

**The Books of 2 And 3 John**  
**“Following Jesus till He Comes”**

In some of the larger ski resorts, they have a method for teaching blind skiers how to make their way down the hill without having an accident.

The Blind Skier wears a Bright Pink or Blue Vest and stays directly behind the Instructor.

The listen intently to every word that the instructor says to them so that his directions keep them on the right path.

They know which way to turn, where to go, how to start and how to stop by listening to the voice of their teacher.

**Jesus said.**

**John 10:27**

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

In Israel at night, the shepherds often gather their flocks together into one central location that is surrounded by a stone wall.

It is easier for the shepherds to protect their flocks when they are all gathered together for the night. They can protect them from wolves that might come to attack, and prevent one of the younger lambs from wondering away by keeping them within a walled area at night.

**Now, you might think that all of the sheep would get mixed up as to which sheepfold they belonged to.**

- ☞ **How in the world** could all of the different shepherds sort out which sheep were theirs the next morning?
- ☞ **Well, it is actually a very simple process.** The individual sheep know the sound of their masters voice.

As each shepherd comes to the sheepfold and calls out to their own sheep, they hear their masters voice and run to him.

**This is what Jesus was talking about** *“My sheep hear my voice and they follow me...”*

- ☞ **Like the visually impaired skier**, we follow so closely behind Jesus, that we can hear his voice as He moves forward.

- ☞ **Every instruction that He give to us**, “Turn Here”, Go “Go There”, “Stop here”, we can hear his voice and we follow His every instruction.

As John finishes 2 and 3rd John this morning, he is going to bring to us some final instructions from Jesus and how we are to Walk in our New Life with Jesus, which way to turn, where to stop, what to watch out for...**Can you hear your masters voice?**

## **2 John**

1 The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly that **I have found some of your children walking in truth**, as we received commandment from the Father.

**Now, there is a lot of discussion about who this “Elect Lady” is here in verse 1.**

- ☞ **The Greek word used here** for “Woman” is “**Electa**”. And could be referring to an actual lady in the church.
- ☞ **It could also be** a reference to the church itself that John is writing this letter to. The church is referred to by Jesus as being “*His Bride*”.

Either way, it doesn’t really matter much, because the bottom line is that this letter is written to those who “*Love Jesus*” **and** “*Love each other*”.

- ☞ **John says** in verse 4 that he is “*Rejoicing greatly that he has found SOME of your children walking in truth*”.
- ☞ **You see**, sadly, **not everyone who initially claims to believe upon Jesus and his Death on the Cross, will continue to follow Him all the days of their life.**

More is required than to just make some kind of a verbal “I believe” statement.

## **Matthew 7:21**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

The act of hearing what Jesus has done for you on the Cross, then believing it and confessing that you believe it is all that the Lord requires to save you and forgive all of your sins, and give you eternal life.

- ☞ **But lets examine** the things that we say or claim to believe.
- ☞ **Anything that we claim** we believe, will be somehow expressed in our life.

## **Luke 6:45**

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks

If you have confessed with your mouth that “*Jesus is Lord*” of your life, and believed in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. This is what Gods Word says...

### **Romans 10:9**

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

**But Jesus said that** “A good man, one who has truly given their life to Jesus and made Him Lord over their life, will bring forth good...”

“We have to move from just speaking about Jesus, to **letting Him speak from within me**. From just thinking about Jesus, to **Letting Him Think within me**. From acting on behalf of Jesus, to **allowing Him to act through me**...To see everything from Jesus point of view as I look through His eyes...” (Adapted from Henri J. Nouwen, Finding our sacred Center)

1. **Give your life to Jesus**, believe that He died for you, accept His forgiveness.
2. **Make Him Lord** of every part of your life.
3. **Allow Jesus to express** who He truly is, through your life, what you say, what you do, where you go.

Now, there are many of us here this morning that Jesus is our Savior. But I have a question for myself and for you: “**Is Jesus my LORD?**”

- ⊖ **The word** “*Lord*”, comes from the Greek word “*Kurios*”.
- ⊖ **It means** “*Master*”.
- ⊖ **It can only properly be used** by someone who has MADE THEMSELVES a Slave of another.

**In the New Testament, the term “*Servant*”, comes from the Greek Word “*Doulos*”, “**A Bondservant.**”**

- ⊖ **This is a person** who has made themselves a WILLING SERVANT OF SOMEONE.
- ⊖ **The whole idea** of a “*Doulos*”, came from Exodus chapter 21

### **Exodus 21:2-6**

2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing

5 But if the servant plainly says, “**I love my master**, my wife, and my children; **I will not go out free,**”

6 then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also **bring him to the door**, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce his ear with an awl**; and he shall **serve him forever**

“*I love my master, therefore I shall serve Him forever...*”

- ⊖ **You see**, when you claim to have made Jesus “**Lord of your life**”, then you should have **considered what this term means**.

