

2 John, Admiral, June, 1965

I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have no love, it profiteth me nothing." I am sure that you are all familiar with this chapter. I just read the last verse again, verse 13, "Now remains faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Now, when Paul wrote such a chapter as this, it is strange indeed that the title the apostle of love should be given to John rather to Paul. I wonder why. I wonder if perhaps it is because people are so aware of Paul's striking out against false doctrines, of Paul's pointing out the errors in the church and showing the need of correction, of the strong emphases Paul put on these matters that people rather overlook his great emphasis on Christian love. ~~John~~-In John it is true we have wonderful statements about love. Look right back to the first epistle of John. I John 4:7-10: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love God toward us, because that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." Yes, John deserved the title of the Apostle of Love, but no more than Paul does. In fact, true love is to a very large extent a product of Christianity. You take other religions, and you have not accepted their influences by Christianity, you have not to any great extent found them ~~ex~~ establishing hospitals, found them looking out ~~the--~~ <sup>has</sup> for the poor and suffering. In fact, under many other religions it ~~is~~ even been customary to kill the weak children to ~~expose-~~ dispose of those who were in \_\_\_\_\_ of at all. The idea of respect for ~~personality~~ and interest and the wellbeing of everyone is something that has come into the world largely through Christianity, and Christian love is greatly stressed in the Bible. How important it is to have this Christian love. How important also that we realize the source of it, that the source of it comes from the teachings of the Bible. Notice particularly the