

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Scripture Reading 2nd John

- 254, *Here is Love, vast as the ocean*
- *Hymn of the Savior*
- 518, *stand amazed!*
- Congregational reading: Athanasian Creed, pt A
- *Jesus, strong and kind*

Bible Quiz

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word - The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 3

Which Jesus? Watch your doctrine closely

2 John 6-11

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. God's grace and provision motivate His people to give generously to His work and the needs of His Body, as He enables, not under obligation or social pressure.

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 3

Which Jesus? Watch your doctrine closely

2 John 6-11

- March 27th, 2022 -

The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 3

Which Jesus? Watch your doctrine closely

2 John 6-11

Christian love, true love, must be jealously guarded by true and unwavering doctrine, particularly the doctrines of God and of the Son, Jesus Christ. Love revels in the great truths in and about our Savior, Jesus. But love among humans, by itself, is a lousy gatekeeper and watchman. It is easily distracted, diluted, persuaded. It is ever subject to warping by the World, the Flesh and the Devil. Love is the goal of truth, and if love were a Lady, truth would be her champion knight in the fray.

Main Theme of the letter: Receiving, reveling in, and abiding in the truth of God in Christ is essential to maintaining brotherly love.



Look at 2 John 6a, “This is love, that we walk according to his commandments.”

Here we have a great definition of true love by the Great Lover, God Himself! **What is true love?** *That we walk according to His commandments – that live, love and decide based on propositional truth.*

V7, is not the start of a new idea. It is an explanatory stark warning of the danger of the believer slipping away from the vital importance of v6.

“For (because) many deceivers have gone out into the world,”

v6 reveals that these deceivers prioritize “love” before truth and doctrine, before obedience to Christ's commandments. They offer love as the lens by which one should see spiritual truth, and how one should interpret Jesus, His coming in the incarnation, and His commands. This is warped love!

V7, “deceivers” - See 1 John 2:18, 26, 4:1. Even Peter, for a moment, fell into this trap! Matthew 16:21-23

“coming” verb tense indicates his incarnation, present ministry in the flesh, and future coming in the flesh. Contrast 1 John 4:2

Anyone who prioritizes love over truth, or who undermines...

... the Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully man, with two natures and wills in one Person, Jesus, is a danger to the truth and therefore to love! They, like Peter, offer a false, (replacement, anti-Christ) Jesus and replacement of God's true love as found in John 3:16.

v8-9, John is terribly concerned that true Christians could be deceived, could turn aside to a lesser “Christ” , someone not the true God-man, and lose the maximum eternal reward from Jesus at His Bema!

V9 warns that true believers are to be satisfied and saturated with the truth, to *abide in* the doctrine of the real Christ, and not get caught up with the deceivers or with their “advanced, progressive” idea of using love as the lens by which to see Jesus and doctrinal truth or His commands. Danger! Don't be deceived or persuaded by them! It is possible to be saved but completely sidelined by unrewarding falsehoods.

V10-11 gives stern warning about close fellowship – koinonia (v11 - “participates in his evil deeds”) with the purveyors of a warped Jesus. We are not to share an intimate meal or give a warm brotherly greeting to them so that we don't appear to be in sync with their false teachings. All this is not to be harsh, but to safeguard and champion the virtues of true love.

Prayer Requests, Praises - Hebrews 4:16

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
- Remember those who are ill or aged and cannot meet with us.
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