

SERMON OUTLINE

2 John

In this short letter, the elder's message to the "elect lady" highlights four essential aspects of the relationship between love and truth in the life of a believer.

- I. Christian love is rooted in the truth (vs. 1-3)
- II. Christian love rejoices in the truth (v.4)
- III. Christian love requires obedience to the truth (vs. 5-6)
- IV. Christian love rejects deceivers who subvert the truth (vs.7-13)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 15, 2017

Passage: 2 John 1-13

Memory Passage: 2 John 8

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 John 1-13** This short letter is addressed to “the elect lady and her children.” Bible scholars are divided over the question of who the “elect lady” really was. Some believe this is simply a metaphor for the church, while others think the letter is addressed to a single individual. (I will be taking the position that the letter is addressed to an individual). What are your thoughts as to who the letter was written, and why?

(b) What are some key words that you find repeated in the opening verses of this letter? What insights do these words give us as to John’s purpose in writing it?

(c) What does it mean to “love in truth?” (v.1)? How would this compare to loving without truth?

(d) What does v.2 teach us about the Christian’s relationship to truth?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 John 1-13.** What is the relationship between “Grace, mercy and peace” in the first part of v.3, and “truth and love” at the end of v.3?

(b) Does John’s remark about rejoicing that “some” of the elect lady’s children are walking in the truth indicate that he had an awareness that not all of her children were doing so? Or, does it simply mean that he was only aware of the spiritual condition of some of her children as opposed to all of them? Explain your answer.

(c) According to verse 6, how is the idea of “love” linked with “commandment?” (see also 1 John 5:2-3) Why does John place such a strong emphasis on this theme in his writings?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 John 1-13.** In verse 7 John identifies the “deceivers” as “those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh.” Is this the only criteria by which “deceivers” can be identified, or are there others?

(b) In verse 8 John exhorts the “elect lady” and her children to: “watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for...” Is John teaching a form of Salvation by works here? If not, what is he saying?

(c) How does verse 9 underscore the importance of sound doctrine in the life of the believer?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 John 1-13.** What is the meaning of verse 10? Does this mean that we are only to allow people into our homes who share our beliefs? Should we refuse to speak to those who hold to bad theology? If not, what does it mean?

(b) How would the act of greeting a false teacher be a means of “taking part in his wicked works” (v.11)?

(c) Why would John prefer to “talk face to face” as opposed to using “paper and ink”?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 John 1-13.** How should we respond if a Mormon, Jehovah’s witness or member of some other heretical sect comes to the door of our home peddling a false gospel?

(b) How should we respond to someone who comes into our church believing a false gospel? In other words, is there a difference as to how we relate to such people within the church as opposed to in our homes?

(c) How can we fulfil the command to “love one another,” while at the same time refusing to tolerate false doctrine in our church? What about a new believer who has a very limited understanding of the truth?

DATE: October 15, 2017

PASSAGE: 2 John 1-13

The Truth: What’s Love Got to Do With It?