

SERIES: II JOHN: LOVING AND LIVING THE TRUTH,
WEEK 2

TITLE: WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE

TEXT: II JOHN 1:4-6

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE WORDS WALK, WALKS, WALKED AND WALKING ARE USED A TOTAL OF 94 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

* NOW BEYOND THE NORMAL USE OF PHYSICALLY WALKING SOMEWHERE ON OUR FEET, TO MOVE ABOUT ON FOOT, THE WORD WALK IS USED IN THE N.T. METAPHORICALLY OR FIGURATIVELY TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE LIVE AS CHRISTIANS, HOW WE ORDER OUR BEHAVIOR, HOW WE CONDUCT OURSELVES, HOW WE REGULATE OUR LIVES.

** AND AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE TOLD IN COLOSSIANS 1:10 THAT WE ARE TO "WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD, TO PLEASE HIM IN ALL RESPECTS."

*** AND THAT MEANS THE AIM OF OUR LIVES AS BELIEVERS, THE GOAL OF OUR LIVES, THE DESIRE OF

OUR LIVES IS TO ANTICIPATE AND FULFILL THE LORD'S WISHES.

**** WE ARE TO GIVE HIM ENTIRE SATISFACTION, TO BE WHOLLY PLEASING TO HIM, TO BRING GLORY TO HIM.

(2) H.C.G. MOULE OBSERVES AND I QUOTE: "TO PLEASE THE LORD IS TO DO ANYTHING TO MEET, TO ANTICIPATE HIS WISHES, AND TO ANTICIPATE HIS WISHES IS NOT ONLY THE MOST BENEFICIAL, BUT THE MOST ABSOLUTELY RIGHT THING WE COULD DO."

* HE WENT ON TO SAY, "IT IS HIS ETERNAL DUE; IT IS AT THE SAME TIME THE SUREST PATH TO OUR HIGHEST DEVELOPMENT AND GAIN." (END QUOTE)

** SO HOW ARE WE TO WALK? HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

*** IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD, PLEASING HIM IN EVERY WAY IN EVERYTHING, FOR HE IS WORTHY OF THAT AS OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER AND KING!

**** AND LET ME EXPAND ON WHAT THAT MEANS BY LOOKING AT HOW WE ARE TO WALK IN OTHER SCRIPTURES, WHICH FURTHER DEFINE THE WORTHY WALK.

(3) IN THE N.T. WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS IN EPHESIANS 4:1-3, IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD'S CALLING. (QUOTE THEM)

* IN II CORINTHIANS 5:7 WE ARE TOLD TO WALK BY FAITH.

** IN EPHESIANS 2:10 WE ARE TO WALK IN GOOD WORKS, (QUOTE IT).

*** IN ROMANS 6:4 WE ARE TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

**** IN EPHESIANS 4:17-32 WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN A WAY THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD.

(4) IN EPHESIANS 5:2 WHICH WE READ IN OUR SCRIPTURE READING TODAY, WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN LOVE (QUOTE IT).

* IN EPHESIANS 5:8 WE ARE TO WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (QUOTE IT).

** IN EPHESIANS 5:15 TO WALK IN WISDOM (QUOTE IT).

*** IN I THESSALONIANS 2:12 WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE GOD WHO CALLS US INTO HIS OWN KINGDOM AND GLORY.

**** IN I JOHN 2:6 WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN THE SAME MANNER THAT JESUS WALKED.

(5) AND THEN FINALLY IN OUR TEXT FOR TODAY IN II JOHN VERSE 4 WE ARE TOLD TO WALK IN TRUTH, IN V. 5 TO WALK IN LOVE AND IN V. 6 TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE.

* NOW HOW CAN WE DO THAT? BY APPLYING GALATIANS 5:16 TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT. (DEFINE WHAT THAT MEANS)

** NOW BELOVED, TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD AGAIN MEANS TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT PLEASES HIM IN EVERY WAY.

*** AND A PART OF LIVING THAT KIND OF LIFE IS DEFINED IN OUR STUDY FOR TODAY AS WALKING IN TRUTH, WALKING IN LOVE AND WALKING IN OBEDIENCE.

**** FOR THE WORD "WALKING" IS USED IN V. 4 AND THE WORD "WALK" IS USED TWICE IN V. 6.

(6) AND THE THEME OF II JOHN IS LOVING AND LIVING THE TRUTH, AND THAT IS FULFILLED BY WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE, THE THEME OF OUR PASSAGE TODAY AND THE TITLE OF MY SERMON.

* AND WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE TAKES ON FLESH, IT BECOMES REAL AS WE NO. 1 WALK IN TRUTH, V. 4; NO.2

AS WE WALK IN LOVE, V. 5; AND NO. 3 AS WE WALK IN OBEDIENCE, V. 6, OUR OUTLINE FOR TODAY.

