

1st, 2nd & 3rd JOHN

INTRODUCTION-PART XI

{Sunday, August 23, 2020 A.D.}

Main Themes:

- ✓ **Eyewitness testimony** regarding **The Gospel Message; The Word of Life** manifested in the incarnation, **Son of God/Son of Man** {the full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, two complete natures, yet one person}.
 - ✓ Jesus Christ, our **Advocate** with the Father.
 - ✓ **Holiness** of God.
 - ✓ **Assurance of Salvation**; the practice of Righteousness.
 - ✓ **The love of God the Father as precedent** to our true biblical love of God and our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - ✓ **The New Commandment; Love one another. Self-sacrificial love**, to love as Jesus Christ loves {to love as God loves}.
 - ✓ **Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy**; Right doctrine for the purpose of right practice {belief and behavior/good seed and good fruit/ faith and works/ walking worthily/ faith and life/ etc.
 - ✓ The **discerning/testing/judging** of “the spirits.” Ever reforming one’s self and the church.
 - ✓ **Warning** against false teachers and their heretical teaching.
 - ✓ **True believers** versus false converts / antichrists / deceivers / wolves / false teachers / goats / tares / etc.
 - ✓ **Antichrists**; Every spirit that does **not** confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
 - ✓ **Love and Propitiation**, {we do not normally think of these concepts as belonging together}.
 - ✓ **Born of God / Born Again / Born from Above** {regeneration / passed out of death into eternal life in Christ}.
 - ✓ **Overcoming the world** {the final triumph of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **King of kings and Lord of lords, The Kingdom of God, The Church and the Gospel.**}
 - ✓ **The Exclusivity** of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ The theological criteria **conditioning** the believer’s extension of **hospitality**.
The Last Days
Eternal Life in Christ.
The importance of viewing these three short epistles as **the word of almighty God, breathed out by His Holy Spirit, and necessary for faith and life.**
-

The Last Days: The time period from the conception of Christ Jesus, the GOD-Man, at His first coming until His second coming. From His humiliation until His exaltation; From His incarnation until the summing up of all things in Christ. The days of Gospel Proclamation by Christ and His Church for, “Whoever has ears to hear”, the elect. The last period of waiting for what the Father has promised his people in Christ.

The nature of the church (The Kingdom of God, The Kingdom of Heaven); to make manifest Christ as His witnesses to the world by our doctrine and our practice. The church will never pass away.

The nature of the world made manifest; the persecution of Christ and His Church by the world in the church (internal); and by the world outside the church (external). The world is passing away.

The Joy of God to see Christ’s bride bearing the image of Christ before the world by walking in the truth (practicing right thinking and right doctrine)

1 John 2: 17-19 ¹⁷The world is passing away, and all of its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. ¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us; they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

- **The Last Days: Hebrews 1: 1-4**

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power, when He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

- **Acts 1: 1-8**

¹The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up to heaven,...⁴Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "which," He said, "you heard from Me; ⁵..., but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel? ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

- **The Nature of the Church: John 18:36-38; [Mt 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-49]**

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world." If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." ³⁷Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a King. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ³⁸Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

- **The Nature of the World: 1 John 2: 17-19; [Luke 17: 20-33; 2 Peter 2:1-9]**

¹⁷The world is passing away, and all of its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. ¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us; they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

- **The Joy of God: 3 John 1-4; [Luke 15: 7,10] To see Christ's Bride walking in the truth (right doctrine revealed by right practice:**

The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ²Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. ³For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children are walking in the truth.