May 2017

McInteer Sermon Outlines - John, 2

Jim Bill McInteer

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.harding.edu/mcinteer-sermons-scripture

Recommended Citation
THE INTRODUCTION TIPS THE HAT
2 John 1-3

I. It's a very short book.

II. The introduction tips the hat as to its message--truth & love used repeatedly.

III. But Even the Introduction Presents a Few Problems.

A. Who is the author?
   1. No reference made to this by name.

B. Who got the letter?
   1. This has so much we'll come back to it.
   2. Is it a private note to a person? A Christian lady?
   3. Or is it a letter to a church?
   4. Particular person to whom he wrote from Ephesus maybe.

C. The Elder
   1. John, unlike Peter & Paul, never speaks of self as an apostle.
   2. Peter speaks of self as an elder.
   3. Who, in N.T., ever called himself "the elder" even as here?
      a) Uses it unofficially but in reference to age.
      b) Old man--exercises oversight but not here since he uses "the".
      c) Venerable figure--"give him a few more years."
      d) Might have been the only apostle of the Lord still living.
      e) Either church leader or elderly person.
      f) Reason not an elder is that he fills a much higher slot.
1 Peter 5:1

- Elder conveys age, office, authority.
- One who'd seen apostles so used by the church fathers.
- Maybe he used the title the world called him of those who knew him best—like Racoon John Smith.
- Emphasis given to writer as a person, not position.

D. The Elect Lady

1. Was it a particular woman or was it the church personified? Scholarship greatly divided.
2. We will offer some of their reasoning.
3. It's a woman.
   - Elect—either widow or one that surpasses husband spiritually.
   - Woman named Kyria, feminine of Cyrus.
   - Yet no individual traits about the woman.
   - Women never called ladies in N.T. (Woods) yet says a person in John's acquaintance.
   - Lady, GK for Martha.
   - Electa—2nd word proper name.
4. It's a Congregation
   - Church personified for security reasons.
   - Could be a congregation or church in general.
c) Local church—not church universal as it has no sister church, prominent one.
d) Lady feminine form of Lord—church bride of Christ.
e) Woman, symbol for the church.

Jn. 3:29
Eph. 5:25-33

f) Translation:
The Chosen Lady—Goodspeed
An eminent Christian lady—TCNT

5. Westcott may be right, "No solution is satisfactory."

E. Her Children
1. Church members.
2. Maybe just knew some of them.
3. Whom is plural.

IV. Now Our Key Words:
"I Love in the Truth" (That's not everybody)

A. Love
1. Deep affection.
2. Love & truth go together.
3. Love & truth are Siamese twins for the apostle.
4. Love can be stern.
5. Love is not just goodwill to all men but a moral principle that leads us to walk in the commands of God. (Tisher)
6. Obedience without love is servile, love without obedience is unreal, neither can flourish outside of Truth. (Tisher)
7. Same type love God has for us--seeks their good.

B. Truth
1. Used in 3 senses in 1 sentence.
2. Did some of them not walk in truth?
3. Truth used 4X in first 3 verses.
4. Truth unites Christians because it is basic, resides with them and remains forever. (Kistemaker)
5. Truly, really plus consistent with Christian revelation.
6. Know the truth means to accept it--beyond knowing facts.
7. Nothing ever able to destroy the truth.
8. All who accept the truth practice the same type love.
9. If love is absent so is truth.
10. Fellowship of love is as wide as the fellowship of faith.
11. Mutual love is practiced "because of the truth" not because of personal affection.
12. All who know the truth love the lady.

C. Truth Dwells in Us--With Us Forever.
1. Dwells--abides, remains within, stays in our hearts--(various translations).
2. Truth still dwells in her--it lasts.
3. Think of those who know who fall or change from it.
4. The indwelling Christ makes truth the monitor and motivator of our character.
5. Flatly says these things are with us, not a prayer they will be with us as in Paul's greeting.

