

Grow Deeper in Christ

Bible Study Series in 1st John

Aug – Oct 2018 (all evenings except Aug. 5th)

As the aged Apostle John writes his 1st letter to churches in the late 1st Century, his home church of Ephesus is facing huge challenges, rocked by internal division and being lead astray by teachers of various doctrinal heresies which at their core were denying the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rather than spend time outlining what these destructive heresies were, John from the pastor's heart focused on matters that would encourage and stimulate spiritual vitality and health that was based on truth, obedience and love or put another way, right doctrine, right living and right relationships. His purpose was to strengthen and assure new believers and so he writes from the personal experience he had of walking and talking with Jesus, the themes he brings were at the heart of Jesus good news and so should be at the heart of all Christian's today.

5 th Aug (morning service)	Grow Deeper in Christ John's Gospel may be familiar to some of us but what was going on in the church at Ephesus when John wrote his first letter round about the end of the 1 st Century? Perhaps there are warnings that we need to note as a church in the 21 st Century. Our first study is an overview and introduction to the letter. 1 john 2 v 24-25	David Knowles
12 th Aug	Deep Joy There are many things in life that have the potential to bring happiness, many things which fail to live up to their potential. Knowing Christ is what will bring real lasting deeply satisfying joy. 1 John 1 v 1-4	Ken Douglas
19 th Aug	Deep Walk We often say that a real Christian is someone who has accepted Christ as their saviour. However living for Jesus today requires more than a one of incident. In his letter John proposes three tests that reveal whether we are truly walking and living for Jesus today. What we believe, how we live and what we love. 1 John 1 v 5-7; 2 v 3-6; 3 v 7-10	Adrian Armstrong

26 th Aug	<p>Deep Clean</p> <p>You don't hear the word sin much these days. A few years ago a leading dictionary actually removed the word <i>sin</i> from its contents saying it had fallen into disuse and was no longer relevant to younger generations.</p> <p>We want to live deeper in Christ, but sometimes we slip backward, we sin. What does that say about us as Christians and what do we do about it?</p> <p>1 John 1 v 8 – 2 v2</p>	<p>Jim Leavenworth</p>
9 th Sept	<p>Going Deeper reflections</p> <p>During Sept 2017 to June 2018, a group of Bellevue members set about trying to study in greater depth what John was writing about. Studying God's Word is always exciting and always challenging.</p>	<p>Going Deeper Group</p>
16 th Sept	<p>Deep Desire</p> <p>There is a lot in our world that brings pleasure and enjoyment and yet much also that is potentially very damaging to the Christian. John issues a very strong warning "Do not love the world or anything in the world" indeed it's almost a command.</p> <p>1 John 2 v 12-17</p>	<p>John Hannah</p>
23 rd Sept	<p>Deep Truth</p> <p>John was writing his letter into a situation where people said they followed God but didn't believe in Jesus. In today's world where so many people have such different views, how can it be possible for one view to be true and all the rest false? Can we believe in God and not Jesus, and does what we believe about Jesus make that much of a difference?</p> <p>1 John 2 v 22; 4 v1-3; 4 v 9-10</p>	<p>Christiaan Hofstra</p>
30 th Sept	<p>Deep Hope</p> <p>We should never stop longing to be more like Christ in all aspects of our behaviour. How does that happen? Last week we considered the doctrinal test of our faith and discovered deep truth that Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man and is the only way to eternal life. This week we return to the ethical</p>	<p>Graeme Shanks</p>

	<p>dimension of our faith and discover deep hope in Christ's return</p> <p>1 John 2 v 28 – 3 v2</p>	
14 th Oct	<p>Deep Love</p> <p>It was John who quoted Jesus as saying "By this will all people know you are my disciples that you love one another". It's John who's been described as the Apostle of Love, his message frequently to the church in Ephesus was "Dear Children let us love one another". Surely this relational test who and how we love is crucial.</p> <p>1 John 2 v 9-11; 3 v 16-18; 4 v 7-21</p>	<p>Scott Hamilton</p>
21 st Oct	<p>Deep Certainty</p> <p>John's letter has spoken quite powerfully to our lives, reminding us of great truths about Jesus, instructing us in how to live and how to love. John recognises however that life can have many worries and Christians are not free from anxieties about the future. The false teachers were also bringing great doubts into people's minds about who Jesus was. John's closing words offer us great certainty.</p> <p>1 John 5 v 11-20</p>	<p>Paul Friend</p>