BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York www.bfcgi.org 716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

May 21, 2017 8:30 & 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann

Piano Wendy Baldwin

Prayer and Scripture Reading Psalm 119:105-112 Ron Mock

Hymn 170 "Give Thanks"

Pastoral Prayer

Hymns 76, 78, 79 "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know"

Message Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel

Philippians 1:22-30 Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 681 "In His Time"

Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday at 6:30pm

No Tuesday Bible study at 7pm

Wednesday Men's Bible study – Jim O'Rourke teaching

No Choir Rehearsal Wednesday at 7pm

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. – The book of "Romans"- Margaret Was

Ladies fellowship Thursday at 10am – Elsa Peters

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching

Men's breakfast Saturday at 10am.

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

Anyone interested in joining the choir please see Dawn Fraser

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

"The Believer Exhorted"

II John 5 *And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another*.

John gently moves in the direction of the problem that calls forth this letter, which involves an indiscriminate exercise of love. John does not want to deprecate the concept of love, but he exhorts her to a general love of fellow Christians. He does not command her to do so, which he could have as an Apostle and the Elder. Instead he gives a request, and the Greek term that he uses is considered as a plea made to an equal. John, the apostle, places this Christian woman on an equal plane with himself. Just reading this in English, we miss some of the dynamics of what is going on here.

If you do a study of the word "lady" you will find that John is employing a term of great respect. The word appears in the Old Testament in Isaiah 47:5, 6; and in Judges 5:29 and Esther 1:18. In Esther, "ladies" has the significance of "princesses." The word John uses for "lady" is *kuria*, a title that is so lofty that it was rarely used even of queens. One of the first words you learn in New Testament Greek is *kurios*, the masculine form of "lord" which is often placed in Scripture as "Jesus Christ our Lord." In Medieval English and still in England today we have "lords and ladies," which are terms of respect that denote position. In modern American English, we use the term "lady" as almost a derogatory term, (like "Hey, lady, move your car now"). A first reading of the passage might give us the thought that John is being disrespectful of the lady in this verse, which would be the opposite of the actual intent. The value of the word "lady" is captured by the Roman Catholics who often refer to the Virgin Mary as "Our Lady," a term that would be considered the highest praise and reserved for one that they would find an equality with Christ. People wonder why John does not name the "elect lady" which perhaps was to not endanger her or her family from potential persecution.

In this fifth verse, we find that the author's plea is not a new commandment, but it is one which they had possessed from the beginning of their Christian experience. Here, as in the parallel passage of I John 2:7, stress is placed on the continued possession of the commandment from the beginning until now. Thus, the commandment is not new. The substance of this command, given also by Jesus Himself, is that we love one another, not momentarily but habitually. This verse is amazing!!!