gaius about to pass on to those in his church. John is informing Gaius to beware of the Diotrefes of the world. Our Lord even had to remind his disciples that they were not to lord it over people, but much more to serve the people of God. Let's read these two verses Mt. 18:1 "In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" this is a reference to when John and his brother James wanted to be seated on the right and left of Jesus in the kingdom. Now after all these years he has grown spiritually and all he even calls himself is an elder. Now lets read what Paul says in Ph. 2:1 "If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions". Diotrefes always asked a question before

agreeing to help in a church project, "what will this do for Diotrephes?" The Holy Spirit is grieved by such men as Diotrephes, as he holds people back from serving the way the Holy Spirit wishes. Many are the hearts for service that are broken, and many the church devastated by those like Diotrephes who are only out for themselves. How much better it would be to just keep our eyes on Jesus and forget about ourselves for the sake of others.

Verse 9: I wrote somewhat unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

I Wrote Unto the Church: John apparently wrote a separate letter to the house church where Diotrephes was an elder, possibly even 1st John. One would think that an opportunity to hear from John the beloved, someone who had walked with Jesus, would be a real blessing as not every one had that opportunity to hear from one who had been an eye witness to all that Jesus said and did yet Diotrephes wasn't interested. Why?

The answer is in the second phrase of this verse notice the words "Who Loveth" To Have Preeminence among Them: Diotrephes wasn't interested in sharing the limelight with anyone. There are those church leaders who rule with an iron hand, they are not right with the Lord and don't want their congregation to see the blackness of their life, when a true minister of light comes along. So they just do not allow them in. Diotrephes even refused letters from John. The reason being he knew full well that.

John would expose him and he no longer will be able to strut around like the puffed up peacock he is. This man knows nothing of serving or showing hospitality. John will make 5 charges against this type of man:

1. He must occupy the leading place
2. He actually refuses to receive John

3. He made malicious statements against the apostle
4. He refused to entertain missionaries
5. He excommunicated those who did

He did all the teaching, preaching, and the works. Not willing to let God's people exercise their gifts. John is going to deal with this problem.

Verse 10: Therefore, if I come, I will bring to remembrance his works which he doeth, prating against us with wicked words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and them that would he forbiddeth and casteth [them] out of the church.

Wherefore, If I Come: there is no doubt about going to this church it is just that there has to be a waiting for the right time. Some say, "The only way I'm not coming is IF something comes up I might be unable to attend."

I Will Remember His Deeds: John was writing down a record of Diotrephes behavior. He learned from those who were refused opportunity to minister. John even found that Diotrephes was even...

Prating against Us with Malicious Words: "Prating" is going around bragging; and bringing false and empty charges against someone. What Diotrephes was saying about John was sheer nonsense, lies.

However, there are those who love such talk and who will readily believe it. Diotrephes was like a certain newspaper editor. It was said of him: "He's like a blotter: he takes everything in and gets it backwards."

Not only did he reject John but...Neither Doth He Himself Receive The Brethren: he even refused the traveling teachers and preachers that came by on their circuits. In that day they

carried letters from the sending church and pastor. Once he saw who sent them and sent them packing.

Forbiddeth Them That Would; and Casteth Them out Of the Church: Diotrephes had given his members orders to absolutely not have any fellowship with anyone he disagreed with. Anyone found to be fellowshiping with someone sent from John was immediately thrown out of the congregation. Church discipline is to be only used to maintain purity and bring glory to God. People like this do nothing but destroy the work of God in the Church. They hinder people and souls do not get saved. God will deal especially with this kind. John gives Gaius some good advice after warning of the Diotrephes of the world.

Verse 11: Beloved, imitate not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Follow Not That Which Is Evil, But That Which Is Good: now Gaius, I've shown you what the evil is, don't follow that way. However, do stick to following the path your on, standing on the truth and be hospitable to those who come in the truth.

He That Doeth Good Is Of God: when you find someone preaching and teaching the truth, embrace him because he is of God and is speaking for him to us.

He That Doeth Evil Hath Not Seen God: someone behaving like Diotrephes, you should have no part with. There is no mention that Diotrephes may not be genuinely saved, but if he is, he certainly has not made Jesus the Lord of his life and he has not seen him who is invisible.

We come to our third man: Demetrius. We have seen Gaius - a delightful brother, and Diotrephes - the dictator. Now Demetrius - a dependable brother.

