

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 June 1John 1
 2) 14 June 1John 2
 3) 21 June 1John 3
 4) 28 June 1John 4
 5) 05 July 1John 5
6) 12 July..... 2nd John & 3rd John
 7) 19 July Rev 1
 8) 26 July Rev 2-3
 9) 02 August Rev 4-6
 10) 09 August Rev 7-13
 11) 16 August Rev 14-17
 12) 23 August Rev 18
 13) 30 August Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- Christians are a vulnerable lot. We are easily scammed because we give people the benefit of the doubt. We naively think people won't harm us because we have no intention to harm them
- A Quick Test on "agape" Love:**
 - What should have priority? Love or Doctrine
 - Is "Love at all Cost" biblical? Yes | No | Don't Know
 - Is there anyone we should not love? Yes | No | DK
 - What is Tough Love?
 - Scenario #1. What are we to do if we have an enemy for a neighbor who is hungry and thirsty? [Rom 12:20](#)
 - Scenario #2. What are we to do if a Christian, who lost his job due to laziness, comes to us looking for food. [2Thes 3:10](#)
 - Scenario #3. What are we to do if a friendly traveler or neighbor approaches us, showing concern for our souls, & shares with us a gospel contrary to what we know to be true [2John 1:10](#)
- We will see in these 2 short books that John, who frequently spoke on the topic of "agape" Love was not above rolling up his sleeves and punching someone's lights out (spiritually speaking, of course) and telling others don't even let certain people come into your house and get a refreshing drink of cold water or even to use your bathroom facilities. Does this contradict Love thy Enemy, Love thy Neighbor, and Love One Another?

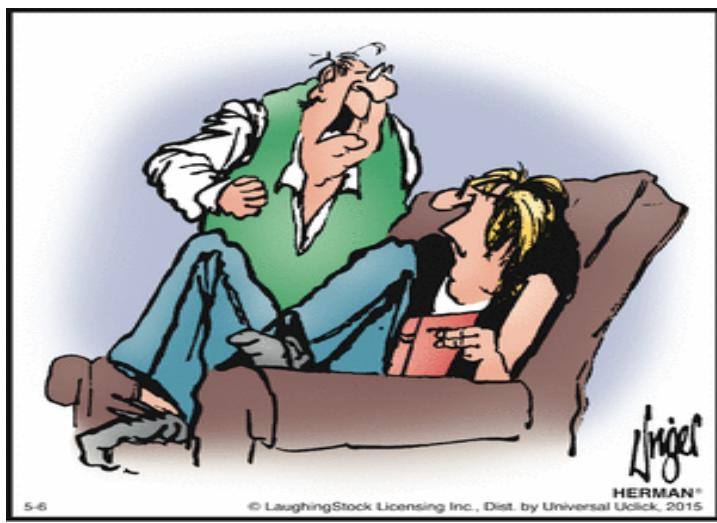
Passage	Comments
	<p>The Chosen Lady (vs 1) and the Chosen Sister (vs 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1-3. Probable allusions to local churches Love and truth (discernment) must go hand in hand v3. Why does John highlight the 5 attributes of Grace, Mercy, Peace, Truth, and Love? Are there others?
	<p>Walking in Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-7. False teachers apparently were using the kindness and naivety of Christians to gain influence within their fellowship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice how vs 4-6 highlight aspects of Love..."This is Love, that we Obey" – BUT in vs 7, we are told Why we should Obey God – "For many deceivers" are out and about. So loving to obey God's word enables us to discern lies from the truth
2John 1-13	<p>How to Receive a Full Reward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v8. Be diligent, be watchful, be disciplined with what? What is a FULL REWARD? Healthier finances? Relationships? Longer life? Heavenly rewards? Consider this: There are countless earthly and heavenly blessings we all have probably missed because of laziness, disobedience, and negligence with our time & talent <p>Another Test of One's Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v9. Does having false doctrine equate to going to Hell? Can one go to Hell while having sound doctrine?E.g., Judas <p>Boundary of Love – When to Turn Off Hospitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v10-11. What is "this teaching" that we should take such dire measures to safeguard at all cost? Does this principle overrule the commands to "Love Thy Enemy/Neighbor"? <p>Speak Face to Face</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Joy is found Face to Face and not in Facebook

Passage	Comments
	<p>Pray that you Might Prosper and be Healthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. It's OK to pray for prosperity in all things – BUT John makes it conditional on one's spiritual growth Consider this. Can we handle prosperity without maturity? Can a 5-year old handle a fire arm responsibly?
	<p>Supporting Missionaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv5-8. Strangers here are basically roving missionaries Do we give to anyone who says they are looking to be supported as they travel around doing God's work? What are some common sense biblical principles to follow?
3John 1-14	<p>How Should We Deal with Overbearing Leaders?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv9-10. John says He will deal with Diotrephes later <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What could John do that others could not do? What authority could he invoke that others did not have? In some of the churches highlighted in Revelations 2-3 the faithful had to live with unruly/ungodly leadership Eventually, God brings judgment (removal of candlestick) Church laymen must exercise discernment and respond appropriately when bringing charges against church elders; else we create undue division and turmoil within the church, which could be worse trouble than what Diotrephes caused
	<p>Another Test of One's Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v11-12. Is John accusing Diotrephes of being evil, and therefore, not of God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When can a believer get trapped up in doing evil things? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gossip Negligence in giving / serving Other?
	<p>Face to Face is Better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv13-14. Why is Face to Face interaction better than writing or calling? Is Facebooking the same as Face to Face?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- So, Love has boundaries.** Not because God doesn't want to shower His love on others, but His Holiness demands boundaries
 - Sin will not be tolerated in His presence
 - Unrepentant sin should not be in His Body, the Church
 - His sheep must be protected from false teachings and sinful behavior
- Jerome** handed down the following tradition of the beloved **John the Apostle**: When John was an old man in Ephesus he had to be carried to the church in the arms of his disciples. At these meetings he was accustomed to say no more than, "Little children, love one another!" After a time the disciples, wearied at always hearing the same words, asked him, "Master, why do you always say this?" John's reply, "It is the Lord's command, and if this alone be done, it is enough!"
Src - *The Search for the Twelve Apostles*, by Dr. W. S. McBirnie (Recall that Ephesus was the church that lost their first love)

NEXT WEEK: Revelation 1. How would you introduce Jesus Christ to a stranger, a co-worker, a friend, a family member, your boss?



Here's some tough love for you, son... You don't work, you don't eat!