

## Loving the Truth 2 John

### **Intro:**

Who is John? Commonly taken as the John of the Gospel of John, cf. Matt. 10:2. He is living in Ephesus. Although there is a John known as John the Elder living in Ephesus as well, who is sometimes attributed the book of Revelation.

These letters and the Gospel are among the most attested in the NT. We have The Rylands Library Papyrus P52, which is a piece parchment from John 18:31-33 and dates from 100 to 150 AD.

Because of Papias and Polycarp, early christian leaders, we know that this John reached old age, since he is said to still be alive by the time of the Roman Emperor Trajan, who reigned between 98-117 A.D.

The issue faced in I, II and III John, was the presence of false teachers, cf. I John 2:18-19; 4:6; II John vss. 7-8, many deceivers have gone out, III John, where these trouble makers are still in charge of the church. Finally, in the book of Revelation, we see that Ephesus is being targeted by false apostles, Rev. 2:2, and a heretical group known as the Nicolaitans, cf. Rev. 2:6.

### **1. Truth, as God sees it, 1:1-4**

1. “The Elder”, they were also pastors, Acts 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; 1 Tim. 5:17, 19; Titus 1:5; James 5:14. Peter calls himself an elder, I Pet. 5:1. “chosen lady”, the word “Kyria”, was used for a social political subdivision of the “ekkllesia” in Athens. The ekkllesia was the body that decided all issues in the city, similar to our local council today. It was composed only of free males, who also could only be the only citizens, women were excluded. Paul calls the whole “ekkllesia” or “church” as being made up of man and woman, as well as free or slaved people, cf. Gal. 3:28. Only John uses this word in the NT, so we may think that he is using that word to point to the fact that the “Kyria” that he is writing to, is part of a greater body, the Church.

Vss. 1-4 talk about the “Truth”. Today’s world has an issue with the truth. Your truth is my not my truth, the saying goes. The truth that humans are made male and female is not taken as truth anymore. Pilates’s question to Jesus is a question that was asked by the pagans, cf. Jn. 18:38. Truth is used 33x in the gospel of John, 11x in I John, 5x II John and 6x III John. The Bible tells us that God is the God of truth, Ps. 31:5. God will judge all at the end with his truth, Ps. 96:13. God always speaks the Truth, Isa. 45:19. God commands his people to seek and love the truth, Jer. 5:3; Zech. 8:16, 19. Truth is not only based on the knowledge of facts, but also has to do with how we live, Prov. 23:23. Truth is found in God’s Word, Ps. 119:30, NKJV.

Jesus claimed he came speaking the truth, John, 8:40. Jesus says that he is the truth that leads to God, Jn. 14:6. For Jesus, God’s Word is the truth, Jn. 17:17. Everyone on the side of the truth listens to Jesus, 18:37.

Jesus’ apostles taught that the truth resided in Jesus and his gospel message, Gal. 2:5, 15; Col. 1:5. Truth is part of the Christian’s armour, Ephe. 6:14. To reject the

truth of the Gospel is to be eternally lost, 2 Thess. 2:12. Belief in the truth is the way to be saved, 2 Thess. 2:13. The Church is the Pillar and Foundation of the truth, cf. I Tim. 3:15. Those who love the truth of the Gospel will be lead to godliness, Tit. 1:1. Obeying God's truth leads to love others, I Pet. 1:22.

### **The New Commandment, which is already Old, cf. 1:4-6**

John is called the apostle of love for his emphasis on the commandment to love one another. Of course, this commandment comes from the O.T., Lev. 19:18, but is picked up in the second great commandment, cf. Matt. 22:35-40; Mk. 12:30-31; Luke 10:25-28. In John we don't find Jesus quoting the verse, but in Jn. 13:34-35, we see Jesus defining how people will know we are his disciples, by loving one another. The way we show we love Jesus, is not serving him, in any type of service, but rather, by obeying his commandments, cf. Jn. 14:24. Today, people claim to love Jesus, yet reject Jesus' teachings. This is not new, as we can see. Lastly, we can see that the encouragement to love one another, is to remain in the community, in contrast to the deceivers, who are going out.

### **Be careful for Deceivers, Again. Vss. 7-11**

The Antichrist has come!!! Many are looking when and where the Antichrist will appear. For John, whoever that does not confess Christ or his teachings, is antichrist.

"some go beyond the teaching of Christ, does not come have God". As we said before, many claim to love Jesus, but they despise his truth, and his teaching. John points this out. He tells us to be on our guard. This not a light matter, since we may lose our salvation if we don't guard ourselves.

Vs. 10 has been interpreted as referring to Jehovah Witnesses, or Mormons. Although I think we should also at times apply such a verse to such people, John is talking about itinerary preachers/teachers who used to go from town to town, similar to the super apostles in 2 Cor. 11:5. Hebrews makes mention of this practice in the early church, Heb. 13:2, and Jesus thought his disciples to do such thing, cf. Matt. 10:9-14; Lk. 10:5-8. Whoever brings a different teaching as handed down by the apostles, is to be rejected, and not given a place to stay. Giving hospitality to such people, was equal to indulge in the same type of sin they were committing. The early church was extremely strict!!

### **Joyful goodbye and hopeful to see you soon, Vss. 12-13.**

John wants to come and see that congregation in person. "Joy" was mentioned in vs. 4. It shows that just as John was full of joy that the members (children) of the church were walking in truth, so were these children eager to listen to John personally.

Finally, John sends the greetings of the fellow sister (church).