

Hello Gobin Family!

I pray you are enjoying all this Christmas feast has to offer.

As we step into the third day of the Feast of Christmas (see previous day for background) today we arrive at the Feast of John the Apostle.

My goodness, where would we be without the Johannine writings? So many incredible stories are given to us from this community. But, I would suggest the culmination of these beautiful writings must be John's insistence that the substance of God's nature is only Love.

John's writings consistently returns here, to Love.

John's entire Gospel casts the Kingdom of God as a Wedding, and not just a Wedding, but a Wedding FEAST! There is wine, music, dancing, and diversity; John LOVES diversity. John consistently breaks the rules of how things are supposed to work...and always on behalf of Love!

I have always enjoyed being in nature. Over the last several years one of my favorite things to do is to go hiking. A few years ago Tosh and I had the wonderful opportunity to hike in Rocky Mountain National Park. I was completely taken by the topography of this gorgeous terrain. As we stood atop Pikes Peak I noticed that the valleys are what made the mountain tops so special!

Much like the Rockies, the topography of the biblical witness is full of peaks and valleys, mountains and plains. The Bible is not flat terrain. The honest reader of the Bible readily admits that the Levitical prohibition against eating shellfish does not reach the same heights as the lofty Christology in Colossians. As we look at the great peaks of inspired biblical witness, none soar higher than the twin peaks of divine revelation given to us by the Apostle John in his wonderful Epistle-

"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ... We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." (1 John 4:8, 16)

Soaring above everything else the Bible has to say about God are these twin peaks found in John's first epistle: God is love. God is love. We are invited to live in this perfect Love.

Unfortunately, many people think, "If I read the Bible, I know God; or if I go to church, I know God; or if I obey the commandments, I know God."

Yet John says it's simply about Loving. We might expect Jesus to say, "There is no greater love than to love God." But He says, "There is no greater love than to lay down your life for one another."

The beginning and end of everything is Love. Only inside of the mystery of Love—mutual, self-emptying, and infilling—can we know God. This removes any qualifications we might have from the equation. It is ALL a GIFT! The Love of God is what unites us all, and what Jesus came to show us.

December 27, 2020

The Feast of John the Apostle

Using John's imagery, there is a Wedding banquet with a table made for all. We are invited into communion, into fellowship, into union with one another, where all that holds us is Love. Amen

Grace and Peace,
Joel Everson