

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 40

I John 3-5; II John 1; III John 1

Key Verses:

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

I John 5:13

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

I John 5:14-15

NAS Version

October 2 - 8

Monday - I John 3 Children of God are to love one another

Tuesday - I John 4 Our Heavenly Father's love perfects our love

Wednesday - I John 5 Overcoming the world, Assurance of eternal life and answered prayer

Thursday - II John 1 John's letter to the chosen lady

Friday - III John 1 John's letter to Gaius

Saturday - Review

Sunday – Review

Introduction to **I John**

The Author: The Apostle John

The Addressees: I John most likely was writing to a group of churches rather than one individual or one church.

Date: 90 – 94 A.D.

I John was probably written after the Gospel of John and prior to Revelation which was most likely written about 96 A.D.

The setting: John had been in Ephesus and the surrounding communities for about 25 years. He was about 90 years old at the time. Apparently, all of the original apostles, other than John, had died by this time and gone home to be with the Lord.

Early Gnosticism was developing about that time. Gnosticism seem to take on two distinct forms. They believed that matter was evil and therefore a divine being could not take on humanity. Therefore, they believed that Jesus was not human as a physical being, but only seemed, or had the appearance of being human. The other option which they taught was that the Holy Spirit came on Jesus, the human, at His baptism and departed prior to His crucifixion. Jesus then would have had two separate or distinct natures. Thus, John emphasized both the true Godhood and true humanity of Jesus Christ.

Purpose: The purpose of I John dealt with the fellowship in the family of God. John's goal was to promote fellowship with God through His son Jesus Christ, and to also refute the growing errors concerning the true deity and true humanity of Jesus Christ.

Key verses: I John 1:3-4, 9, 5:11-13, 14-15

Key Chapter: I John 1

Introduction to **II John**

The Author: The Apostle John

The Addressee: The chosen lady and her children. Most likely this was a Christian woman and her believing children whom John had met in his travels and whose Christian lifestyle had impressed him.

Date: 90 – 94 A.D.

Purpose: John had two purposes for writing this personal note to the lady. 1) John wanted to commend the lady with respect to the fine Christian behavior of her children. 2) Secondly John wrote to warn her concerning the subtle deceivers who were making inroads into Christian homes, churches and communities.

Key verses: II John 1:9-10

Introduction to **III John**

The Author: The Apostle John

The Addressee: Gaius, a loyal and active layman in the church. He was a good and respected friend of John's

Date: 90 – 94 A.D.

Historical setting: Travelling missionaries had visited the area in which Gaius lived and had found warm hospitality in Gaius' home. It was not uncommon for men to go from community to community and church to church to share in the ministry of the gospel. Such individuals were to be welcomed and cared for while they were there. Gaius was one who welcomed such individuals gladly into his home. A problem had arisen however, in that there was a leader in his church by the name of Diotrephes, who was unwilling to accept such individuals into their church. John sent a letter to the church regarding this manner, but Diotrephes rejected the letter along with those who brought it.

Purpose: The purpose or theme of the letter was the need to be hospitable members in the church, caring for travelling missionaries. There was a two-fold purpose for this letter. 1) To commend Gaius for his faithfulness and his hospitality to those who came to his community to minister. 2) Secondly, to reprimand Diotrephes and others like him who failed to accept those who travelled to their church to minister the gospel message. John warned that he may soon come deal with the situation.

Key verses: III John 1:11

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

I John 3 – 5; II John; III John Week Forty

I John 3

1. I John 3:1-3 Why doesn't the world know us? What does that mean? How do we see that in some practical way today?

What can we expect to be like when Jesus appears? Does that excite you? Why or why not?

If we are expecting the return of Jesus, how should that impact how we live?

2. I John 3:4-10 Why did Jesus come to earth according to this passage? What is true of the person who practices righteousness? What is true of the person practicing sin? How can we tell the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian according to this passage?
3. I John 3:11-12 What did Cain's action in killing his brother Abel prove concerning Cain?
4. I John 3:13-18 How can we know that we have eternal life? What is the ultimate evidence of one's love? According to verses 17-18, what is the practical evidence of our love for our brother (another Christian)?
5. I John 3:19-22 What is the benefit of having clear conscience? Is it possible for our conscience to condemn us when God doesn't? Be careful that your appraisal of your life is not solely based on your conscience and emotions. Feelings/Emotions can betray you. Are feelings and emotions always wrong? What must be the guide for whether our emotions are true or not?
6. I John 3:23-24 What are the two sides of the commandment given to us in verse 23? What can we be assured of for the one who keeps the commandments of verse 23?

