"LOVE AND TRUTH---THEIR BONDS AND BOUNDS" 2 John 1:1-13

(1)

INTRO:

A.-The Background:

1-FIVE books in the Bible with only 1 chapter in each
--Obadiah
--Philemon
--2 John
--3 John
--Jude

2-Emphases of 2nd John are TWOFOLD:
--LOVE (4 times)
* --TRUTH (5 times)
--Linked in 1:1--"whom I love in the truth"
--Inseparable !!
*--Must be held in B A L A N C E !!
--Wes Auger--"This little Epistle was written in order to produce an ATTITUDE in the hearts and lives of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Tract--"There Is Only One Answe

3-WRITER--"The Elder"
** On account of his age (3 John)
** And also his position (1 Pet. 5:1) PETER
--John is now the Senior & only surviving Apostle
--Son of Thunder in his youth & early manhood
--Transformed by the love of Christ into THE APOSTLE OF LOVE

4-RECEIVERS--"Unto the elect lady & her children"
--The "WOMEN'S PAGE" of the New Testament
--Westcott thot it was a ref. to a local Church
--Literally, some dear & godly lady in a local congregation, along with her children
--Probably the local Church met in her house
*--Personal letter, but without using her personal name
--Objects of believer-to-believer love
--Herbert Lockyer thinks this may have been LYDIA, but no evidence one way or the other
--John is visiting in the home of the sister (1:13) of the Elect Lady (1:1, 5)

5-Cities of writing & receiving are not known - DATE; After 90 AD.

B.-The Balance:

1-Balance--Not something most of us find easy
--To find
--To attain
--To maintain
"A rare & elusive jewel"

2-BONDS between Christians--We need to remember these
--LOVE AND TRUTH
--Reciprocal relationship between us
Draw us together

3-BOUNDS--For Christians--Realize there is a "faith once delivered unto the saints"
--To stay w/i it is safety & sure.
Set safe boundaries

--To abandon it is to depart from Christian faith
--To live on the fringes is to court danger

4-Difficulty--Hold these 2 truths in balance
--Not become lopsided in observing 1 of them & neglecting the other of them (2)
--Prov. 11:1--"A false balance is an abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is His delight."
--T R U E ** Of scales of the market place
** Of standards of the worship place too
xx BOTH !!

C.-The Breakdown Of Truth:

1-First John answers 2 questions:--WHO is a christian??
--WHAT constitutes Xnity??

PROP

2-Second John teaches proper attitudes:
--Toward BRETHREN
--Toward propagators of error

3-Third John deals with relationships with different kinds of believers (because they come in all shapes, sizes, & spiritual conditions)
--Gracious Gaius, the PRACTICING Christian
--Domineering Diotrephes; the PROUD Christian
--Dedicated Demetrius; the PRACTICING Christian

4-OUTLINE:
I.-PATHWAY Of Truth & Love---(1-6)::WALKING
II.-PERILS Of Untruth--------(7-11)::WARNINGS
III.-PRECIOUSNESS Of Fellowship (12-13)

INT What are these prop? or attitude

I.-PATHWAY OF TRUTH & LOVE (1:1-6): (W A L K I N G)

BONDS

A.-Walking In Life: (1:1-2)

1-Relation to those WITHIN the christian family
--Dual emphasis
--"love in the truth" (AGAPE)
--Toward the elect Lady & her children
--Also toward all who've known the truth

2-John's love toward her had to do with christian relationships in the Church life & work

3-NOT merely on an emotional or personal level

4-W H Y ??--Because of the TRUTH
--Truth "dwelleth in us"
=="is at home"
--Col. 3:16 "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."

5-Emphasis is on L O V E !! How's your "LOVE LIFE" toward the brethren? Very important question!

B.-Walking In Light: (1:3-4)

1-GRACE=="Unmerited favor"; "God's Riches At Christ's Expense"
--Reference to the sins of men--Deals w/ man's GUILT
--Initiative for our forgiveness comes FROM GOD !-Eph. 2:4

2-MERCY=="Not receiving what we deserve" of judgment
--Reference to man's misery
--Only found in Pastoral Epistles, Jude & 2nd John
--Guilt must be done away before misery can be assuaged.

