



Letters of John

Feb 4, 2024 - 2 John

Logos Class. Mod 5 Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 31, 2023 – YE 2023 Review & Letters of John- 1 John Ch 1*
- ✓ *Jan 7, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2A*
- ✓ *Jan 14, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2B & 3*
- ✓ *Jan 21, 2024 – 1 John Ch 4*
- ✓ *Jan 28, 2024 – 1 John Ch 5*
- ✓ *Feb 4, 2024 - 2 John*
- *Feb 11, 2024 – 3 John*
- *Feb 18, 2024 – New Study*

Easter is 3/31/24, and Palm Sunday is 3/24/24

Briefly before we start

- I mentioned the new FRC App last week and hopefully, you have looked at it and downloaded it
- IF YOU ARE LISTED by FRC as in this class, you will see a Logos Connection class in your Connection Group area. You are already there
- You may have to sign in to the App but your data should be there.
- In our Logos Connection area:
 - This is private to all members, but if you share to the wider FRC audience it will be public to all who have the App.
 - I am not really sure what to do with it since it does not replace the prayer chains, the Instant Church Directory, or the Class Website.
 - Perhaps a bulletin board for things like Class Event Schedules, etc

Quick Update on Israel and Wars

- It is clear now that the US is backing away from Israel, pressuring them to end the war without crushing Hamas. We have even floated the mandatory 2 state solution that Israel must agree to. (this will not happen, at least not now)
- Hamas still has 100 plus hostages and negotiations are slow for release/conditions
- Iran proxies killed 3 Army Guardsmen from Georgia who were at a post in Jordan near the Syrian Border. No response yet, but proxy said they would quit.
- The US clearly understands that Iran is behind it, but has told them publicly we were not interested in a war with Iran, so we will attack proxies...*maybe someday*
- The US is fortifying Israel's military capability with planes, Helicopters, and munitions
- US is showing weakness in response to the >150 attacks on US forces since Oct 7, 2023 and this has emboldened Iran and the militias
- Israel is preparing for war in the North.
- Pray for the hostage releases, dealing with the Hamas masterminds, and Peace

Preparing for 2nd and 3rd John

- *Have any of you cleaned out your parents or grandparents' houses and found personal letters kept hidden?*
 - *How did you feel when you found them? Excited, nervous, anxious?*
 - *Did any of you read them? Old Love Letters during WW2?*
 - *What was the result if you did?*
 - *Very personal, never intended to be public, provided deeper insight into their personal lives/ desires/ ideas.*
 - *Most of us only knew the “public” view of them. We never had the deep insight and personal understanding*
- *I am sad to say that with each passing generation, this deeply personal and intimate understanding passes away.*
 - *Writing in cursive is a lost art*
 - *There is something unique in a personal handwritten letter.*
 - *Wouldn't you like to have one more conversation with them? I would!*

The Adams-Jefferson Letters

- Many of us studied the Founding Fathers in our US History courses in school. We learned the sanitized version of their lives preserved for posterity
- If we travel to their homes, we get a little deeper understanding of how they lived, but do we really know “*who they were*”?
- This is true for your grandparents, your parents, your aunts and uncles, and for George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson as well.
 - Monticello- the story is being changed due to Sally Hemmings and the fascination of the country with slavery and all its details
 - Robert E Lee and the Civil War have changed our perceptions of both the times and the people that are important to us.
- Momentous challenges and problems faced these men in starting, designing, and preserving a new Republic. They were also normal men with feelings, biases, concerns, and normal afflictions as we also have today.

Three Letters...P 528

- *Jefferson to Adams-----Monticello, Oct 7, 1818*
- *Adams to Jefferson.....Quincy, MA, Oct 20, 1818*
- *Jefferson to Adams.....Monticello, Nov 13, 1818*

- *Neither Adams or Jefferson expected these personal letters to be made public, but they were meticulous record keepers and kept all the correspondence in files to reread*
- *Why am I starting this discussion with these letters?*
 - *Learn more about each man than just the sanitized version of the story*
 - *Deepest thoughts, concerns, and about their view of eternity.*

Apostle John in 90 AD in Ephesus

- *Preached in Ephesus for perhaps 50 years*
- *Where are his sermons? We have all the sermons of preachers like Charles Spurgeon, but none from the Apostle John.*
- *Yet, we have the Gospel of John, the Revelation of Christ, and 1 John, all of which are considered intended for reading publicly and dissemination*
- *In addition, we have 2 personal letters from the Apostle which gives us some insight into both him, and his desire to help at 90 years old*
 - *Why were these saved and not any of his sermons? Interesting Question*
 - *I'll share my thoughts as we uncover this letter and discuss it.*

