Christian Love

Sermon on 2 John, at Christian Admiral in June, 1965

... to hight we are going to deal with only one book. As a matter of fact it is not one of the longest books in the Bible we are going to deal with tonight. It is the second epistle of John, the sixty-third book of the Bible, the second epistle of John. Now, this second epistle of John is a very intersting book. Though it is not a long book, it is one which contains a great deal of the truth, and one which I think is particularly appropriate in our present day. Let us look at the first verse of it, let us first look at the first three fourths of the first verse. "The elder unto the elect lady and her children whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they ha-thav that have known the truth;"

John is often called the apostle of love. And that is rather natural, because he puts great stress on the place of love in Christianity. And yet it is strange/ that- in a way that title should be some rally given so specifically to John rather than to Paul, because after all Paul wrote the greatest on love that ever was written, I Corinthians thirteen. What a shame it is that in our English, in our King James Version the translators were influenced by the Duay version to substitute for the word love which was in the earlier English version- translations of the Bible the word charity which is entirely different. The word charity used today does not mean it at all what Paul meant. Though I speak with/tongues of mena and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as founding brass, or a thinkling cymbal." It is not charity that he says, but it is love that is speaking here. Exactly the same word that is used elsewhere where we read God is love. It does not say God is charity. God is love. That is the word which is used in Greek. KARTOS is a Latin translation and then to translaterate it into English word charity is just confusing. But when Paul wrote that wonderful I Corinthian 13,- 13, look at the first three verses: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith. so that I could remove mountains, and have not tove, I am net nothing. And though