IV. His Great Wish
A. Grace Be With You
   1. Will be with us--future tense--only one in the future tense.
   2. This promise of the future comes from both God & Christ.
   3. God says "Give me your tomorrows."
   4. We can appropriate the absolute availability of the substance of this greeting.
   5. Grace is God's unchanging nature.
   6. Grace extended to men in their sins. (Woods)

B. Mercy
   1. God's nature applied to our needs.
   2. Mercy rid them of the misery sin brings. (Woods)

C. Peace
   1. Third virtue--all function & flourish in the environment of truth & love.
   2. "Drop thy still dews of quietness"
   3. "Grace points to the absolute freedom of God's love in relation to man's helplessness to win it, mercy to his tenderness toward man's misery." (Westcott) Then comes peace.
4. Peace the sum total of spiritual blessings.
5. Peace the resultant state where grace & mercy have operated. (Woods)
6. Peace--his nature in us.

D. From God the Father--and the Lord Jesus Christ.
   1. Godhead seen in part.
   2. Lord Jesus Christ.
      a) Only here John uses Lord.
      b) Revised Version omits it.
      c) Incarnation cannot be denied.
      d) To say No to God's revelation of Himself through Jesus is to say No to God.
      e) John puts Jesus on the level with God.
      f) From God & from Jesus shows separate personalities.
      g) Titles show unity--Father, Son.

E. Repeats Emphasis Words: Truth and Love.

South Harpeth church - 11/8/92 (BC)
THE HEART OF THE MATTER
2 John 4-8

I. John loses little time getting to the purpose of his letter—remember our 2 catch words: Love & Truth.

A. 1st he states his reasoned joy.

v-4 "I rejoice greatly that I found"

1. In his happiness he found something.
   a) Either saw it or reported to him.
   b) At least he knows some of the church and for their actions he expresses his appreciation.
   c) Found—means a thing rarely found, a rare joy.
   d) World is averse to God—wants only husks.

2. Found them walking in Truth.
   a) Walk—actively living in harmony with the word—habitually.
   b) All they say & do governed by the word of God.
   c) Uses walk 3X.
   d) Their active obedience reason for his joy.

I Jn. 1:7 "If we walk in the light"
3:23 And this is his commandment: "Believe on the Son of God"
3. Truth walk.
   a) Truth synonymous for basic Christian doctrine.

John 8:42 "If ye continue in my word then are ye my"
8:31-32 "Ye shall know the truth" b) Intellectual comprehension of conceptual truth must be fleshed out in life. (Ogilvie)
4. Not unexpected as it was commanded of the Lord.

Jn. 13:34 A New Comm. I give unto you that ye should
a) This the main thrust of epistle.

Jn. 15:12 This is my commandment, that ye love one another.
b) Command used 5X--he has the
authority to speak.
c) Came through Jesus originally.
d) It was to love one another.
e) Repeats for emphasis.
f) Some obey truth but do not love their brother.

1 Jn. 3:18 Love not word but deed, truth

B. Defines Love since it is so important.
g) Thus he strongly exorts the
church.
h) Uses "we" to show he too is involved in doing it.

v-6 "And this is love, that we walk"
1. Love means to walk after the command.

Jn. 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
Jn. 14:21

2. Love's not passion but obedience.
3. To live by his commandments that is love means--Moffatt.

1 Jn. 2:5 This is the love of God. Keep
4. They are to actively care for one
another.
5. Love follows divine guidance.
7. Duty without love is formalism. (Woods)
8. Anxious to please God—obey Him!
9. All commands spring from the first commandment—love God & man.

II. A Challenge Comes
v-7 "For many deceivers are entered"
A. The Opposition
1. "Many"—thus a collective name.
2. Deceivers
   a) Once in the church?
Matt. 13:5
   b) Means wanderer, rover, moving about to lead others astray.
B. Confess not Jesus is come in the flesh.
1. Confess carries allegiance to the Christian faith, orthodox.
2. Continuous tense.
3. More than a denial of the historic incarnation.
4. Could mean denying his return.
5. Will not admit—one translation.
6. Accepted not he had come & comes.
7. Denied his influence in their daily lives.
8. They said spirit came at baptism, left before crucifixion.
9. Or Jesus one of man's emanations from God.
10. Resisted the moral implications of his Lordship.
11. Whenever people assume that they can make it on their own strength, resist the cross, deny the need for Christ's intervention in our lives the incarnation is equivocated. (Ogilvie)
4. Central fact of Christianity is to recognize Jesus as the Christ.
13. Jesus Christ shows human and divine nature.
14. Such denial—the anti-Christ.
   a) Person who comes in the place of Christ.
   b) Woods says the pope.

