

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **March 22, 2023**

Study: "Balancing Truth and Love"

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

## INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

1. \_\_\_\_\_ must be equally weighted or the game goes sour, as every child knows.
2. Similarly, when the balance between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is unequally weighted in the church, it can cause serious damage.

## INTRODUCTION TO 2<sup>ND</sup> JOHN

1. Who was the "chosen lady"? (The letter's recipients)
  - A. **Metaphorical** View = a figurative description (personification) of a local church.
  - B. **Literal** View = a godly woman (a mother) and her children.
2. What was the situation?

The subject treated in 2<sup>nd</sup> John (& 3<sup>rd</sup>) is hospitality to travelling missionaries/teachers. John was concerned that this "lady" not permit anything false to come into the assembly that met in her house.
3. What is the message?

The message of 2<sup>nd</sup> (and 3<sup>rd</sup>) John is this: Make sure your love has \_\_\_\_\_. Though John commends love as a necessary ingredient of the Christian life (vss. 4, 5), it must not sentimentally embrace those who willfully seek to destroy the truth.
4. John wrote his two brief letters to stress the importance of truth.

"Truth" appears 5x in the opening portion (vss. 1-4) and 6x in the shorter 3<sup>rd</sup> John. So it's a very important word. Recognizing that all the readers of his letter faced and always would face a world of lies and deceit, he wrote to call them to \_\_\_\_\_ in God's truth, to \_\_\_\_\_ within the bounds of truth, and to be loyal to & look out for the truth. In the opening vss. John reveals 4 features of living "in the truth".

  - A. The truth \_\_\_\_\_ believers (vs. 1)
  - B. The truth \_\_\_\_\_ believers (vs. 2)
  - C. The truth \_\_\_\_\_ believers (vs. 3)
  - D. The truth \_\_\_\_\_ believers (vs. 4)

### Summarize with some principles:

- 1) Loving others is a \_\_\_\_\_ expression of Christianity (John 13:34-35)
- 2) Embracing the truth is equally essential.

The priority of the New Testament:

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth.  
Especially the person and work of Christ.

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth  
i.e., Judaizers and Gnostics
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth.  
i.e., the change and growth that must occur, doctrine leads to duty, responsibility, obedience.

3) When \_\_\_\_\_ is detected, love must be kept within its \_\_\_\_\_.

## MAIN BODY OF 2<sup>ND</sup> JOHN (vss. 4-11)

- Part 1: Concerns the \_\_\_\_\_ life of the church (vss. 4-6).  
The Message: walk in Truth & Love (vss. 4-6). “Truth” appears 5x (1-4) and “Love” appears 5x (vss. 1-6).
  - Walk in truth (vs. 4)
  - Walk in love (vss. 5, 6)  
1 Corinthians 13 is the “love” chapter. Chapter 13 addresses ... 1) Love’s **pre-eminence** (vss. 1-3); ... 2) Love’s **perfections** (vss. 4-7); ... and 3) Love’s **permanence** (vss. 8-13). Why is love so very important? There are five reasons in the NT. *Love is* ...
    - the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s being (1 John 4:7, 8 - “God is love”).
    - the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s demands revealed in the commandments (Mt. 22: 36-40 – “The greatest commandment”).
    - the \_\_\_\_\_ of saving faith (1 John 3:11, 14-15).
    - the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit’s work (Galatians 5:22).
    - the \_\_\_\_\_ of the uniqueness of Christianity (John 13:34-35).
  - Both are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Father (vss. 4, 6)
- Part 2: Concerns the \_\_\_\_\_ from false teachers which threatens the local assembly (vss. 7-10). John’s message: Make sure your love has limits. Love does not imply a naïve, uncritical, undiscerning acceptance of anyone who claims to represent Jesus Christ. Our love must be controlled by truth and discernment. We must not “aid and abet” the enemy.
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_ (presence) . . . both then and now.
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_. They went out from the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Their \_\_\_\_\_.  
John pointed out three dangers the church and its members face because of deceivers in the world.
    - The danger of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8)
    - The danger of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9)
    - The danger of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 10, 11)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_. Be grounded in the truth so that we can be discerning.

What are the fundamentals?