

Loved and Loving Johns Epistles Lesson 12 3Q 2009

John's Letter to the Chosen Lady

Who is the chosen lady and her children?

- Some suggest a specific lady with biological children
- Some suggest this is a euphemism for the church
- Some suggest a combination of both that he is writing to a female leader of a church group and the children are church members

SABBATH

Read memory text – thoughts?

Why will they not have God if they do not abide in the teaching of Christ?

- What was Christ's teaching?
 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."
 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:6-9
- So what happens if a person rejects the teaching of Jesus? They cannot have God because Jesus is the only source of the knowledge of God!
- Does that then mean someone has to have heard of Jesus for them to have God? No, it doesn't say they cannot have God if they have never heard the teaching of Christ. It is talking about those who have heard the truth about God as revealed by Christ but do not abide in it, or do not keep true to it.

What would it look like to “go to far” and not abide in the teaching of Jesus? Any examples? Consider these as we go through the lesson today:

- God will sit in judgment and mete out imposed penalties on the wicked?
- God executed Jesus in our place on the Cross?
- God is unforgiving except for the blood of Jesus?
- That God’s love will save everyone and no one will be lost?

SUNDAY

Read 2John 1-4 – and our lesson asks us “What word appears again and again, and how is John using it?” – thoughts?

What is John referring to when he refers to truth? Seeing reality the way it actually is? Knowing the facts about universal history? Knowing God’s character of love?

Read second paragraph, “Notice, too...” thoughts? Any examples of love expressed in truth?

- When Jesus spoke to Peter in the upper room, first saying “Get behind me Satan” and later telling Peter of his upcoming betrayal, yet offering hope, “when you are converted feed my sheep.”
- What about a daughter who is dating a guy who you believe is absolutely not qualified to be a life partner? He is past normal college age, unemployed, has a family from previous relationship, never finished school, moves from friend’s home to friend’s home living off others, but your daughter is in love and believes he is the “one”, what does love do with truth?
 - Why is it essential, in love, to sit the daughter down and go over the facts and evidence, even if you know she is blinded by emotions and won’t listen? (after doing so then you leave her free to make her own choice and support her in her choice).

- Because you can never avoid the truth, you can only delay the day you deal with it. If she insists on going forward with the relationship, then in time, the facts of his unfitness will be manifest and she will remember you loved her enough to warn her and have greater trust in you.
- Almost two years ago I did something similar with some friends regarding a project and an individual I realized was not qualified for the project. I, in love, spoke the truth to my friends involved with the project, but they did not think things were as serious as I suggested. So I left them completely free and didn't say another word about it. Just this week I got a call from them telling me they appreciated what I said because, in time, the truth was finally revealed.

Read next paragraph, "If we talk..." –thoughts? Can you think of other Biblical metaphors for truth?

- Light
- Wisdom
- Sword
 - For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12
 - In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Rev 1:16

What does truth do to those who live in lies and insist on holding to lies?

- The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse Revelation 19:21

- They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2Thes 2:10

What does the truth do to those who love lies? How does it make them feel? What do they want to do?

We are talking about truth AND love. So, what about those who live in selfishness and harden their hearts to love, what impact does love have on them?

- If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Romans 12:20

What does love do to those who prefer selfishness?

If truth torments those who prefer lies, if love tortures those who are selfish, then what happens to the wicked when they come into the unveiled fullness of the infinite love and truth of God's presence?

Is this an imposed penalty or a natural consequence? Does this give us some insight as to why God is waiting to return? What is He waiting for? For us to be like Him and ready to see Him face to face!

Read bottom green section – thoughts? Can pure Godlike love ever exist separated from the truth? The analogy the lesson gives is not possible, in fact, the lesson is pointing out one of Satan's deceptions – the idea that love can exist without truth or truth without love. God is the God of truth and love. Satan's counterfeits seek to separate the two, so we will see movements that *appear* to be loving or movements that *appear* to value truth, but are neither.

Godlike love is always truthful and Godlike truth is always loving!

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, “The message...” What is antichrist? Is it only Satan? Is it any person or institution that is anti-Christ or against Christ?

What does antichrist look like today? Would antichrist be any person or system that presents a message that is opposed to what Jesus presented?

What was the message Jesus presented?

- Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, John 5:22

If Jesus taught that the Father judges no one and someone teaches that the Father must sit in judgment in order to punish sin, are they teaching what Jesus taught or opposing it?

- You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. John 8:15
- “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” John 12:47-50
- “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man brings good

things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:33-37

- For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12

What did Jesus teach about the judgment of the wicked? If someone teaches that Jesus must sit in Judgment in order to determine who is saved and who is lost and then judge how much pain to inflict upon the wicked in order to justly punish sin, are they presenting what Jesus presented? If not are they opposed to Jesus message? Would that be part of antichrist?

MONDAY

Read 2John 4-6 – what is John speaking about?

Read the first paragraph, “Verse 4...” Is he speaking about the 10 commandments? Are the 10 commandments included in what John is speaking about? Absolutely, but is John speaking about something more?

If we attempt to make this passage apply only to the 10 commandments are we doing God’s cause a good service?

How are love and the commandments related? Can love be commanded? When you try and use power, authority, pressure, rightness of your position and a list of rules to enforce love, what happens?

Ty Gibson tells a story about a lady named Lynda:

Lynda who was eager to be married and not many prospects on the horizon. She became very eager to meet someone to spend her life with. Then she met Her-man. He would open the door for her so she could walk through. After courtship Herman one day proposed and she immediately said yes. They were married.

Then the honeymoon, it was a very nice place. A wonderful honeymoon they had. But then the first morning after the honeymoon, early 5 a.m. Lynda awoke to a bright light. She opened her eyes and there was Herman saying, "rise and shine the honeymoon is over and we need to get down to real life."

She noticed he was holding in his hand a piece of paper and he presented it to her as the first of many lists yet to come. He had spelled out in great detail her responsibilities in two week segments.

March 1-14

5:30 rise and shower

6:00 begin breakfast, see attached menu

6:15 awaken Hermie cuddles with a gentle kiss and turn on his shower

6:45 serve breakfast, (do not forget grapefruit)

7:15 begin breakfast cleanup while husband brushes teeth

7:25 meet hermie cuddles at the door with appropriate jacket, be sure to pay attention to the weather and say goodbye with a smile and a kiss

7:30 finish breakfast cleanup

8:00 free time

8:15 house cleaning, cleaning supply list and more detailed instructions attached

- Monday north rooms,
- Tuesday east rooms,
- Wednesday south rooms,
- Thursday west rooms,
- Friday the garage

11:00 balance checkbook

12:00 lunch whatever you like except marked items,
check list

12:30 miscellaneous duties

- M – car maintenance and wash car
- T – dry cleaning and banking
- W – Shopping
- TH – Wash windows
- F – yard work

3:30 dinner prep see attached menu

4:30 meet husband at door with kiss and hang up his
coat

5:00 serve dinner

5:45 dinner cleanup

6:15 free time (see list of suggestions)

6:45 draw Hermie's bath

7:00 do next day's ironing

7:45 hand husband towel as he exits bath

8:00 neck and back massage for the man of your dreams

9:00 lights out, pleasant dreams sweetheart

Lynda was given a new list with slight variations every two weeks without fail. As the years drug on, they were dragging, 10 years into the relationship Hermi cuddles drops dead of an unknown cause – praise God! She didn't know what to do, rejoice or grieve.

Then she made a vow she would never ever get married again. But after three years of being single she met another guy, named Michael. He was so much like Herman, in some ways, he opened the door for a lady to walk through. He was polite and courteous. And she kept telling herself no way no way no way, and one day Michael popped the question and she said yes.

Then came the honeymoon and she woke up at 5:30 a.m. with a start and saw Michael standing at the end of the bed with a piece of paper in his hand. So she jumped into

a karate stance. And she said no way, and yanked the paper and ripped it in two.

Michael said, “Lynda that was a poem I wrote for you after you fell asleep last night.”

She was so sorry and picked up the pieces and read it and it broke her heart. As she was reading he came in and served her breakfast in bed. And no list was forthcoming. 10 years passed being married to this wonderful man. One day she was doing spring cleaning and going through old things in the attic and came across an old shoebox full of lists given to her by Herman the horrible.

She pulled out one of those lists and began to read. And the strangest realization came over her, she said quietly to herself, wow I do all of these things for Michael and I never think about it.

