

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 6/15-6/16 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2 JOHN

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 ptwente@gmail.com

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE EPISTLE OF SECOND JOHN!

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend: If you have any trouble with logging in on the website – download the Zoom.us app from the internet, sign in, hit join meeting and enter the meeting number 817880051 for Monday night; 444504400 for Tuesday morning.

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051> for Monday night 7pm meeting # 817880051; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS:

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/444504400> for Tuesday morn 7am meeting # 444504400; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

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Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 301 715 8592 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US

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OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2 JOHN

Greeting the Elect Lady – vs. 1-3

Walk in Christ's Commandments – vs. 4-6 *“truth and love”* **We need to walk in truth and in love, making sure our love is governed by truth that neither are minimized by the other.**

Beware of Antichrist Deceivers – vs. 7-11

John's Farewell Greeting – vs. 12-13

IS HE WORTHY? – Chris Tomlin

Do you feel the world is broken? (**We do**) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (**We do**) But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (**We do**) Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (**We do**) Is all creation groaning? (**It is**) Is a new creation coming? (**It is**) Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (**It is**) Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (**It is**) Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? He is!

Does the Father truly love us? (**He does**) Does the Spirit move among us? (**He does**) And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (**He does**) Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (**He does**)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. From every people and tribe (**People and tribe**) Every nation and tongue (**Every nation and tongue**) He has made us a kingdom and priests to God To reign with the Son.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is, He is!
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is, He is!
He is worthy, He is worthy? He is!

Greeting the Elect Lady vs. 1-3

2Jn 1:1 *The Elder* (older age – elderly, respected in most cultures, also an office in the church), *To the elect* (a Christian) *lady* (a literal woman with children? a church-figurative language? protect identify from Rome?)

- John refers to himself as "the elder."
- Although the exact identity of the "elder" and of the "lady" is not given, possibly due to church persecution reasons. Their identity doesn't have any real bearing on the message being given.

and her children, whom I love in truth (5x in 4 verses; 46x in John's gospel and 3 epistles),

- John is going to be talking here about truth, the central message of this letter. He's going to be using this word truth several times in the first four verses. He loves (truly, much) her in the truth (in Christ). (**Joh 8:32**) *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* (**Joh 14:6**) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*
- A love that's centered on the Word of God, based on their mutual love for the Word of God and for the God of that Word. It's a Christian love that he is extending. I love you with a Christian love. (love in Christ).

and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

(**Col 1:5**) *because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

- There are a lot of people who love you out here. We appreciate your love for the Word and we want you to know it.
- Encouragement in how much they are loved, in the middle of tremendous persecution. That is important, it means a lot.

2Jn 1:2 *because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:* (**Col 3:16**) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

- This love came out of a mutual, abiding deep faith. The word of God had this deep abiding place in each of their hearts and their lives, which will be forever as it is based on His eternal Word. It will be a forever love that we have for the body of Christ.

- It's easy to love those believers who allow God's word to take a deep, abiding place, in their lives.

2Jn 1:3 *Grace (charis – unmerited, undeserved favor), mercy (not getting what is deserved), and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, (Rom 1:7) To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1Ti 1:2) To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- Now the salutation: Grace – you would say have a day that's better than you deserve! Mercy – may you not have the day, you do deserve! Peace – the great greeting of the Jews, then and now.
- Grace and mercy always comes before the peace, because it is only that I know the grace of God and the mercy of God that I will know the peace of God. When I understand He deals with me on the basis of grace and mercy, then I can have my close relationship with God! There is no peace in the relationship whenever that relationship is based on anything else. Grace and mercy, or grace before peace must always be in that order!
- Where from? It is important to note where the grace, mercy and peace come from. **It's from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!** The Father and the Son are coupled together – in a way that makes them obviously equal! Coming equally from both, in that They are equal, not just one or the other! This grace and peace come to us from the Father and the Son, fully experienced as we live a life of truth, obedience and love!
- John does not say grace and peace “may come” - with you, but in his old age, he simply pronounces it upon them, ***grace mercy and peace will be with you!*** One thing that is good about getting older is your spiritual development – your confidence in the grace and mercy of God and in the faithfulness of God grows because of His faithfulness!
- Consider what a blessing it is for an experienced Christian to influence a believer much younger in the faith, when they are experiencing great trials and difficulties in their life, and to be able to reassure them of God's never ending faithfulness – God's grace and mercy are going to see you through! We can pronounce that authoritatively!

in truth and love.