Verse 12: Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Hath A Good Report Of All Men: Demetrius means "belonging to Demeter, another name for Ceres - goddess of agriculture." So he has been converted out of paganism. He was raised to worship the pantheon of Greek and Roman gods until one day he heard the gospel, accepted Christ, and was born again. That started him on his journey that brings us to now. He has lived a faithful life, as testified to by those that came into contact with him and then as they come into contact with John, they shared his faithfulness.

Of The Truth Itself: not only is he faithful, but he stands firm in the truth and for the truth of God. No doubt this caused him to be rejected and excommunicated by Diotrophes. Demetrius is one of those rare individuals that is just a joy to be around.

Yea, And We Also Bear Record: John agreed with the others, that Demetrius is a rare chosen vessel of God. John's statements were known to say only the truth.

Today there are countless people like Demetrius, dependable in serving the Lord, humble; doing what God has called them to do. Teaching, praying, encouraging, singing in the choir, they seek no glory, even though they deserve it. They are content to stay in the background.

Demetrius and men like him measure up to the test of a true believer. We have heard of the roughly 5 million martyrs, but there were twice as many who lived, served, and died without apparent notice. They had their names in the only place that counts - the Lamb's Book of Life.

Verse 13: I had many things to write unto thee, but I am unwilling to write [them] to thee with ink and pen:

Write Unto Thee: I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen. John will write his gospel and the book of Revelation of 22 chapters after this. He says here, he would much rather come to them and say what is on his mind face to face. Sometimes written words may well be misinterpreted by the readers. John knows this so he is going to wait until he arrives and can say some of the more important things that they need to hear.

Verse 14: but I hope shortly to see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace [be] unto thee. The friends salute thee. Salute the friends by name.

But I Trust I Shall Shortly See Thee: John is very confident that he will visit their church soon. Someday in the not too distant future, we too will see John. What a time that will be when we can sit and share a long time just enjoying the fellowship and joy of him and the other disciples.

We Shall Speak Face To Face: what a thrill to get to sit down with John and recount his life with the Lord. You would think that this little church would be anxious to see and hear John.

Peace Be To Thee: John desires the peace of God on their lives and ours. What a great way to close a letter, seeking peace for others. Our friends salute thee. Those with John send their greetings also.

Greet the Friends by Name: John desired that Gaius would go to each person and convey a personal greeting from him. "Demetrius, I have a message from John." He was to do this and to even include Diotrephes.

The Book of Jude

INTRODUCTION

This is one in an ongoing series of studies on the New Testament. These are edited in that they are the notes from which the study was taught. There is no effort to bring any lofted verbiage to these notes - they were spoken extemporaneously. It is neither scholarly nor exhaustive. Rather, they are done with the desire to meet the average person where they are.

These studies were delivered first at Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, for those in the congregation. If these notes find their way to someone else, may the same blessings be given to you? My prayer is that this will help those who read God's word to grow into warriors for the Lord.

Introduction

In this little book will be found wagonloads of food for the soul, each day as we draw closer to the Lord's return these verses will take on more and more significance. There were false prophets and teachers in Jude's day and there are certainly many more today along with an ever growing apostasy in Christianity especially here in America.

The Writer

The writer is Jude this being the English equivalent of Judas. He is the brother of James and the half-brother of Jesus - Mt. 13:55, "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his Mother called Mary?" We see here that two of his brothers wrote letters. It is interesting that neither James nor Jude used their relationship to Jesus to their advantage, they simply state they are his bond servants. The reason is that they didn't receive Him as savior until after Jesus' resurrection, before then they thought He was a little off center. After salvation, both men became pillars in the church.

Date written between, 66-69 A.D.

Theme: Assurance for the believer in days of false prophets and apostasy. Jude intended to write on one of the doctrines of the church. However, the Holy Spirit knew best and had him write on the present apostasy.

Paul and Peter said they were coming, these false prophets and teachers left the truth and chose a path of Gnosticism or super knowledge wherein they claimed to have knowledge that the average believer did not and could not have therefore everyone should listen to them as they gave new revelations about god; sound familiar. Jude will give a great expose on them.

Jude gives us 2 interesting insights found nowhere else. First, there is the contention between Satan and Michael over Moses. Second the prophecy of Enoch is used which is not recorded in Genesis but was known and read in the first century as history and not inspired. This little book is placed in its most appropriate place as an introduction to Revelation.