2 John – Letter to the Lady chosen by God

- *Very short letter...only 13 verses*
- *8 of the 13 are mirrored in 1 John*
- *Clearly written by the Apostle John – Language, context, timing, and subject matter*
- *The two knew each other. Was “she” a house church, or an individual lady that was the recipient?*
 - *Churches had been referred to as a Lady, children - followers*
 - *She was in a different area, most likely a widow, with several children...some of whom were going astray*
- *Let's take a look and unravel some of the questions...*
- *The first verse is where most of the questions arise.*

2 John 1-2 *A letter to a friend*

¹ *The **elder**,*

*To the **lady** chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—*

*² because of the truth, which **lives in us** and will be **with us forever**:*

◀ 2 John 1:1 ▶

2 John 1 - Click for Chapter

3588 [e]	4245 [e]	1588 [e]	2959 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5043 [e]	846 [e]	3739 [e]
Ho	presbyteros	Eklektē	kyria	kai	tois	teknois	autēs	hous
1	Ὁ πρεσβύτερος ,	Ἐκλεκτῆ	κυρία	καὶ	τοῖς	τέκνοις	αὐτῆς ,	οὓς
The	elder	To [the] elect	lady	and	the	children	of her	whom
Art-NMS	Adj-NMS	Adj-DFS	N-DFS	Conj	Art-DNP	N-DNP	PPro-GF3S	RelPro-AMP

2 John 3 Encouragement in times of despair

*³ Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, **the Father's Son**, will be with us in truth and love*

Not only does she have the Agape Love of God, but of John and all the believers. It includes her children too.

*In v3, John adds the Grace, **Mercy**, and Peace of God that comes through the Father, and the Son who is with us in truth and love.*

Whatever prompted this letter, John starts with the fact that she is not alone and has all these elements of Love and Truth in God with her.

How did this letter get saved? My thoughts...

2 John 4-6 More Background for the letter

*⁴ It has given me great joy **to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.***

*⁵ And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. **I ask that we love one another.***

*⁶ And this is love: **that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.***

Walk in Obedience, but also in Love

Pastor Stephen Davey ... Shepherds Church, Cary NC

Illustration for this passage

- *Popular book from the 20th Century – “One Hundred Years of Solitude”*
 - *A small village in South America with a terrible plague of slow but certain onset of amnesia*
 - *Signs on everything...**Cow, Pig, Table, Chair**, but it was not enough*
 - *Added additional information like **“Milk Cow daily for Milk, otherwise, it will quit delivering milk. We drink Milk”***
 - *Finally with all things being forgotten, they decided to post the really important things outside the city on a sign. Like **“God Exists”**. They knew as long as they remembered this, they could make it.*

That same amnesia affects us today. We have forgotten the basics of Christianity like John has been writing and need reminders.

- *Terms like LOVE, and TRUTH are so removed today from Biblical understanding that we need reminders.*
- ***In the city where the Lady lives, people are taking down the God Exists signs trying to force amnesia on God’s followers***

2 John 7-8 In the face of deceivers, remember the basics

⁷ *I say this because **many deceivers**, who **do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

⁸ **Watch out** that you do not **lose** what we/you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

2 John 9-11 Be careful who you associate with

⁹ Anyone who **runs ahead** and **does not continue in the teaching of Christ** does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.

¹¹ Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

2 John 12-13 John has more to say, but...

¹² *I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.*

¹³ *The children of your sister, who is (also) chosen by God, send their greetings.*

Final thoughts...

Is the Lady a metaphor or a real person?

Some possible answers on why John is writing this letter to her

- Sisters' Children, deceivers leading children astray, home church pitfalls?

What does John hope to accomplish in a face-to-face meeting?

Most people at 90 have given up personal ministry. Not John and he is looking forward to completing his task to help her and her children.

Next Week

- *Read 3 John...another personal letter...*
- *Pray for each other... a lot is going on*
- *Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for our country and its leaders*
- *Pray for our State and County and their leaders*
- *Pray for our Church, its Pastors, Teachers, and Members that we will be faithful to His Call and Direction*
- *Pray that the sermon series on a Biblical Worldview will make a difference in people's lives.*