- ☞ **You are** the SERVANT of Jesus.
- ☞ **If you don't want** to be Jesus servant, hey that's cool, it is up to you, go on and do your own thing, **but don't ever again say**, "*Jesus is Lord of my life*".

**But if you have seen Jesus there hanging on the Cross.**

- ☞ **You have seen how greatly He suffered** there on that Cross and understood that He was doing that for you.
- ☞ **If you have just fallen in Love with Jesus** and cannot resist His great Love for you.
- ☞ **If you have accepted** Both His Salvation and His Lordship of your life, then START ALLOWING HIM TO BE LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

The relationship between Jesus as "*Kurios*", Lord, and you as Servant "*Doulos*", is really a very beautiful relationship.

- ☞ **Remember, Exodus 21 says** that the servant "*Loved His Master*" so much that he didn't ever want to be out of his sight.
- ☞ **So, the whole relationship** is based **on a deep sense of abiding and constant love**, the Servant for the Master, and The Master for the Servant.

But, it is also based on the fact that the Servant is totally submitted to the will of the Master. IT DOESN'T WORK UNLESS THE SERVANT IS TOTALLY SURRENDERED TO THE MASTER!

### **Luke 6:46**

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

- ☞ **Remember Peter?** He called Jesus "*Lord*",

### **Matthew 16:13**

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

### **Matthew 16:15**

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

### **Matthew 16:16**

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

### **Matthew 16:21-23**

21 From that time **Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem**, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed**, and be raised the third day.

22 Then **Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"**

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

*“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God...”*

- ⊕ **Then just a few minutes later** when Jesus, this Master that Peter swore to follow completely, said to Jesus after Jesus told Peter that he was *“Going to Jerusalem when He would be Crucified...”*

**Peter said:** *“NO way Lord!”*

- ⊕ **The terms** *“Lord”*, and *“NO”* do not belong together.
- ⊕ **“No Lord”**, it is a contradiction of terms.
- ⊕ **Lord means** that you are totally submitted to the will of your master, **you do not have a will of your own.**
- ⊕ **If Jesus is Lord**, then our response to Him is ALWAYS **“Yes Lord”**.

**Now, lest you be totally discouraged this morning because you are thinking,** *“Well I say No to Jesus all of the time, I must be one of His unprofitable servants...”*

- ⊕ **Remember that Jesus was very patient** with Peter, the guy with a foot shaped mouth.
- ⊕ **Remember that Jesus didn’t cast Peter aside** because he hadn’t yet learned that **Lord** means *“Yes Lord, whatever you want for me to do, I will do...”*
- ⊕ **Jesus continued to teach Peter**, and **Jesus told Peter:**

### **Luke 22:31-32**

31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, **Satan has asked for you**, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; **and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.**

Satan has asked for all of you. **He may be allowed, on a limited basis, to sift you also.** How? Through some of the trial and failures that you have been going through.

- ⊕ **Some of you** have said to Jesus *“You are my Lord”*, then gone out and failed Him miserably.
- ⊕ **I know** I have.
- ⊕ **But notice** what Jesus said to Peter:

*“And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brethren...”*

- ⊕ **Right after Jesus told Peter this**, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, and then crucified.
- ⊕ **When a young woman** asked Peter if he was one of Jesus followers, in other words: *“Is Jesus your Lord Peter?”*
- ⊕ **Peter denied three separate times**, that he even knew Jesus.
- ⊕ **The last time Peter used profanity** to swear he didn’t know Jesus, just so they would believe Peter could not have been with someone like Jesus.

**A Little girl got this great big strong, loud fisherman to collapse..."No I don't know him".**

- ☞ **Hey Peter**, You said you were ready to die for Jesus, what happened?

See, you and I are going to fail to always keep Jesus as Lord of our lives.

- ☞ **But does that mean** that we will not continue to come back and Make Jesus Lord again after we have failed?
- ☞ **Will we not come back** to our brothers and sisters and share with them what we learned in our failures and that it is not going to stop us from following Jesus?
- ☞ **I think not!**

### **Luke 22**

32 But I have prayed for you Peter, **that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren**

**So, 2 and 3rd John are about this very thing: "To continue to walk in the truth of who Jesus is", and that He is your Lord and you are going to follow Him, even when you fail over and over.**

- ☞ **You are going to get right back up**, repent and turn from that sin, confess it to the Lord, vow to never do it again, and then come and follow Jesus again.
- ☞ **And remember** that Jesus said to come an "*Strengthen Your Brothers and Sisters*".
- ☞ **Take what you learned**, and use it to encourage someone else here that is also struggling with similar trials.

