

THE APOSTLE JOHN –

THE GREAT WITNESS TO THE WORKING DOCTRINE OF CHRIST!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this study document.

The apostle John was with our Lord from the beginning of his ministry. John heard and saw the Word of Life, in the presence of Jesus Christ. John taught us in his writings that we should aim to have true fellowship with each other, and with the **Father** and Son.

1 John 1:1 - 3: - “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

The words that he wrote in his epistles and in the Revelation are the direct and true teachings of Christ. A blessing is pronounced upon all who read, hear and keep the words that John wrote for us.

Revelation 1:1 - 3: - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. **Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:** for the time [is] at hand.”

It was John’s greatest joy to hear that people walked in the truths that he wrote out.

3 John 4: - “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

The truths committed to the churches John helped, came directly from the Father. The Father’s commandment is for us to love one another. This is not a new teaching. Jesus taught his Father’s doctrine. John tells us that love is “walking after his (the Father’s) commandments.”

2 John 1 - 6: - “The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. **I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we**

walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

THE TEST OF TRUE LOVE: -

John sets forth the test of true love. He instructs us that to truly love one another we must keep the commandments of God. By keeping the commandments of God we will truly know that we are loving our fellow man.

1 John 5:2 & 3: - **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.”

Love is revealed by our deeds.

1 John 3:18: - **“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”**

Obedience to the commandments of God, have always been used as a **proof** of what is in the heart.

Deuteronomy 8:1 & 2: - “All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, **[and] to prove thee, to know what [was] in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.”**

Keeping God’s law shows that you love him.

Deuteronomy 11:22: - **“For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him...”**

God himself taught this. Those who love him are those who keep his commandments.

Exodus 20:6: - **“And showing mercy unto thousands of them **that love me, and keep my commandments.**”**

Jesus taught his Father’s doctrine, and his Father’s commandments. He taught that commandment keeping is proof of our love to God.

John 14:15: - **“If ye love me, **keep** my commandments.”**

John 15:10: - “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”

Paul taught that obedience in all things is proof enough. Love can only be proved by obedience. Paul called for proofs of love in his churches.

2 Corinthians 2:8 & 9: - “Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm [your] love toward him.** For to this end also did I write, **that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.**”

2 Corinthians 8:24: - “Wherefore show ye to them, and before the churches, **the proof of your love,** and of our boasting on your behalf.”

We are taught that we should examine ourselves. Do we indeed have the proof in our lives that we love God?

2 Corinthians 13:5: - **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

We should be willing to allow our love for God to be proved. If we walk in truth, we will have no fear.
Psalms 26:2 & 3: - **“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness [is] before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.”**

THE KEEPING OF GOD’S LAW IS PROOF OF LOVING HIM: -

1 John 5:2 & 3: - **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

Taking the next step, keeping the seventh day Sabbath, the Fourth Commandment, is proof of whether we will keep the law or not. Therefore, according to God, and his servant John, Sabbath keeping proves our love to God.

Exodus 16:4, 5, 23 & 27 - 30: - **“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, **that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.** And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare [that] which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ... And he said unto them, This [is that] which the LORD hath said, To morrow [is] the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake [that] which ye will bake [to day], and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. ... **And it came to pass, [that] there went out [some] of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day.”****

NOTE: - Sabbath-keeping proves that you love God and his Law. We notice in VS. 28 that the Lord refers to *“my commandments and my laws”* – plural as being broken by Israel. Because Israel broke the Sabbath Commandment, the Lord considered them as breaking all of his Commandments and Laws. Just as the apostle James teaches us in his epistle.

James 2:8 - 12: - **“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. **For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.** So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”**

Remember, John wrote his epistles so that we might have true fellowship with the Father. How can we enter into a true fellowship with the Father, if we continue to disregard his holy Law of Commandments? John’s purpose in writing his letters to us is to turn us from sin, which he defines as “the transgression of the law.” – See 1 John 3:4. John wants us to be commandment keepers through love towards the Father, and the sacrifice of his Son. Christ is set forth as the example of how we should walk.

1 John 2:1 - 6: - **“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in**

him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

John 15:8 - 10: - “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

Jesus wants us to be united together with the Father through obedience.

John 14:23: - “Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

Let us keep ourselves in the love of God as we seek mercy and eternal life that God offers to those who love him.

Jude 21: - “**Keep yourselves in the love of God,** looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Deuteronomy 7:9: - “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he [is] God, the faithful God, **which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.**”