Outline

- I. Reason for the Letter - v. 1-3
 1. Assurance - v. 1, 2
 2. Apostasy - v. 3
 3. Three words: sanctified, kept, called

- II. Incidents of apostasy — v. 4-16
 1. The Beginning - v. 4
 2. Israel destroyed for unbelief- v. 5
 3. Rebellious angels - v. 6
 4. Sensual destruction - v. 7
 5. Apostate teachers revealed - v. 8-10
 6. Three men as examples - v. 11
 7. Apostates defined - v. 12-16

- III. Believer's Role in Apostasy - v. 17-25
 1. Warned-v. 17-19
 2. Active defense — v. 20-25

- a. Build Up
- b. Pray
- c. Keep Ourselves
- d. Look
- e. Be Compassionate
- f. Save Others
- g. Hate Evil

The Book of Jude

We have the reason for this letter given to us in the first 3 verses. Jude wanted to write one type of letter one of love and encouragement concerning salvation and the Holy Spirit changed his mind. Instead he was led to write a letter of warning of apostasy and coming judgment.

Verse One: Jude, the servant of
Jesus Christ, and brother of
James, to them that are
sanctified by God the Father,
and preserved in Jesus Christ,
and called:

There are three men whose name is Jude in the New Testament where they are mentioned, Judas (not Iscariot), Judas Iscariot, and Judas the half-brother of Jesus. Jude says that he is the bond servant of Jesus Christ. Servant here means a bond slave. This verse lays to rest those who are always trying to make Jesus' family into something to be held up; especially Mary as a perpetual virgin. Using the phrase The brother of James is Jude's acknowledgement that James is his brother and Paul declares that he is a pillar in the church.

To them that are sanctified by God the Father - Jude is writing to those who have been set apart to God by himself through His son Jesus.

Preserved this word means "kept" and is used 4 times. We are preserved (kept) in Jesus Christ. In days of apostasy, it is a

great comfort to know we are preserved by Jesus Christ Jn. 10:11, 27-29.

If a sheep is kept safe, it isn't by the sheep. It has no fangs, claws and it can't run very fast. We are likened to sheep in the New Testament. We cannot defend or keep ourselves safe, only Jesus can. If we doubt Jesus ability to preserve us, what a reflection that is on the one who died for us. Your safety (assurance) depends upon the word. Do you believe it or not? And called - this is a call that is sent out, accepted, and made real because of the Spirit of God. Paul makes it clear in I Cor. 1:22-24. If you have found Christ and you have trusted Him, you are one of the called.

Verse 2: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied - Love is an attribute of God and because He is love, He is merciful. He has provided grace (what God is free to do for us that we do not deserve), which in turn brings peace with God and gives us the peace of God. Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you." Next we have a change in the Theme of this book: "Apostasy"

Verse 3: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Beloved - those who are loved of God, his children. I give all diligence to write unto you - Jude had a strong urge to pen a letter to God's children wherever they may be. He had a thought about the doctrine of salvation. Common Salvation - by using the word "common" Jude lets us know he was writing about something that everyone would understand. Some facets of Salvation had been laid on Jude's heart but just as

he started the letter, the Holy Spirit stopped him and gave him new direction. It was needful for me to write unto you when the Holy Spirit wants you to go in a new direction. He sees to it that it is the only way to go. Paul wanted to go to the east, God sent him to Macedonia.

So what was the new direction?

That we should earnestly contend for the faith; he wants his readers too earnestly (with great effort) to contend (to wrestle or struggle towards a goal). We are to contend without being contentious as Paul tells Timothy in II Tim. 2:24-26. What are we to wrestle and agonize for? The faith –this is the body of truth given once for all. It was called the apostles doctrine in Acts 2:42. God put this first on his list and every church should have this at their forefront. Jude moves now to some incidents of apostasy. Something has started to happen in the church and Jude throws up a flag.

Verse 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are certain men crept in unawares; now word “crept in” means to slip into, to get in by the side, to slip in a side door. This is how they get in, from the side while no one is watching. Who were before of old ordained to this condemnation; these men in type and lifestyle had been written about in the Old Testament, and in the early church letters. Jesus, Paul, Luke, Matthew, and Mark, and the other writers, wrote of these men and their actions. They creep in passing themselves off as one thing and then trying to move a church away from the truth. Paul gives us a good picture in 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

Transforming is changing expressions by assuming an expression from outside. This is not a new thing; it started a long time ago. Paul warned the Ephesians for 3 years about

the apostate even with tears - Acts 20:29-31. Yet there came a day when the Ephesians succumbed to them. Jesus warns them in Revelations 3 to go back to their first love. Paul even warned Timothy in II Tim. 3:5, 6, Gal. 2:4. We need to be on guard every moment to new movements that are outside the local church.

Ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness that is they are by nature ungodly. They are intent on distorting the grace of God using the Bible to fulfill their lustful pleasures.

Denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, these people take the truth of God about the son of God and pervert it. They deny Jesus is God incarnate. They bring in a mixture of works into salvation. The creed of theirs is six fold according to D. Wallace Petty:

1. God is a creation of wishful thinking
2. Religion is a mechanism of escape from reality
3. Man is a glorified gorilla who asks too many questions and represses too many desires.
4. Morals are a matter of taste
5. Love is an art
6. Life is a rocket

They talk of God and Jesus but they deny the truth. Jude will reach into the Old Testament for some glaring examples of apostasy. Israel is the first example. The word "Apostasy" has the meaning of standing away from or departing from something.

Verse 5: I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

I will therefore put you in remembrance - the Israelites were taught the Pentateuch, like we are taught reading, writing.

Jude says "I want you to keep this portion alive in your mind like a warning flag.

The Lord, having saved the people; those who God miraculously delivering Israel from bondage in Egypt with great power. He told them to go and possess the land of Canaan.

Once they came to the land, the spies brought the report back; 10 said it could not be taken and 2, Joshua and Caleb said it could because the Lord said it could. In their rebellious hearts they refused to possess the land and for 38 years they wandered until that generation died (Num. 14:31).

God says the young ones will go in. Israel had said they would be preyed upon. Even today we use our children as a reason for not serving God. It implies God doesn't care for them. God's will is for them and us to be blessed if we obey. Jude gives a second example: Angels in rebellion.

Verse 6: And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Angels who kept not their first estate - sometime in the past, these angels left their first estate, which is Heaven and serving God. God created angels there are a set number that he created and that is all he made. Angels do not reproduce as humans, therefore they do not inherit man's sinful nature, but they are created with free wills. Satan caused a third of all the angels to rebel, some of these God placed in chains and some are still serving Satan. For years, the Christian churches held a view that denied angels altogether, now we've come to a time of worshipping angels.

We need to keep a steady course, steered by the Word. Angels exist, some rebelled, and God has them reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

There is a day coming when judgment will fall on these rebellious creatures. Paul says in I Cor. 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? Notice that we will judge angels. These chained angels will be judged and so will the demons. Demonic power is a reality though overplayed. The movie "The Exorcist" is a good example; it is based on a real event but nothing nearly so dramatic as the film. In Rev. 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. – notice the devil is cast into the lake of fire. He will be bound for 1,000 years; as we read in Rev. 20:1-3 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" he will be released for a time and then thrown into the lake.

Verse 7: Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Here is Jude's third example of apostasy. These cities were so thoroughly judged that they virtually vanished, until recently when an archaeologist found traces of cities along the Dead Sea. Along with sulfur balls imbedded in the rocks, this area of the Dead Sea is the only place in the world where they are found like this. It was done this way because of the utter rebellion towards God.

Today Sodomy is called homosexuality or an alternative lifestyle, adultery is free love. A drunkard is a social drinker, a murderer is temporarily insane. Satan has taught us well.

Verse 8: Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Jude gives these modern Apostate's identities: There are 4 things of identification of apostate teachers.

1. Filthy dreamers; these are the people that live in an unreal world. They will not face reality. They were the peace marchers; they see no evil and hear no evil. They don't go to the ghetto after dark.

2. They defile the flesh, they engage in filthy lifestyles while no one is looking, like those lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. They say its just new morality; it is not new or moral. It is just evil.

3. Reject authority. They oppose the death penalty. They want drugs legalized. Everybody do your own thing.

4. Speak evil of dignitaries, they protest rules and authority. They despise police, governors, and the president (not the man, the office). We are living in a day of apostasy. A recent poll of 200 preachers found: 48% denied the inspiration of the Bible; 24% rejected the atonement of Christ on the cross, 12% rejected the resurrection, 27% did not believe Christ will return to judge this Earth and its nations.

A leading minister in Washington DC said, "In our denomination, what you call the "faith of our fathers" is approaching extinction. I don't know of a single one who believes in Christ or anything that is classified as fundamental."

Verse 9: Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed

about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Even though Satan is a fallen creature, Michael, the chief of all the angels would not bring a derogatory statement towards him over Moses' body. All he can say is "the Lord rebuke thee."