And Don't let other people, Churches, religious organizations, human philosophy or the world sway you from your simple trust in the Cross of Jesus and what He did for you...

- ☞ **Paul taught the believers** in the church of **Galatia** the simple truth about Jesus, but then they had some guy come into the church and begin to tell them all that needed to do other things "*In addition to following Jesus*", if they really wanted to be saved...
- ☞ **Check out** what Paul told them:

### **Galatians 1:6**

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

**The Religious cults prey on baby Christians, not the lost.**

- ☞ **Watch out for anyone** that tries to take you away from **your simple trust** in Jesus Cross and what He has done for you.
- ☞ **They will try to add things to the Cross**, and also take things away from who Jesus is.
- ☞ **If you hear them say**, "*You also need to be doing this...*" **watch out, get out!**

- ☞ **If they tell you** that Jesus is a great man, a great teacher, but that He is not THE God, creator of all, and is Himself not Created, get away from them as fast as possible.

## 2 John

5 And now I plead with you, lady, **not as though I wrote a new commandment** to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

### John 14:15

Jesus said” “If you love Me keep my commandments”.

If you are in Love with Jesus, you will WANT TO keep His commandments

### 1 John 2:24

Therefore **let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning**. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father

### Matthew 22:35-40

35 Then one of them, **a lawyer, asked Him a question**, testing Him, and saying,

36 “Teacher, **which is the great commandment** in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**’

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’

40 On these two commandments hang **all** the Law and the Prophets.”

Just Loving Jesus with every fiber of your being, and loving the people who love Jesus too, is your greatest and highest goal.

- ☞ **Everything else** is incidental and secondary to these 2.
- ☞ **Work on** these 2 first and always.

## 2 John

6 **This is love, that we walk according to His commandments**. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

7 For **many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

In the Book of 1 John we learned that we are to “**Test the Spirits**”.

### 1 John 4:1-2

1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,**

Right after Jesus had been Crucified and ascended back to heaven, already, false teachers came in and began to teach that Jesus was just “**Spirit**”, not really a flesh and blood man.

### **Luke 24:36-42**

36 Now as they said these things, **Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them**, and said to them, “Peace to you.”

37 But they were terrified and frightened, and **supposed they had seen a spirit**.

38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

**39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.**”

40 When He had said this, **He showed them His hands and His feet**.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “**Have you any food** here?”

42 So **they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb**

This is important because if Jesus did not come as a man, but was just a spirit, then he would not have the right to intercede as our sacrifice.

- ☞ **This was the entire purpose** of Jesus becoming a man, was that He had to be made “*Like us*”, in order to qualify to die “*For us*”.

### **Hebrews 2:18**

For in that Jesus Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

### **Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin

**Jesus is quite unique from every other so called religious leader.**

- ☞ Became one of us.
- ☞ Was tempted the way we are tempted.
- ☞ Died for our wrong.
- ☞ Lives in us.
- ☞ Claimed to be God.

### **2 John**

8 **Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for**, but that we may receive **a full reward**.

9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides **in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son**.

### **Rewards**

#### **Colossians 3:24**

knowing that **from the Lord you will receive the reward** of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ

### **2 Corinthians 5:10**

For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

### **Corinthians 3:9-14**

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation**, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now **if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,**

**13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare** it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, **he will receive a reward.**

**Jesus is God, The Father is God, The Holy Spirit is God, these Three are One God.**

### **John 5:17-18**

17 But Jesus answered them, "**My Father** has been working until now, and **I** have been working."

18 Therefore **the Jews sought all the more to kill Him**, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but **also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God**

**Jesus is God, because He has all the power and Attributes of God:**

### **John 5:21-24**

21 For **as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.**

22 For **the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,**

23 that **all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,** and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

### **2 John**

10 If anyone comes to you and **does not bring this doctrine**, (That Jesus is The God, and Only He gives Salvation) **do not receive him into your house** nor greet him;

Any person that denies that Jesus is THE God, not A God, or denies that Jesus is God the creator if all, and only Jesus gives Salvation...and is not a created being, don't' even let them into your house.

☞ **The ones that deny that Jesus is God** or change Jesus from what the Bible says that He is, **usually come to your door on Saturdays.**

☞ **John says, don't even invite them into your home.**

☞ **Because they make Jesus less** than what the Bible says that He is.