- Single great lesson of this letter: Truth and love: **We need to walk in truth and in love, making sure our love is governed by truth!** – That's the point that is being made in this whole letter!
- We are to absolutely give ourselves to both love and truth, but make sure your love is always governed by truth, otherwise it will cease to be love. That's the point he is going to drive home.

- It appears that in love some of the Christian in this church, in the name of love, were opening up their homes to those who were teaching in error, false doctrine, thus they were not worthy of the hospitality that was being extended to them.
- In doing this, the church had overemphasized love to the neglect of truth, becoming unbiblical in their application of love.
- **Genuine love will not compromise the truth! Genuine love will never go beyond the boundaries of Scripture. It will never compromise Scripture in order to express itself.**
- If it requires compromise to express this love then it is no longer Godly or a genuine love. Truth keeps our love toward others safe from just becoming this emotional, feel-good, group hug that we can end up endorsing anything and everything that's bad or looking like we're co-signing it.
- **We can also emphasize truth at the expense of love.** The result is that the truth loses its attractiveness. **It becomes harsh**, noisy like sounding brass or a clanging symbol.
- **Agape love will always do what is best for the other person**, not necessarily what's easiest or what the world would define as love.
- John is telling this church that they were majoring in love but minoring in truth a little bit too much in their decision making and it was doing some damage. They appear to be somewhat majoring in love and minoring in truth. They needed to return **to their love being directed and governed by the truth.**

Walking in Truth and Love

2Jn 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

(1Th 2:19-20) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? [20] For you are our glory and joy.

- John is saying it blessed his heart to run into some members of the family who were walking in truth.
- ***some of your children*** – possibly indicating that not all are walking in truth. One of the sad things, not only of the early church but throughout church history, is that there are so many who do not continue to walk in the truth.
- ***rejoiced greatly*** - The emphasis here is not on those who are not, but those who are walking in the truth. How greatly is the rejoicing over those who are walking rightly in truth and love!
- In ministry we need to focus on those who are doing good or we'll likely minimize the effectiveness by giving all attention to those who are not.

- John, to his dying day, was absolutely uncompromising concerning the truth. He remained a gentle and a loving man all the way to the end, not becoming bitter and angry, keeping his eyes on the good things that were happening. All that matters to John is that when he passes off the scene, there are as many Christians obeying the Word of God as there can possibly be! That's what blesses a person like John.

2Jn 1:5 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. (Joh 13:34-35) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- The commandment to love was given to the believers at the beginning of Christ's ministry.
- *(Joh 15:12, 17) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [17] These things I command you, that you love one another.*
- So the essence, is of course, loving God and loving one another. That's keeping His commandments, to love one another.
- Here he is going to talk about the love, but in verse 9, he's also going to talk about the truth that Jesus Christ is God the Son. Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh. Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah who is the Son of God.
- The second reason he brings up love here is that he wants them to understand that to quickly emphasize the importance of truth, we're not to minimize the importance of love.
- We do not want to ever emphasize one by de-emphasizing the other.
- He is laying down the importance of love. Don't misunderstand what he is going to say as minimizing love. We need to be loving and we need to love one another, governed by truth.
- But this is love. What does it look like? **This is love that we walk according to His commandments.** The commandment that you have heard from the beginning. That is the definition of what love is. **Walking in accordance and obeying the Word of God in every situation - that is the most loving thing we can do, even if makes their life miserable over the short term.** God measures love in a different kind of way.
- **Obeying His word in every situation is the most loving thing we can do toward other people.**
- **Agape love always does what's best for the other person, with eternity in mind.**

- Here is this church, in compromise, overlooking error and heresy, accepting anyone, in hopes that they will be impacted by our great love and we end up embracing every kind of thing that comes along. No, that's not what love is. **We demonstrate love by walking a life of obedience according to the word of God.**

2Jn 1:6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.

This is the commandment, that (Joh 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (1Jn 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

- John is encouraged that they are walking in the truth. He defines love, not as a sentiment or an emotion, but as obedience to God's commands, encouraging them to continue in these basic foundational truths.
- In **(Joh 14:15) If you love Me, keep My commandments. (Joh 14:21) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (Joh 15:10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (Joh 15:14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.**
- Pleading with and reminding them of our need to love one another. If we won't love one another as Christians, then who will love us? How many on the face of this planet would like to shut you up, if they could, marginalizing every single Christian until no one could hear us? There is a lot of resistance from the evil one coming against the body of Christ, powerfully every single day.
- We need to look out for each other, loving and encouraging one another. That's a responsibility that we must have for the whole body of Christ.

