



Week 52 1, 2 and 3 John

Background

Author: John, son of Zebedee – one of the twelve chosen by Jesus.

Date: All three letters likely to have been written close together in the latter part of the first century AD. John was an elderly man by this time who had had a lifetime to res

Written for: local churches – and in the case of the second and third letters specifically ones that John will be visiting – with a pastoral concern. No clear path of thought progression rather a series of topics that need covering.

3 John is only 219 words long in its Greek text and is the shortest document in the New Testament.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

1 John 1:1

God (The Word) v The World

John's letters make clear black/white distinctions between right and wrong. The Word – love, light and life – is contrasted with the World – lawlessness, lies and lust.

John's letters set Jesus' teaching within an age-old Scriptural message. Jesus spoke of love and set it in context of keeping God's commandments. (Matt 22:37-40) Love and the law are compatible if we are using God's laws as they were intended. John's letters show us that when we love others it is because God loved us first. (1 John 4:19)

John's letters particularly speak of love within the Christian Community – love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. But it is love that is set within truth. We must understand that Jesus is the Christ. There will be those who have misunderstood the nature of Jesus and we must be careful not to be led astray by false teaching.



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And for today?

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5: 14-15

Prayer :

Love – how do we show love for one another

Truth – how do we demonstrate the truth to others through our lives?