3-PEACE=="To bind together"
--Result of God's grace & mercy
--Misery of sin has been removed
Enmity is ended
4-Source--First & second members of Trinity
--Father & Son
--"in truth and love"
** These go together
** Eph. 4:15--"But speaking the truth in love.."
** Jude 2--"Mercy unto you, and peace, and love be multiplied."
** Truth--ENLIGHTENING the intellect
** LOVE--ENGAGING the heart
NB
5-1:4--Come to the WALK of the believer in difficult days
--That walk is to be in the light of God's truth
--REJOICING by John
** Finds some of the Elect Lady's children to be faithful to the Lord & her teaching of them
** Doubtless disappointed by lives of some he saw, but not in hers!!
--These were "WALKING (as a practice) in the truth"
--This is a matter of commandment of Jesus
** No open options
** Obedience is expected
** No one speaks more of COMMANDMENTS than our Lord !
--Oh, for many more such glad surprises such as John experienced in seeing these children walking in the faith!!

C.-Walking In Love & Obedience (1:5-6): (EXHORTATION)
1-Language of GRACE--"I beseech you"
2-Subject of L O V E:
--Not a new commandment
--But an old truth restated
--"From the beginning"
** In provision------THE CROSS
** In experience-----OUR CONVERSION
--RECIPROCAL agape--"That we love one another"
--Love is inseparable from obedience
3-An old song runs:
"Makes me love everybody" (God, Spouse, Neighbor, Enemy — BRETHREN)
Everybody that is a Christian, but not to treat as saved those who are NOT!!
4-Wuest--"This love with which a saint (loves) is produced by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the saint, and its amount and intensity are determined by the degree of yieldedness on the part of that saint. It is self-sacrificial in its essence (Jn. 3:16). It is longsuffering in its character, kind, self-abasing, humble, well-behaved, altruistic, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, never fails. (1 Cor. 13:4-8). This love is to be reciprocal among the saints." (P. 204)

5-Def. of LOVE--1:6
--Not a sticky-sweet sentimentalism
--Nor a rationalized compromise
--But AGAPE !
--Shows in a WALK OF OBEDIENCE

6-How is this objectified??
--"Walk after His commandments"
--Authoritative commands come from our Commander
** John 13:34-35
14:15
15:12
** Gal. 5:22
** 1 Thess. 4:9
** 1 John 2:7
3:16-19
** 1 Samuel 15:22

7-Expositors--"These counsels are just a summary of the doctrines expounded at large in the first epistle. There is a sort of reasoning in a circle: The Commandment is LOVE; Love is WALKING according to His commandments; His Commandments are to be summed up in one---LOVE!" (P.)

8-"Walk"in love and obedience==KEEP ON WALKING (Pres. tense)
--Continuance in obedience is proof of love as we stay w/i the limits of God's commandments

9-A Persian Fable says:

"One day a wanderer found a lump of clay
So redolent of sweet perfume
Its odors scented all the room.
"WHAT ART THOU?" was his quick demand.
"ART THOU SOME GEM OF SAMARKAND, Samarkand
Or spikenard in this rude disguise,
Or other costly mercandise?"
"NAY, I AM BUT A LUMP OF CLAY."

"Then whence this wonderous perfume, say?"
"Friend, If the secret I disclose,
I have been dwelling with the rose!"
Sweet parable--and will not those
Who love to dwell with Sharon's Rose,
Distill sweet odors all around,
Though low and mean themselves are found?
Dear Lord, may we to Thee retreat,
Then shed abroad Thy fragrance sweet!

BONDS

10-Summary of 1:1-7--Pathway of Truth & Love
--Emphasis on LOVE (1:1,3,5,6)--4 times
--Bond with those WITHIN the christian family
--ILLUS--A happy christian one day met an Irish peddler, and said to him, "It is a grand thing to be saved."
"Aye," said the peddler, "it is. But I know something BETTER than that!"
"Better than being saved?" asked the other. "What can possibly

be better than being saved?"