Michael had respect for his position. This is a lesson for all of us. We need to learn to be respectful of God. He is the creator. We have no right to question him on what comes into our lives. Talk to Him about it, yes. Demand something, no. He is high and holy, and always doing what's right. Only an Apostate demands and argues trying to make God see it their way and to allow them to change His word and commands to suit them and their lifestyles.

Verse 10: But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

But these speak evil or blaspheme. They blaspheme what they know by mental comprehension. However, everything cannot be known by pouring it into a test tube. The spirit makes things real to us but these blaspheme them because they are spiritually discerned and they are void of the spirit.

The second is one of understanding; skill in handicraft. It refers to objects of ones sins, sensual enjoyment. These are the things you can pour in a test tube.

They only know what they can feel and see. They have not reached the higher plane of knowledge or spiritual experience that Paul spoke of.

Verse 11: Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the

error of Balaam for reward, and
perished in the gainsaying of
Core.

The word "Woe" means to wail in grief or destruction.
"To Them" there is great grief coming to these men who are
apostates.

Gone in the way of Cain, the way of Cain was a about being a
religious man. He believed in God but on his own terms in his
own way. He denied he needed a blood sacrifice for his sins,
lets read Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more
excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained
witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts:
and by it he being dead yet speaketh. The way of Cain is the
way of self and not of faith. It is the way of religion based on
personal good or good works to earn a relationship with God.
After the error of Balaam this was a sin of covetousness; in
Revelation we see how this doctrine is the teaching of
compromise to obtain what you can get out of others. Here we
have the error - expecting God to punish Israel for their sins -
not realizing that God would forgive them if they turned to
Him.

This phrase Perished in gainsaying of Core or Korah; this is
the man who led a rebellion against Moses authority. He
decided Moses wasn't the only one God placed in charge. He
intruded into the office of priest and died for it.

Verse 12: These are spots in
your feasts of charity, when
they feast with you, feeding
themselves without fear:
clouds they are without water,
carried about of winds; trees
whose fruit withereth, without
fruit, twice dead, plucked up
by the roots;

These are spots in your feasts of charity, "Spots" is a word
that means the hidden rocks that wreck ships.

Feasts of charity these were the love feasts held before communion. They were a time of food and fellowship. These types of people that Jude is referring to are those that ate more than anyone else being concerned only with themselves.

Clouds they are without water – their spirit appears like those big, beautiful, fluffy clouds, however they are but dry and empty clouds. These men have had all the right courses: speaking, how to make scripture say nothing at all.

Trees are those whose fruit withereth on the vines - Mt. 7:20 states "by their fruits ye shall know them." Their fruit is dried on the branch, spiritually dead, yet trying to lead others.

Verse 13: Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Raging waves of the sea, they use current events for their sermons. They do not give the interpretation of the Word. Ranting around, saying nothing.

Wandering stars, Jude says they are like asteroids, just going around in circles, following no course whatsoever.

To who is reserved the blackness of darkness, Hell is awaiting them. In all its blackness; Men carry blackness inside them. There it will be all around them.

Here is an extra Biblical prophecy, placed here to show us that from the beginning God was well aware of apostates.

Verse 14: And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Enoch is the same person that is mentioned in Genesis chapter 5, there we are told nothing of this prophecy of false teachers. Notice Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam this is God's complete number. He is a type of the church raptured out before judgment and before the Lord's return.

The number "Ten Thousand" was used to denote numbers beyond counting. Saints here refers to all of the church coming to reign with him. This being so we must leave before this happens.

Verse 15: To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

To execute judgment upon all; Christ will be judge and jury and He alone will issue the decree of final judgment. One thing that everyone who stands before Him can rest assured of is this He will be absolutely fair and right in what He gives out and there will be no appeal or excuse.

To convince all that is ungodly among them. He will bring conviction to all those who are destitute of a reverential awe towards God. They leave God out of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed. Their works are actually anti-God. Some are even done under the guise of Church work.

And all their hard speeches, harsh things, they are always putting God and his ways down; such as statements like there is no need for doctrine, when the Lord said all doctrine is inspired from Him. These types of statements are pure rebellion.