I John 4

1. I John 4:1-6 We are to test the spirit to see if they are from God or not. What is the ultimate test to see if a spirit is from God? If a spirit, false teacher, does not profess that Jesus is from God, how can we be assured that he is from? Once, I had a person from one of the cults tell me that we are even to test Jesus. How would you respond to such a person?

If we are from God, what can we be assured of according to verse 4? How does that make you feel?

According to verse 5, it says that the spirit who is not from God speaks as from the world. What do you think their message might sound like? Be practical.

Explain the meaning of verse 6.

2. I John 4:7-14 According to verse 8, what do we know about God? If we do not love our brother, what does that say about us? What was God's ultimate demonstration of love for us? What did the coming of God's son do for us? According to verse 13, what has God given to us besides His love?

Explain verse 11. How should the meaning of this verse impact our lives? How should it impact our church?

3. I John 4:15-19 What must we confess concerning Jesus in order to have God abiding in us?

There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear. Why don't we need to fear?

Did you love God first, or did God love you first? What is the benefit of God loving us first rather than us loving God first?

4. I John 4:20-21 What is the commandment God gives us in verse 21? Who is your brother? Is this a difficult responsibility? Why or why not?

I John 5

1. I John 5:1-5 How can I know that I love God? What is it that overcomes the world? Can you explain this?

2. I John 5:6-8 Who are the three that testify concerning Jesus? Explain the meaning of each of the three.
3. I John 5:9-12 What is the testimony of God? If one does not receive the testimony of God, what does he make God out to be? Explain the meaning behind verses 11-12.
4. I John 5:13 What is so special about verse 13? Every Christian should memorize this verse.
5. I John 5:14-15 According to verses 14-15, what is the key to answered prayer? How can I know if my prayer is according to God's will?
5. I John 5:16-17 What is a sin leading to death? Do these verses mean that I can pray for God to forgive the sin of someone else?
6. I John 5:18-19 In whose power is the world? What does that say about the actions we see in the world?
7. I John 5:20-21 List the truths we know as presented in verse 20.

II John 1

1. II John 1:1-3 What do we know about the recipient of this letter according to the first three verses?
2. II John 1:4 What did John say about the children of the lady? What might that tell us about their mother?
3. II John 1:5-6 What is John's message to this woman concerning the importance of love?
4. II John 1:7-11 What is John's warning to the woman concerning false teachers who were beginning to infiltrate the church? Do we need this warning today? Why?
5. II John 1:12-13 What would be one benefit for John if he were to see the woman in person? Do you have another Christian friend whom you would like to see, that just being with them would bring joy into your life?

III John 1

1. III John 1:1 Note that John the Apostle identifies himself as an elder, just as Peter identified himself as an elder in I Peter 5:1.

This letter as II John is addressed to an individual, not to a church.

2. III John 1:2-4 What is John's relationship to Gaius? What is it about Gaius that brings joy to John? Do you have any individual, who when you hear that they are living a godly life, it makes you especially joyful?
3. III John 1:5-8 Paul commends Gaius for his hospitality to the travelling pastors who would visit their church. He encourages him to continue in his hospitality. Gaius' reputation for his hospitality to the travelling ministers had reached as far as the ears of John. Good job Gaius!!!
4. III John 1:9-10 What was the root problem of Diotrephes, a leader in the church where Gaius worshipped? Do you believe this same root problem may exist in some churches today?

What did John accuse Diotrephes of doing as a result of his problem? What did John say he would do to Diotrephes if he should come to their church?

5. III John 1:11-12 What is Paul's advice to Gaius?

Note the contrast between Demetrius and Diotrephes.

6. III John 1:13-15 Paul must have been a personal face to face guy. Any thoughts on what he might have thought about text messaging and emails? (Smile)