The reply was, "THE COMPANIONSHIP of the ONe Who has saved Me." What a tremendous portion is ours as believers when we walk in love and truth.!!

BOUNDS

II.-PERIL OF UNTRUTH: (1:7-11) (W A R N I N G S)

A.-Warning Against False Doctrine: (1:7,9)

1-"FOR" in 1:7---John's reason for his urgent entreaty that the saints conduct themselves in the sphere of love one toward another is now stated. It is because of heretics and their pernicious doctrines. They are corrupters and deceivers

2-1:7--"DECEIVERS"=="Wanderers astray" have gone forth
- ** Left the fellowship of God's people (1 Jn. 2:18-10) - DEPARTED
- ** Denying the incarnation
  - ++ FACT that deity has come
  - ++ FULNESS of humanity & deity in the one Person of Jesus Christ

--"This is THE deceiver and THE antichrist"
--A true Christ or a false Christ was in question
--GENUINE BELIEVERS are "open" in their confession that Jesus Christ was & is God manifest in the flesh.

* * --BUT.... "Not everyone with whom we disagree is an antichrist, though some of us are guilty of stigmatizing them as such." (Epp, P. 118-119)

3-1:9--"Transgresseth"=="Goeth beyond"; "Digresses beyond Biblical limits"

--Such a one:
- ** Abides not in the doctrine of Christ"
- ** Has not God--U N S A V E D
- ** Such an advance is not progress, but A P O S T A S Y !!

* Distinguish from HERESY

--To abide is not a condition of salvation but a result of it
--DOCTRINE from God's Word is important and imperative
--Christianity is EXCLUSIVIST !!
- ** To expose error
- ** To propagate truth
- ** Deniers of Biblical truth are not saved according to Second John 9, & have no right to be called "christians."

4-Epp-"Some persons are telling us today that we should not separate from anyone in the Protestant groups on the basis of doctrine, that to do so shows a lack of love. But this could lead to the denial of the truth itself...John makes it plain that such a separation must be made when basic doctrines of the faith are denied." (Studies in The General Epistles Of John, P. 114)

5-We're ACCOUNTABLE to discern these issues!!
6-What's the STANDARD ??
--"The doctrine of Christ" acc. to the text
--ILLUS--All other standards of measure in the United States must conform to those in the U.S. Bureau of Standards in Washington, D,C. Any deviant is a false standard !!
SO with any doctrine or practice that violates the B O U N D S of love & truth as revealed in the Bible
* --K E Y is the Person and Work and Word of Christ

B.-Warning Against False Love: (1:10-11)

1-"If (SINCE) any come to you and bring not this doctrine..."
--Visiting evangelists, Bible teachers, missionaries.
--Itinerant preachers present themselves
--Ministering in "the Church that is in thy house"

