**2 John Friday Night Bible Study July 17, 2020**

**Place of the Passage**

2 and 3 John are both strikingly similar to 1 John, which is thought to be a theological sermon to John’s audience at the close of the first century. All three epistles of John most likely were sent together, therefore allowing John to highlight particular issues that deal with the larger context of his sermon in 1 John with the shorter epistles of 2 and 3 John. Therefore, 2 and 3 John act like a “cover letter” to 1 John if indeed they were sent together.

**The Big Picture**

Here in 2 John, the “elder” greets a particular Christian church and encourages them to walk in love and truth, keeping a keen eye on false teachers.

**Background of 2 John**

**Author, date, recipients:**

**Observe:**

Look for: repetition, comparisons, contrasts, lists, and names

Identify: pronouns and individuals, unknown words, and figurative language

Connect: flows of thought, ideas, textual context, and similar Biblical concepts

**Passage: 2 John**

**1**The elder, to the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—

**2**because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

**3**Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

**4**It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

**5**And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.

**6**And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

**7**I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

**8**Watch out that you do not lose what wehave worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

**9**Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

**10**If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.

**11**Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

**12**I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

**13**The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

**Truth for Today**

GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE. Nearly all of the New Testament epistles open with variations on the common theme of “grace, mercy, and peace” from God. John’s greeting isn’t a collection of meaningless words. This greeting reminds us of the very gospel that spurs John to write. Grace is God giving to us what we don’t deserve. Mercy is God not giving us what we deserve. And peace is the result of receiving God’s grace and mercy, getting eternal life and not getting death. In essence, this is the message John presenting that informs our beliefs and actions.

LOVE AND TRUTH. God commands us to walk both in love and in truth. Therefore, John makes it clear that there is a clear relationship between truth and love. First, all Christians are called to know the truth, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This commandment to know the truth results in obedience to right living. Only after the Christian knows the truth and is motivated to obedience, can he love according to the commandment of God. Truth, obedience, and love always go hand in hand in the Christian life. Christians manifest their love for God through obedience in his Word. That is why Jesus says in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandment.”

ABIDING IN GOD. In 2 John 9, John reminds us how important it is for Christians to know and believe the apostles’ testimony concerning Jesus. He equates the one who “abide[s] in the teaching of Christ” with the one who “has both the Father and the Son” (v. 9). It is through faith in the life and ministry of Jesus that we are established in communion with God.

WEARY OF DECEIVERS. The New Testament authors spent much time addressing false teachers. This is because the truth that leads to obedience that leads to love is at stake. Some desire to distort the truth, destroy the Christian community, and oppose Christ. We ought to be weary of these deceives so much so that we don’t even allow them into our homes. This may *seem* rude, unhospitable, and un-Christian…but John makes it clear that the most Christ-like thing to do when false teachers come to our doors is to reject them. Christians cannot afford to let even an inch for false teachers to spread their deception.