III. And So a Warning.
   A. Look
      1. Remain in the truth, obey, watch for false teachers.
      2. We all face spiritual dangers.
      3. Readers must practice personal vigilance.

Mk. 13:5 Jesus "Take heed lest any man deceive you!
      4. Keep watch over yourselves.
      5. Be on your guard (above translation).

   B. Lose Not
      1. Have former members apostatized?
      2. Can lose what you've worked for.
      3. Possibility of apostasy.
      4. Importance of self-examination.
      5. Necessity of ceaseless vigilance against evil one. (Woods)
      6. Our first duty our salvation.

   C. Receive Full Reward
      1. By steadfastness reap a full harvest.

2 Cor. 12:14
      2. Christianity leads to a reward.
      3. No half reward—either wholly lost or wholly receive—not "almost guilty."
THE HEART OF THE MATTER
South Harpeth (BC) - 11/22/92
South Harpeth (BC) - 11/29/92
Central - Pascagoula, MS (A.M.) - 6/7/93
THAT BY WHICH I LIVE
2 Jn. 8

I. To say I've known someone 40 years almost is to commit a great portion of life.
A. Yet I have the Warren McMahon Family.
   1st, his dear Mother & Sister at Woodson Chapel
   2. Then the family at W. E.
      a.) Girls grow up & Marry.
      b.) Jerry Good the inspiration of those who search for truth.
      c.) The Pickards & the camping experiences.
      d.) Spiritual discussions c Warren & Mary.
   3. I saw Warren as an expert in his field - yet with a Kind Modesty as excellent funeral director.
   4. I saw the pleasantness of worship as he radiated an enjoyment.
   5. Knew he needed a Savior.
   6. Then I saw 2 yrs. of illness - robbed of thinking powers, but the gentle goodness remained.
B. The I have known him this long - the Lord knew him longer. I should like to tell you the principles by which he lived.

II. Eternal Principles.
2 Jn. 8 "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought.
A. Our 1st responsibility is to our own security.
   1. Be on guard.
   2. Error abounds everywhere to entrap.
   3. Danger inward & outward.
B. That we lose not those things which we have wrought.
1. Debate whether is ye wrought or we wrought.
   a.) Obviously, I'm to obey.
   b.) Wrought = worked for.
   c.) Reject enticement of error & continue to work as in the beginning.
   d.) Always obey in love.
   e.) I'm indebted to others for their efforts.
2. Lose.
   a.) Don't forfeit your reward.
   b.) Fidelity to end is enjoined – Mary surely was to Warren.
   c.) Possible to lose.
   d.) Don't let work become undone.
   e.) If faith loses its purity, our holy life is imperiled – Keep studying, Keep worshipping.
C. That we receive a full reward.
1. Payment comes at the close of day.
2. Poor paymaster to pay early.
3. Crown commensurate c what we render the Savior.
4. Turn away, you get less.
5. Uniformly consistent life gets reward.
6. Who can estimate the unspeakable glory of the full reward.
7. Don't lose one gem that might sparkle forever.
8. None of us want to be docked.
9. Connection between Chr. character & reward.
10. Rewards proportionate.

Heb. 6:10 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your
TOUGH--CHAFF OR WHEAT
2 John 9:13

I. In our pseudo feeling of love we think we must be tolerant of everything.
   A. Compromise
   B. Error allowed in the spirit of charity.
   C. Tolerant, in name of love.
   D. John takes this on and denounces even if we cringe to hear.