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers (ones who lead astray) *have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. (1Jn 4:1-2) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. [4:2] By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,*

- Like today, in the early church, there were many false prophets. Paul the apostle was constantly being hassled by people who were turning from the truth and then turning people from the truth. **(Gal 1:6) I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,**

- Now, after Paul's death, the Gnostics have come in, trying to hijack Christianity, defining it as they want. That's the way it's going to be until the Lord returns. We're going to have to navigate in this world. Not just survive, but God has **called us to be effective** for the kingdom of God in that same environment. Here we are being told how to do that.
- We are to call them deceivers, not ignoring the truth about them. There is nothing wrong in making an assessment like that. They are religious liars and **the worst liars** on the face of the earth – ones who lead people astray! They give the appearance of drawing people to God, closer to God, while the whole time they're drawing people away from God.
- Why is it loving to declare them deceivers, because the **consequences are eternal!** A spiritual lie or deception can lead to others spending eternity in hell instead of heaven. That's as serious as it gets!
- John is known as the apostle of love, but notice he has a backbone! He can't be pushed around on things. He does not lose sight of eternity! It is real. It is coming. That it is forever! It is a big, big deal to claim to represent God and then to lie about what is said!
- He calls them deceivers. You can do that in love. Today we believers may be way, way, much too tolerant of false doctrine. It's so prevalent that we may joke or laugh about it. We need to hate false doctrine!

This is a deceiver (a liar) ***and an antichrist.*** (1Jn 2:22) *Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.*

- Now, there are those deceivers, even today, that deny that Jesus is coming in the flesh. John says that this is a deceiver and an antichrist, or the Spirit of Antichrist.
- John dealt with this in his first epistle. They were saying Jesus was not all God, all man, all at the same time, not believing in His incarnation, but that he was just a phantom, a spirit, all of which was contrast to the Apostles' doctrine.
- Here is how to identify deceivers all the way into this age – what do they say about Jesus Christ? That's the big issue!
- When you get into a discussion with any cult group, it's best to go straight to **what do you believe about Jesus?** What do you have to say about Him? That's the big issue! That's the issue upon your place you choose to spend eternity!
- It's not unloving to identify them that way, deceivers and an antichrist, with a proper attitude, but to look and say, that's what they are.

2Jn 1:8 *Look to yourselves, (Mar 13:9) "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.*

- Now, there are those deceivers, even today, that deny that Jesus is coming in the flesh. There is a part of this to not be deceived by false teachers or a part for every single Christian of being able to test what is true and what is false on our own.
- We need to know, to have a working knowledge of the Bible well enough on our own, to answer questions and arguments that are raised regarding Christianity, right on the spot.

that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (Gal 3:4) Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

- We have to look out for ourselves in this. So that we don't get deceived and not lose those things that we've worked for. Not that we would lose our eternal reward, our salvation in believing something that it is false, but losing our reward, by being pulled off into some nonsense that is false. It takes us out of what God has really called us to do.
- The great reward will be for Him to look us right in the eye and say, well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord. If I cease to be faithful to what He's called me to and to the word of God, that's going to minimize my ability to hear that. I want to hear that from Him! I want the fullness of the reward. These deceivers will pull me away from being effective for God and what He has called us to.

2Jn 1:9 *Whoever transgresses (to go beyond) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. (Joh 7:16) Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. (1Jn 2:23-24) Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. [24] Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

- We are to hold on to the truth that has been received. Don't be dissuaded by the deceivers and the false prophets that will go out into the world and will preach another gospel centered around a false identity of Jesus Christ. Who is He? Is He truly God the Son? Is He truly one with the Father? This is one of the areas where, of course, you can mark the cults, their teaching in regards to the person of Jesus Christ, who He is. So be careful.
- The cults always demean the person of Jesus Christ, to put Him on a lower

level. The Jehovah Witnesses declare that He is Michael the Archangel. Or the Mormons who say that He is the brother of Lucifer, putting Him in a category of a created being.

- John is very careful here to point out when you deny the Son, in reality you deny the Father also. ***Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*** This is important. This is essential doctrine.
- It's most important for any involved in teaching, that one doesn't go beyond the revelation of the Scriptures. Don't transgress. Stay within the boundaries of Scripture, letting **the Holy Spirit come settle on and say, Amen, to the old truth of the Scriptures being taught.** (We don't need any new truth. We need new experiences in the old truth!)

