



No Greater Joy
2 John and 3 John

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Melbourne Community Church
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“Walking in the truth” =

- ❖ **Faith in Jesus**
- ❖ **Love**
- ❖ **Defending the church**

Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it through in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.

A pair of glasses with a textured, brownish frame and clear lenses is positioned in the upper half of the image. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper. The text "John's life:" is written in a white, serif font with a black outline, centered over the glasses. A thin red horizontal line is drawn below the title.

John's life:

- ❖ Son of Zebedee, brother of James
- ❖ Called by Jesus "Son of Thunder"
- ❖ Inner circle — Peter, James and John
- ❖ Close to Jesus at the Last Supper
- ❖ With Peter at the empty tomb



The Letters of John

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

John's NT writings:

- ❖ Gospel of John
- ❖ 1, 2 and 3 John
- ❖ Revelation

1 John 1

- ❖ We apostles proclaim what we have witnessed.
- ❖ Light vs. darkness
- ❖ Love vs. hate

1 John 2

- ❖ Because you know Jesus ...
 - ❖ Your sins have been forgiven.
 - ❖ You have overcome the evil one.
 - ❖ Eternal life is your reward.
- ❖ There is a cosmic rivalry ...
 - ❖ Between the world and the kingdom of God.
 - ❖ Between lies and truth.

1 John 3

- ❖ If we are abiding in Jesus ...
 - ❖ We will do right.
 - ❖ We will love others.
- ❖ If we are abiding in Jesus ...
 - ❖ We can be confident about his return.
 - ❖ We can be confident in prayer.

1 John 4

- ❖ God defines love.
- ❖ God's love was shown at the cross of Christ.
- ❖ We are called to generous, sacrificial, compassionate love, like God's love.

1 John 5

- ❖ The one and only Son of God came in the flesh to save us.
- ❖ We are saved by faith in Jesus the Christ.
- ❖ Love and obedience are evidence of our faith.
- ❖ We can be confident in prayer and about eternity.



John's fundamentals:

- ❖ Faith
- ❖ Love
- ❖ Obedience

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

2 John 1-2

The elder,

To the lady chosen by God and to her children,
whom I love in the truth — and not I only,
but also all who know the truth — because
of the truth, which lives in us
and will be with us forever:

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 18:37

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”



Truth =

- ❖ Wisdom from the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Ethical standards from God's word
- ❖ Reflection of God's character
- ❖ Gospel of Jesus Christ

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

2 John 3

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
will be with us in truth and love.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

As for other matters, brothers and sisters,
we instructed you how to live in order to
please God, as in fact you are living.
Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord
Jesus to do this more and more.

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1 Thessalonians 4:10

And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,

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2 John 4

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

2 John 5-6

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.

As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

2 John 7

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

2 John 8

Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

Reward

- ❖ Matthew 5:12
- ❖ Matthew 10:41
- ❖ Matthew 10:42
- ❖ Mark 9:41
- ❖ Luke 6:23
- ❖ Luke 6:35
- ❖ John 4:36
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:8
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:14
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 9:17-18
- ❖ Revelation 11:18
- ❖ Revelation 22:12

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Matthew 10:42

[Jesus]: “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

1 Corinthians 3:8

The one who plants and the one who waters
have one purpose, and they will each be
rewarded according to their own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:14

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

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Revelation 22:12

[Jesus]: “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

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2 John 9

**Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue
in the teaching of Christ does not have God;
whoever continues in the teaching has
both the Father and the Son.**

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David K. Rensberger:

“How can our religion manage to preserve the freshness and distinctiveness of its beliefs and way of life, without either falling apart into fads and meaningless innovations or falling back into cultural traditionalism and falling down into a close-minded and narrow dogmatism?”

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2 John 10-11

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

2 John 12-13

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface that looks like sand or fine gravel. The glasses are positioned horizontally across the upper half of the image. The text is overlaid on the image.

3 John 1-2

The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

3 John 3-4

It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

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3 John 5-6

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

3 John 7

It was for the sake of the Name that they
went out, receiving no help
from the pagans.

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3 John 8

**We ought therefore to show hospitality
to such people so that we may work
together for the truth.**

Paul's "coworkers in the truth"

- ❖ Priscila and Aquila
- ❖ Urbanus
- ❖ Timothy
- ❖ Apollos
- ❖ The Corinthians
- ❖ Titus
- ❖ Epaphroditus
- ❖ Clement, et al
- ❖ Aristarchus,
Mark and Justus
- ❖ Timothy
- ❖ Philemon

Paul's "coworkers in the truth"

- ❖ Mark, Aristarchus,
Demas and Luke

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

3 John 9

I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes,
who loves to be first, will not welcome us.

Matthew 20:20-21

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

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Matthew 20:22

“You don’t know what you are asking,”
Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup
I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.

Matthew 20:23

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Matthew 20:24-25

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.”

Matthew 20:26-28

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3 John 10

So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

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3 John 11

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

3 John 12

Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone —
and even by the truth itself. We also speak
well of him, and you know that our
testimony is true.

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3 John 13-14

I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

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Questions for leaders:

- ❖ Do I promote community or hinder it?
- ❖ Do I equate leadership with control?
- ❖ Am I exclusive about who has access to me?
- ❖ Is my ego wrapped up in every meeting, activity and issue?
- ❖ Do I have to be right?
- ❖ Do I avoid those who disagree with me?

“Walking in the truth” =

- ❖ Faith in Jesus
- ❖ Love
- ❖ Defending the church



James Skyring
You love Sunday
and your bodies hung in

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Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Reward

- ❖ Matthew 26:28
- ❖ Acts 20:28
- ❖ Romans 3:25; 5:9
- ❖ Ephesians 1:7
- ❖ Colossians 1:20
- ❖ Hebrews 9:12; 13:12