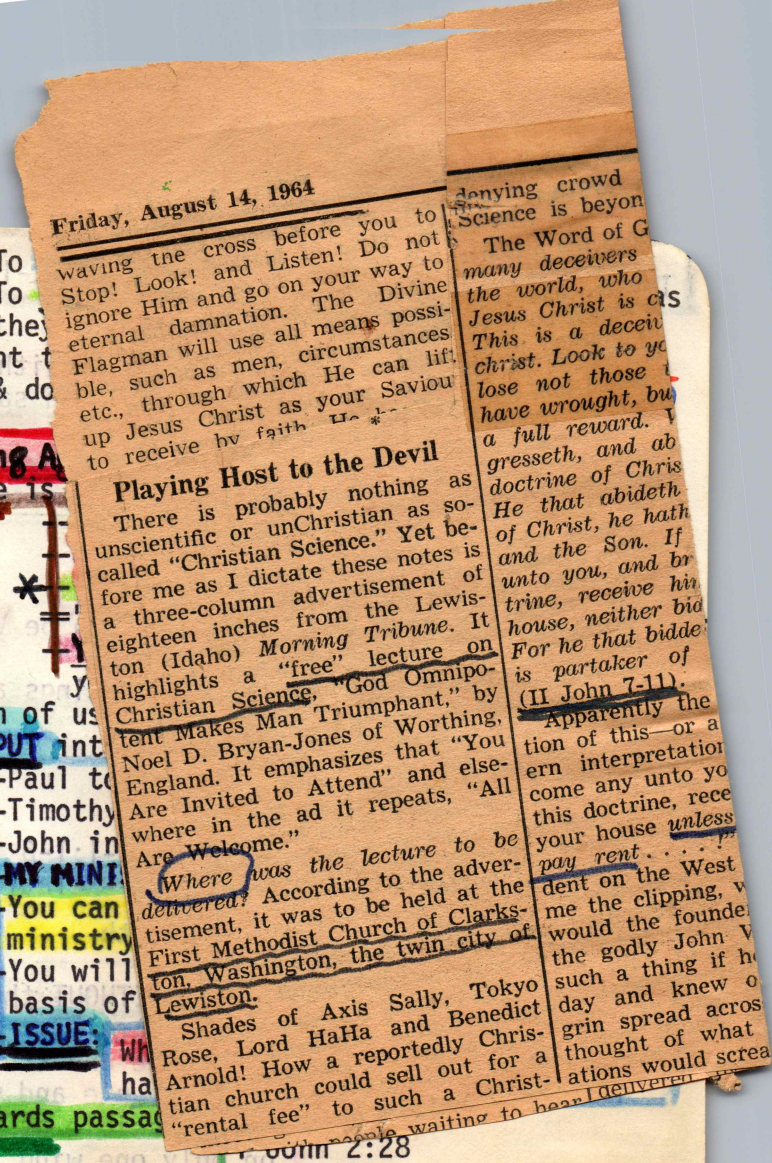
2-STOP !! --DOUBLE PROHIBITION
--Stop receiving them
--Stop giving them Christian greeting
--We show our love for God under such circumstances by NOT supporting those who deny the truth

3-Who should we support ??----EXAMPLE in 3 John 5-8 — fellow-helpers of the truth

4-Who should we NOT SUPPORT??
--Christian love does have its limits
--Deniers of the faith are on the OUTSIDE !!
--Children of God
--Unification Church
--Seventh Day Adventists
--Mormons
--Jehovahs Witnesses
--Christian Scientists
--ILLUS--Attached newspaper clipping — READ

5-"Not into your house" --Does it mean not to allow them in thru your front door?
--Historically a reference to the local Church that met in this Elect Lady's home.
--This command would exclude the denier, the liberal, and the compromiser of basic doctrines from the pulpit of a true BIBLE CHURCH
--APPLICATION::::::Not wise to invite into your home those who are not sound in the faith as they come to your door.

6-Why not receive them??
--1:11
--What we believe ought to determine what we do
*-DOCTRINE determines DEEDS
--Five Reasons (1) To reduce the damage they can do
(2) To aprise them that they follow error
(3) To seek their RESTORATION to the true faith



Friday, August 14, 1964

waving the cross before you to Stop! Look! and Listen! Do not ignore Him and go on your way to eternal damnation. The Divine Flagman will use all means possible, such as men, circumstances etc., through which He can lift up Jesus Christ as your Saviou to receive by faith

Playing Host to the Devil

There is probably nothing as unscientific or unChristian as so-called "Christian Science." Yet before me as I dictate these notes is a three-column advertisement of eighteen inches from the Lewiston (Idaho) *Morning Tribune*. It highlights a "free" lecture on Christian Science, "God Omnipotent Makes Man Triumphant," by Noel D. Bryan-Jones of Worthing, England. It emphasizes that "You Are Invited to Attend" and elsewhere in the ad it repeats, "All Are Welcome."

Where was the lecture to be delivered? According to the advertisement, it was to be held at the First Methodist Church of Clarkston, Washington, the twin city of Lewiston.

Shades of Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose, Lord HaHa and Benedict Arnold! How a reportedly Christian church could sell out for a "rental fee" to such a Christ-

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--Rev. 3:11

4-Do not be like those laborers who toward the close of the day, **fall off**, doing their work badly or losing time, and get less than a day's pay.

5-**REWARD** is ahead for **FAITHFULNESS**
--Let's earn it
--LOVE and TRUTH as the **bonds** of our relationship toward those **WITHIN** the christian family
--LOVE and TRUTH as the **bounds** of our relation ship to those **WITHOUT** the christian family.

6-J. Gresham Machen--(Feb. 1924, Moody B.I. Founders Week)
"There are **3 possible attitudes** which you may take in the present conflict. In the first place, you may **stand for** Christ. That is BEST. In the second place, you may stand for anti-christian **Modernism**. That is NEXT BEST. In the third place, you may be **NEUTRAL**. That is perhaps **WORST** OF ALL!!
"The worst sin today is to say that you agree with the Christian faith and believe the Bible, but then **make common cause** with those who **deny** the basic facts of Christianity. Never was it more obviously true that he that is not **with** Christ is **against** Him."

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

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8

III.-PRECIOUSNESS OF FELLOWSHIP:: (1:12-13)

A.-John's Reticence: (1:12a,b)

1-Unwilling to write and deal with some matters
2-Correspondence is a **less than satisfactory** method of dealing with situations
3-Better to deal **face-to-face** over problems
4-John shrank from hasty condemnation, that there be no after-regret

B.-John's Rejoicing: (1:12c-13)

1-Face to face fellowship can be VERY SWEET
2-Reunions warm the heart
3-Believer-to believer **greetings** are WARM !! (1:13)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-The **BONDS** of love & truth--1:1-6
--Relation to those WITHIN

2-The **BOUNDS** of love & truth
--1:7, 9-11
--Relation to those WITHOUT the faith

3-The **BALANCE** of love & truth
--BOTH love and truth
--Not with one and without the other
--As impossible as for a bird to fly on only one wing
*--Plummer--"Love divorced from duty will run riot, and duty divorced from love will starve." (P. 179)

4-We need to hold these truths "in tension" with one another

B.-Serious Questions For The Concerned Christian:

1-Am I walking in the truth??
2-Am I expressing AGAPE-love??
3-Am I compromising in any way??
4-Am I serving the Savior in love as a reciprocation of His love for me?
5-Am I serving Satan by **demanding** "MY WAY"??
6-How do I **treat the brethren** who are faithful to the doctrine of Christ??
7-How do I **treat those** I think are in error?
--Refuse them??
--Win them ??
--Restore them??
--Destroy them??
Is my ATTITUDE right?
8-Do I make the doctrine of Christ my guide & rule?

BONDS/ BOUNDS

Westbrae--9/18/66---#84--Love Lifted Me (441)
Calvary, Columbus--6/6/76 #385--"Amazing Grace (236) "And Can
#383--Jesus Calls Us (374)
College Baptist - 3/20/77
Valley Chapel Com. Ch, Fairfield, OH. 4/29/79
Bell Creek Bapt. Ch., Dixie, WV 3/16/80
IFCA Regional, Huntington, WV - 3/19/80
York, PA. - 8/9/81
Victory Bible Ch. Meyersdale
Oak Hill Bible Ch. - 9/25/88

"Christian Cameos"

3 John

See message in my Bible

Westbrae 9/25/66
Valley Chapel Com Ch., Fairfield, OH 4/29/79
Bell Creek Bapt. Church, Dixie, WV 3/17/80 "
354 "Living For Jesus
~~Are I Volunteer~~
359 More Like The Master OR
356 More About Jesus

Mt. Tabor Bapt, Beckley, WV - 5/18/80
C.B.C, Byrdstown, TN - 3/15/81
O.K.B.C. — 6/16/85

6 — Come, Thou Almighty King
325 — More Like The Master
392 — O Jesus, I Have Promised
326 — More About Jesus