Verse 16: These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Here we have 5 traits of an apostate:

1. Those that murmur; are those who mumble and complain against God in an undertone.

2. Complainers they are about life, discontented, they blame God for everything that is going on in their lives.

3. Walk after their lusts, they are interested in their desires good or bad, whatever they are they leave God out.

4. Great swelling words; they are arrogant, using extravagant language they are a lot of fizz and foam, with no real content. They say a great deal but if they are carefully assessed they really are saying nothing of lasting value.

5. Men's persons in admiration; these men are those that do and say what is needed to gain advantage in our lives, James 2:1-4. We are not to build up anyone because of their station in life.

All are to be equally treated. Jude changes now from apostate description to what we are to occupy ourselves with in days of apostasy.

In Verses 17-19 believers are warned that apostates will come.

Verse 17: But, beloved,
remember ye the words which
were spoken before of the
apostles of our Lord Jesus
Christ;

But, beloved these are those that were loved of God whom Jude loves in the faith.

Remember you, we are told repeatedly to remember, the Word should be so ingrained that when we need a verse it will come to us.

Of the apostles; we need to heed what the apostles have to say. So many Christians fall in their walk because of a lack of knowledge of God's Word.

Verse 18: How that they told
you there should be mockers in

the last time, who should walk
after their own ungodly lusts.

The apostles in their New Testament writings and Old Testament prophets wrote that mockers would come in the last days living in their own lusts. The ministry today is full of child molesters, adultery, and other sexual deviance, along with gamblers, etc.

Verse 19: These be they who
separate themselves, sensual,
having not the Spirit.

These are they who separate themselves, they make themselves right and a Pharisee; they are separatists causing division among the churches. Liberalism in the early part of this century caused great rifts in the denominations in America. Go back and read the creeds of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, etc. They are all almost identical. Those who do this are sensual or a live a life centered about self. We get our word psychology from it "I come first" or living on an animal's plain. Having not the Spirit, they speak churchese, and attend faithfully but they do not have the spirit.

Verse 20: But ye, beloved,
building up yourselves on your
most holy faith, praying in the
Holy Ghost,

But ye beloved, believers, what can we do? We can be building up ourselves just like a body-builder who eats right, exercises daily to build their bodies to perfection. You must take in all 66 books. Paul said to "study to show thyself approved unto God."

People fall by the wayside, they are found in the weeds of the devil because they had no deep spiritual roots. Instead of deep roots we build ourselves on a few select verses that suit us. Your most Holy Faith - this is not your faith, but the whole body of truth.

Praying in the Holy Ghost Spirit we are to pray in. It is not a give me list. It is however our praying in accordance with the Lord's will. Praise, thanks, confession, petition, praise Rom. 15:30. The Spirit helps our inability to pray properly. From Venezuela

"Prayer is the Holy Spirit speaking in the believer, through Christ, to the Father."

Verse 21: Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Here are two more activities:

Keep yourselves in the love of God; we need to relish the thought of being one of the beloved of God. Instead, we all too often put up roofs and umbrellas so we cannot feel the warmth of His love.

Looking for the mercy, looking here means to expect, to wait for. Jesus wants us to be daily expecting his return. When it happens, if you are living here you will leave because of His mercy towards you.

Verse 22: And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Of some have compassion - we are to care greatly and look after those who are in doubt. So many today have so many questions, we need to be compassionate, ready to assist from the word of God. One of the great joys of teaching is to be able to open the Word to a young Christian and encourage them to develop a desire hunger for His word.

Verse 23: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

And others save with fear - this is an admonition to each of us to never give up hope on those we think are hopeless. Continuing in prayer and admonition of the Gospel some will be snatched from the fire of hell as we read in Zech. 3:2. No one is beyond hope if they want to be saved. Even the garment spotted by the flesh; flesh is the psychological part of man. The part of man that can only go so far towards being right, morally speaking that is. We should hate anything the flesh produces, because it is repulsive to God.

Verse 24: Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Who can keep you standing strong, Jesus can. Who can keep you safe until time to be with Him and then to present you faultless (forgiven) in his glorious presence, Jesus can. Then there will be great joy.

Verse 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Our God and Savior Jesus Christ is God. He deserves all glory for salvation work, majesty for his creative work, power for He alone can execute both in righteous judgment. He does it now in us and through us. One day soon he will physically reign supreme on this earth.

In these closing days of this age we need to be alert to apostates, expose them, stand firm on the word and rejoice in the work the Lord has done.

Here is a composite list of words that describe an Apostate, Profile of an Apostate

1. Ungodly
2. Morally Perverted
3. Deny Christ
4. Defile Flesh
5. Rebellious
6. Unholy Angels