2Jn 1:10 If anyone (this means anyone) comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house

- The doctrine John refers to is that Jesus is coming in the flesh and that we should worship the Father and the Son.
- ***Do not receive him into your house*** - Practically, we're taught about how the false teachers are to be handled and treated. First, related to hospitality, if anyone comes to you not bringing the proper doctrine concerning Christ, do not now receive him into your home.
- This is not saying you can't have your unsaved friends, relatives or neighbors or even a Buddhist over for dinner, but **you shall not allow a Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Muslim or any false teacher into your house to teach false doctrine – to bring that false doctrine into your house.** Make sure you have any discussions outside, not in your home. Also that any of your family members are out of ear shot of what it is that's being discussed.
- If you do talk with them, looking them straight into their eyes, summarize your position as a born again Christian, a child of God, an inheritor of His Kingdom, forever – lay out the whole gospel description, which is the best, and cannot never be topped, letting the truth of your testimony sink in. Then close with what do they have to offer that can be better than that? Wanting to say something of eternal importance to them that will stay in their heart that produces doubt related to their false beliefs. Don't let them in to teach or share their false doctrine with anyone!
- No wrong spiritual influence is to be brought into our home. No false doctrine is to be sown into the minds of any, especially children. We are not

to co-operate in anyway with the spreading of their error regarding our Lord who died on the cross for us, the way of salvation and the truth about Him.

- Don't extend support or hospitality of any kind to false teachers, thinking you are doing something loving! It is not a proper expression of love in that situation. Their love and our love need to be governed by truth!
- It is unloving to allow them into your house because: 1) It makes them think that they're okay, when, in fact what they are doing, is evil! 2) It endangers the faith of our family. 3) It confuses the unsaved that are watching these people going through the neighborhood and they see us being supportive of their teaching. Then they think what we're about and what they're about is all the same thing!

nor greet him;

2Jn 1:11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

(Rom 16:17) Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. (2Th 3:6) But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. (2Th 3:14) And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (Tit 3:10) Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

- Concerning greeting these folks, he's not saying you can't say "good morning or good afternoon" to them in the hallway or in the workplace. Agape love does not behave rudely.
- But here is what he is saying. We're never to say, "God bless you" or "God speed" to them when they leave our presence! As Christians we have the ability to pronounce blessings on peoples' lives.
- We are never to ask God to bless what they are doing, because what they are doing is evil (*evil deeds*). If they are leading people away from Christ and from the truth in Christ, then to ask God's blessing upon them, with these eternal consequences associated with the false doctrine, it's to *share* in their *evil deeds*.
- Be civil and polite toward people, but don't send them away with a "God bless you"! That should never come. You might close saying, we've talked about some very important issues with eternal consequences – I want you to think about that and about what we've looked at, assuming that a couple of points have been made with them that can really stick with them and maybe turn them a little bit.
- Be kind, but don't ever let them walk away, thinking our differences are small! Or our children, or neighbors, who if they hear a "God bless you"

may think the differences between our faith and theirs is small – that we're one and the same. That's not the loving thing to do to anyone.

- To anyone doing *evil deeds*, we don't want to comfort them in their *evil deeds*.

Final Greetings

2Jn 1:12 *Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. (3Jn 1:13-14) I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; [14] but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name. (Joh 17:13) But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.*

- There are a lot of things to further, but it's better to speak face to face. Things that may be misunderstood in letters.
- *I hope to come to you to speak face to face, that our joy may be full* – the joy of Christian fellowship and hospitality!

2Jn 1:13 *The children of your elect sister* (the church of John?) ***greet you. Amen.***

- Talking about where he is writing from, sending greetings from the believers.
- **The single great lesson of the letter is that our love must be governed by truth in order for it to be genuine. Genuine Christian love always does what is best for the other person, even if it's hard love for that other person. It must be governed by the truth.**
- **The truth keeps our love safe. It keeps it holy. It keeps us helpful toward other people.**

Closing Prayer:

SUMMARY- Benefits/Application:

- *Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*
- **We need to walk in *truth* and in *love*, making sure our love is governed by truth!**

- **Be discerning re false teaching – *Doctrine of Christ* (the precepts, the character, and the work of the Savior.)**
- **Handling false teaching; inviting people into your home; greeting and good byes.**
- **Be Careful - Watching out for yourselves**
- ***I hope to come to you to speak face to face, that our joy may be full – May you experience the joy of Christian fellowship and hospitality!!***

Self-examination Questions:

- **How encouraging is my witness to others?**
- **How balanced is love and truth in my Christian walk?**
- **Am I being careful regarding false teaching?**

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

- **Read the entire Epistle of 3 John each day (takes only a few minutes to read the 13 verses)**