

Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

Lesson 24

Studying the Bible:
The Epistles: I, II, III John

April 26, 2016

The Epistles: 1, 2, 3 John

The nature of the Epistles

- Primary concern is the salvation of God’s people. The death and resurrection of Jesus play a key role in all that is done and written the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in this process.
- They are written to first-generation converts. Each addresses a specific situation that has developed and a full summary of Christian doctrine or ethics is not included.
- All the writers of the Epistles believed in the return of Jesus. For them, they were living in the “end” times.
- There is an emphasis on the Christian community living in such a way as to reflect life on the future Kingdom of God.

1 John

- **Author:** John the Apostle
- **Date:** unknown, probably 80’s
- **To:** Christian community known to the Apostle that has experiences false teachers leaving the church, causing many to question what they were first taught.
- **Primary concerns:**
 - Incarnation.
 - Love for brethren, particularly the needy.
 - Relationship between sin and God’s children.

II John

- **Author:** John the Apostle
- **Date:** unknown
- **To:** A lady chosen by God. Could be a single congregation or a woman who hosts a “house” church.
- **Primary concern:** The defection of false prophets may result in the spread of their teachings into other communities.

III John

- Elder, John, wrote it.
- Gaius, a friend, received it.
- Diotrephes, provoked it.
- Demetrius carried it.
- **Primary concern:** Diotrephes has refused hospitality

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 57-73

HTRTB BBBB: pages 411-422

HTRTBTTJL: pages 247-258

Key Verses:

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son purifies us from all sin.

Notes

to John's friends and then dis-fellowshipped those who did show hospitality. John writes about the obligations of Christian hospitality.