What do you think about the story? What does it tell us about the commandments? What purpose do they serve? Has God given us a list of things to do and expects us to do them? Is this how it is often presented? What is the purpose of the commandments? They are a diagnostic instrument, an MRI of the soul, given to diagnose our sick condition:

- The law was added so that the trespass might increase. Romans 5:20
- We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. 1Tim 1:8-11

- We know that the MRI is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the MRI is made not for healthy people but for those who are sick and diseased, the suffering, the ill, and all those who are dying, and all activities that are contrary to the principles of healthy living that conform to the model of health that the blessed God has entrusted to me. Jennings analogy

Thoughts?

Read last paragraph, “How interesting...” thoughts? One of the problems of focusing on the rules, do’s, don’ts etc. is that it makes us very self focused, what we can do and what we can’t do. But love’s focus is other centered.

The 10 commandments were given to focus our attention on ourselves for one purpose – to diagnose us as terminal and in need of a Savior. Once it has done that we are to take our focus off the commandments and place our focus on Jesus Christ – our heavenly physician the only One who can heal us!

Does this mean the 10 commandments are invalidated, absolutely not! It means that when we trust Jesus and walk with Him He writes the law on our hearts and mind and it is fulfilled in us by His regenerating power! And whenever we start thinking, that somehow we are spiritually healthy on our own, the commandments are right there to remind us of our sick state and need of Jesus.

TUESDAY

Read third paragraph, “John is under no illusion...” thoughts?

Why does doctrine matter? How is it that false doctrine leads to loss of salvation? Does that mean one has to have all doctrine correct or they can’t be saved?

When Jesus comes again will there be anyone who knows correctly 100% of everything in the Bible? Will all of the saved know 100% correctly everything in the Bible?

Are there some doctrines that are essential and others that are less essential?

What is essential to salvation? John 17:3 “This is life eternal, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Would that mean that doctrines which impact our knowledge of God, what we believe about Him, whether we trust Him or not, are the central issues in salvation?

Think about the Jews in Christ’s day. Did they have the correct day of worship? Did they teach the importance of tithing and offering? Did they teach the sacredness of Scripture, healthy living, sanctuary message and regular attendance at worship? Were they even teaching an advent message? And did all of this doctrine save them? What was missing?

They failed to understand the truth about God Himself. The war in heaven began over the knowledge of God and it ends over the same issue!

WEDNESDAY

Read 2John 10, 11:

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

Thoughts?

How do you respond when you have a couple of gentlemen, dressed in black pants and white shirts, riding bicycles, and

with “Elder” name tags come to your door? Should you invite them in for a drink of water? Should you be kind and talk with them?

If you meet anyone who is bent on presenting a false gospel, who desires to deceive, do not associate with or support him or his ministry in anyway. 11 By giving him a platform to speak or supporting him or his ministry you make it appear you share his views and thus you will share his wicked work of spreading lies about God.
Jennings paraphrase

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “The apostle teaches...” thoughts?

Have you ever known people to use this quote as justification for pointing out sin in other people’s lives? Have such quotes by EGW been used in such a way that you were discouraged and maybe thought EGW was harsh?

Consider this:

I saw that many have taken advantage of what God has shown in regard to the sins and wrongs of others. They have taken the extreme meaning of what has been shown in vision, and then have pressed it until it has had a tendency to weaken the faith of many in what God has shown, and also to discourage and dishearten the church. With tender compassion should brother deal with brother. Delicately should he deal with feelings. It is the nicest and most important work that ever yet was done to touch the wrongs of another. With the deepest humility should a brother do this, considering his own weakness, lest he also should be tempted. {1T 166.1}

I have seen the great sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem man. He did not consider His own life too dear to sacrifice. Said Jesus: "Love one another, as I have loved

you." Do you feel, when a brother errs, that you could give your life to save him? If you feel thus, you can approach him and affect his heart; you are just the one to visit that brother. But it is a lamentable fact that many who profess to be brethren, are not willing to sacrifice any of their opinions or their judgment to save a brother. There is but little love for one another. A selfish spirit is manifested. {1T 166.2}

Does this put it in balance? Do you usually hear this as the method and means to be employed? Do you find people holding their peace to point out the sins of others until they love them enough to die for them?

Question 1 read and discuss