

For the Love of God

Outline by Rev. Alec Alvord – Annual Meeting - September 12, 2010

Introduction

The Johannine Corpus

John Wesley's opinion of 1 John (For the Love of God, pp. 11-12)

Katherine Hankey, 1866

"Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

1. Walking in God's Light, Chapters 1&2; 1 John 1:1-2:2

What do you believe about Christ?

"In the Beginning" Prologue of Gospel & 1 John 1:1-4 (Phillips)

Our joy is complete

The message—1 John 1:5-2:2 (Phillips)

"God is light & in him there is no darkness"

Two choices—LIGHT or darkness

Six sentences beginning with "IF" (1 John 1:5-2:2 [Phillips])

"We Are Called" (TFWS #2172)

2. Practicing God's Truth with Love, Chapters 3,4,5a&6; 1 John 2:3-3:10; 4:1-6

How do you respond to the commandments of Christ?

"Know" God — Gnosticism

Three sentences beginning with "WHOEVER" — Obedience to God

The end has begun — Antichrists — Denial of Jesus as Christ

Do not practice love for others

Those born of God do not sin — Sanctification

Test the spirits — Abide in the love of God

"Fill My Cup, Lord" (Hymn #641)(Sing twice)

3. Living in God's Love, Chapters 5b&7; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21

How do you practice loving other Christians?

"Love" and derivatives — 52 times in 1 John, 10 in 2 & 3 John, 55 in gospel

Love mark of those who have passed "from death to life"

Polarity between "love" and "hatred"

Believing and *Loving* belong together — Ubuntu

GOD IS LOVE! — Abide in God's love!!!

John Wesley, "Perfected in love" — Love fulfilled in community

"We love because he (God) first loved us"

"Abide with Me" (Hymn #700)

4. Embracing the Beloved Community, Chapters 8,9&10; 1 John 5; 2 & 3 John

How do you embrace the stranger as Christ has embraced you?

2 John: Letter of "elder" to "elect lady" — Truth & Love

3 John: Letter of "elder" to Gaius — Diotrophes & Demetrius

1 John 5: Summary — Jesus the Christ, born of God, love & obedience

Water, blood and Spirit — Three things we know

"GOD IS LOVE...we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:16,19)

"I Love to Tell the Story" (Hymn #156)

Tell Me the Old, Old Story

Tell me the old, old story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child;
for I am weak and weary,
and helpless and defiled.

*Refrain: Tell me the old, old story,
tell me the old, old story,
tell me the old, old story,
of Jesus and his love.*

Tell me the story softly,
with earnest tones and grave;
remember, I'm the sinner
whom Jesus came to save.
Tell me the story always,
if you would really be,
in any time of trouble, a comforter to me.

Refrain: Tell me the old, old story...

Tell me the same old story
when you have cause to fear
that this world's empty glory
is costing me too dear.
Yes, and, when that world's glory
shall dawn upon my soul,
tell me the old, old story—
Christ Jesus makes you whole!

Refrain: Tell me the old, old story...

We Are Called (TFWS #2172)

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God!*

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Refrain: We are called...

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain: We are called...

Fill My Cup, Lord(Hymn #641)(Sing twice)

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

Abide with Me (Hymn #700)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour.
What but your grace
can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like yourself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
Lord, abide with me.

Hold, hold your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

I Love to Tell the Story (Hymn #156)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*Refrain: I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason I tell it now to you.

Refrain: I love to tell the story...

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.

Refrain: I love to tell the story...