II. Choice: Advance or Abide;
    Progressive vs. Steadfast.
   A. Whosoever Transgresses.
      1. Concern for proper church, not crowds or popularity.
      2. Had erroneous ideas.
      3. No claim of any knowledge can set aside what Christ taught.
   B. Abides not in the doctrine.
      1. Abides not.
         a) Anyone who runs ahead.
         b) Don't venture beyond the boundaries of established doctrine.
         c) Goes onward (ASV)
            Goes beyond the limits
            Runs ahead too far (NEB)
         d) Goes out in advance--claimed they were progressive and that the Christians were backward.
         e) We are "advanced."
         f) "Advanced beyond NT they advanced right out of Christianity" (Coffman)
2. Doctrine
a) Teachings, not dogmas.
b) Teachings of Christ, not just Jesus, shows diversity.
c) Truth
Ps. 119:28-32
d) Didache—if any asks for money or stays 3 days he is false.
e) Teachings which Christ personally did.

C. Abides In
1. Continue in original gospel—do not run ahead.
2. Carefully keep what you have heard since the beginning.
3. Nothing need be added.
   Nothing need be taken away.
4. Don't advance—Abide!

III. False Folks Will Come.
A. Any Come.
1. As a teacher.
2. As a brother.
3. About fellowship.
   a) To have in common.
   b) NT does not use the word lightly for camaraderie or conviviality.
   c) What we hold in common determines whether we receive the gift of fellowship or not.
   d) It doesn't happen just because we are together.
   e) Different levels, friends and neighbors but no common fellowship.
3.
   f) We cannot set aside our perception of truth to have fellowship. (Ogilvie)
   g) Gnostic heresy had stretched the fabric of fellowship.
4. Teacher a term that carried great respect.
5. Continually come-- Williams translation.

B. Receive Not
1. Gospel had its intolerance as well as tolerances.
2. Ordinary courtesy OK but to condone and further false doctrine is disloyal.
3. Don't give them a platform to speak.
4. Don't confuse potential converts.
5. If no hospitality surely not allowed to minister to the church.
6. Hospitality not forbidden but encouragement was.
7. Continued association might lead to our acceptation of their doctrine.
8. Didache said avoid Christ-traffickers--people who make personal profit out of religion.
10. We resent an outsider telling us what to do.
11. House = into church fellowship as they had house churches.
12. Issue not hospitality.
C. Neither Bid Gods speed.
   1. Welcome was approval.
   2. Don't promote false teacher.
   3. "Wish him success". (Amplified)
   4. Obviously Christians travelled.
D. Don't Partake of Evil Deeds.
   1. Tolerance is the least we can do--the very least.
   2. We've crowned it with attitudinal virtues.
   3. Nobody wants to be tolerated.
   4. Can tolerance go too far--when do we confront one who in error?
   5. There is a time when authentic love makes us intollerant.
   6. Can't stand by while a loved one drinks poison. (Ogilvie)
   7. Partake--if we receive truthful preachers do we not participate in their good deeds?
   8. Evil deeds.
      a) Deeds include doctrine.
      b) Today's heresy may be tomorrow's doctrine.
      c) Deeds

John 3:21
   d) Some see Christ not as Savior but:
      (1) Best of good men.
      (2) Teachings the basis of psychological insight without accepting him.
(3) He who was one of many ways to God.
(4) Ignore sin.
(5) Sentimentalize the cross.
(6) Forget new birth.
e) Test not only that Christ lived but that he lives today.

IV. Many Things to Write
A. Hard to put emotions on paper—you may be in a different mood when you receive a "ha-ha" one.
   1. Write only what was needful.
   2. Rather talk—then write.
   3. Wrote most important part.
   4. Still confident of their loyalty.
   5. If coming, why write? Wanted to nip error in bud.
   6. Papyrus sheet 8 x 10.
B. Speak Face to Face
   1. Mouth to mouth lit.
   2. See Numbers 12:8.
   3. Joy be full.
C. Children of Elect Sister Greet.
   1. Humbly remembers the children.
   2. Emphasis on children not sister.
   3. Elect—chosen.
      a) Those who respond to the call.
      b) Chosen sister is the church from which John wrote.
      c) If interpreted literally means she's no longer living.
      d) Sister a mother, not a nun had children.
      e) She lived & served, have we?
4. Greet
   a) Greetings from a sister church adds weight.
   b) Involves characteristic view of life:
      Health
      Joy
      Peace
   c) Meant wishing Godspeed, approval -- watch how you use your supportive money.

South Harpeth - 12/6/92 (BC)