## **2 John**

11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

If you invite them into your house, it is like participating with them in the false teaching that he is putting out.

## **2 John**

12 Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

Then, in 3rd John, he mentions many of the people who helped Him and were examples of the kinds of things that John had been teaching us in 1 and 2 John.

## **3 John**

1 The Elder, To the beloved **Gaius**, whom I love in truth:

**Gaius is one of two people that Paul Baptized.**

## **1 Corinthians 1:14-17**

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel...

☞ **That is why it is totally wrong** to tell someone that unless they are Baptized, they aren't saved.

☞ **Baptism doesn't save** anyone, Jesus Saved.

☞ **If Baptism was required for salvation**, Paul didn't know it, because he says: "Jesus didn't send me to baptize, He sent me to tell them that Jesus is the Way..."

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

There are some churches that have began to teach that this is "**A Promise of God**", that all Christians should be healthy and prosper".

☞ **This isn't a promise of God**, it is a greeting to Gaius.

☞ **It is totally wrong** to teach that unless you are healthy and prospering you must not have much faith, or that something is wrong with you as a believer.

☞ **Most of the believers** in the early church were poor, destitute, many millions were killed for just believing in Jesus...

3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

**This guy Gaius was still walking in the simple truth that Jesus saves and nothing else and he did not allow anyone to come later and sway him from this simple truth.**

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

This verse is the greatest honor that anyone who teaches the Word of God, can ever have. That the people you teach, continue in that word themselves, and that they also faithfully take that same word and teach other men.

### **2 Timothy 2:2**

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,  
6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,  
7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.  
8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

**One of the marks of the early church and the mark that we have set for ourselves here at Calvary Chapel. Is what John is speaking of here in verses 5-8:**

- ☞ **A tremendous amount of encouragement** that we feel when we all get together for fellowship.
- ☞ **I had one of the guys** from the church here tell me last week that what he really likes about coming here is our "Great Parties".
- ☞ **Well, I know what he means**, the Friday night Café, all the other times we have food and music and fun together, it is a party, a party of fellowship in encouraging and loving each other because of what Jesus has done for us.

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

Jesus gave to the 12 men that saw Him alive, heard his words, then saw Him die on the Cross and then raised to life, the unique title of "Apostle", no others have ever been given this distinction.

- ☞ **They were the ones that wrote** these little letters to the first church that were the "Word of God"
- ☞ **Unfortunately**, some guys like this "***Diotrephes***", rebelled against John's authority.
- ☞ **There are people today** that rebel against men who the Lord has raised up to oversee Jesus church.
- ☞ **Men who serve the Body** as Pastors, who Teach the Word, Minister and encourage people, but there are some won't submit to their authority.
- ☞ **So John says here:**

10 Therefore, **if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does**, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

11 Beloved, **do not imitate what is evil, but what is good**. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

There are always people who want to advance themselves by speaking against those who are serving the Lord.

- ☞ **They become** critical of them.
- ☞ **They create splits** in the Body of Christ.
- ☞ **They cause confusion**, hurt feelings, and cause some to fall away.

### **Psalms 105:15**

Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.

**Now, for me, this is a very uncomfortable principle.**

- ☞ **I have never felt like I am anything special**, that people should look at me like I am something.
- ☞ **All I want to do is love you guys**, share Gods Word with you, encourage you and help you to fulfill the ministry that the Lord has for you.

**But from Gods viewpoint, when we speak against any minister of His, anyone who us teaching people Gods Word or Serving, the Lord takes that very personal, he really hates it.**

- ☞ **To Him**, because He is the one that puts us in places of teaching and service, it is as if we are criticizing Him, when we criticize someone who us serving Him.

In the Book of Numbers chapter 16, a guy by the name of Korah gathered some men together and began to criticize Moses and wanted to know why He was called to speak and teach the people and not they...

### **Numbers 16:28-32**

28 And Moses said: "**By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will.**

31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that **the ground split apart under them,**

32 and **the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up,** with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

So, I want to be very careful to not get into a mode of criticizing some other pastor or teacher of the Word of God, because then I become like Korah, I offend the Lord...and He sees them as His Anointed ones...

**12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all**, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;

14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

**Oh man, that someday we might have this written about us, that** *“We have a good testimony from all...”*

- ⊕ **Not that we never failed**, we failed many times.
- ⊕ **But that we came back**, repented of what we did, and continued to follow and submit our lives to Jesus and follow Him till He come for us.
- ⊕ **And that we continued** to come here every week, whenever these doors are opened, so we could receive the Word from God, and then take it out of here and gave it to the people here in Winslow who need it.

### **Matthew 25:21**

His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord