**November 13, 2022**

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**Love Thy Neighbor**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

1 John 2:7-14

**Introduction**

Jesus foretold of the false prophets that would be coming in the future and the division that they would cause in Matthew 24.

**9**“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10**At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11**and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12**Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13**but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:9-14)

Jesus was put to death on the cross in about 30 AD. 2 John was written about 85-90 AD when John was 80-85 years old. At the time of the writing, there were many false prophets and teachings, such as the Gnostics, that were straying from the true gospel. John saw the effects about which Jesus had warned and the purpose of his letter was to re-align the Christians’ faith and encourage them.

1. **The truth doesn’t change. (1 John 2:7-8)**

Companion Scripture: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.” (Hebrews 13:8-9)

1. **Love thy neighbor. (1 John 2:9-11)**

Companion Scripture: “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:18)

1. **Encouragement from an elder. (1 John 2:12-14)**

Companion Scripture: “I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for solid food. In fact, you are still not ready.” (1 Corinthians 3:2)

**Conclusion**

In the late first century, just as today, there were many false prophets and false teachings. Some of the false prophets are misguided but others have ulterior motives. 1 John instructs us on how to deal with this and the verses we studied today point out how important it is to love our Christian brothers and sisters. But the lessons in 1 John cannot remain “head knowledge.” How are we going to apply this and use our knowledge to reach our goal of 100,000 tables?

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1. Discuss the illustration of Jacob DeShazer and Mitsuo Fuchida. How would their individual and personal lives have been different had they not accepted the prompting of the Holy Spirit to love their neighbors? How would the Kingdom of God have been different? (5 minutes)
2. Read 1 John 2:7-14 and share how you think your life will be different if you live according to this teaching? How will the Kingdom of God be different? (30 minutes)
3. Pray with and for each other. (10 minutes)