** AND WITHOUT ANY MORE INTRODUCTION FOR OUR STUDY, LOOK AT II JOHN VERSE 4 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT FOR TODAY, WALK IN TRUTH.

I. WALK IN TRUTH, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW IN REVIEW FROM LAST SUNDAY, IN THE BOOK OF II JOHN, JOHN THE OLDER APOSTLE, THE ONLY LIVING APOSTLE AT THE TIME OF THE WRITING OF THIS BOOK, IS WRITING TO A LADY IN THIS CHURCH AND HER CHILDREN.

* NOW THIS LADY'S NAME IS NOT IDENTIFIED IN II JOHN WHICH SUGGESTS SHE WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE CHURCHES IN THAT AREA AND MOST LIKELY FOR HER WONDERFUL MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE.

** AND IT APPEARS MOST LIKELY THIS WOMAN WAS A WIDOW, FOR NOTHING IS SAID ABOUT HER HUSBAND.

*** SO THE MOST NATURAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE CONTEXT OF II JOHN IS TO INTERPRET "CHOSEN LADY AND HER CHILDREN" AS AN ACTUAL WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN AND NOT METAPHORICALLY AS A CHURCH.

**** WELL, WITH THAT SAID, AS JOHN BEGINS VERSE 4, HE COMMUNICATES HIS JOY, HIS GLADNESS, HIS REJOICING TO FIND OUT THAT SOME OF THIS LADY'S CHILDREN ARE WALKING IN TRUTH.

1. AND EITHER THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SOME OF THIS LADY'S CHILDREN IN EPHESUS WHERE JOHN WAS AT IN ASIA MINOR AT THIS TIME OR HEARING ABOUT IT THROUGH THIS LADY'S SISTER TALKED ABOUT IN V. 13, JOHN WAS EXUBERANT AT THE NEWS THAT SOME OF THIS WOMAN'S CHILDREN WERE WALKING IN TRUTH.

* AND THAT JOHN ONLY MENTIONS SOME OF THIS WOMAN'S CHILDREN WERE WALKING IN TRUTH EITHER MEANS THE OTHERS WERE NOT OR THAT JOHN WAS REFERRING ONLY TO THOSE OF WHOM HE HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.

** BUT WHATEVER WAY IT WAS, WHENEVER WE HEAR THAT PEOPLE WE LOVE IN CHRIST IN THE CHURCH THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE WALKING IN TRUTH, WE ARE THANKFUL AND WE REJOICE BECAUSE AS CHRISTIAN PARENTS THAT IS OUR GREATEST BURDEN AND DESIRE.

*** WE DESIRE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE WALKING IN TRUTH AND LORD WILLING I WILL SAY MORE ABOUT THAT IN APPLICATION OF III JOHN V. 4 WHERE JOHN SAYS: "I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN THIS, TO HEAR OF MY

CHILDREN WALKING IN TRUTH,” SPEAKING OF A MAN NAMED GAIUS IN THE CHURCH.

**** NOW WITH THAT REASON FOR JOY FOR US AND JOHN BEFORE US, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK IN TRUTH?

2. WELL, IT REFERS TO MOVING THROUGH LIFE CONTROLLED BY THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD, TO WALK IN TRUTH IS TO LIVE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE TRUTH.

* FOR GOD’S TRUTH IS NOT ONLY TO BE BELIEVED AND CONFESSED, IT IS TO BE OBEYED. TRUTH IS FOR LIVING!

** BELOVED, THE PHRASE WALKING IN TRUTH COMMUNICATES A LIFE LIVED IN HARMONY WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS AND COMMANDS OF THE BIBLE, A LIFE GOVERNED BY GOD’S WORD – THE TRUTH, CONFORMING OUR LIVES TO IT.

*** THEREFORE WALKING IN TRUTH IS A LIFE DIRECTED AND THAT IS ON A PATH THAT IS LIT BY THE LAMP OF GOD’S TRUTH.

**** MOREOVER, THE TRUTH IS THE PATH ALONG WHICH WE WALK, BY WHICH WE KEEP COURSE AND FROM WHICH WE SHOULD NOT DEVIATE.

3. IT IS TO SAY AND LIVE WHAT THE PSALMIST COMMUNICATED IN PSALM 119:105 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PSALM 19:8 (THE TRUTH ENABLES US TO SEE THE PATH WE SHOULD FOLLOW.)

* AND FURTHERMORE, WHEN WE SEE AND KNOW THE PATH WE SHOULD FOLLOW, THE ONLY RIGHT RESPONSE IS TO DO WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT AND WHAT WE ARE TOLD TO DO.

** THEREFORE JOHN SAYS IN THE LAST PART OF V. 4, "JUST AS WE HAVE RECEIVED COMMANDMENT TO DO FROM THE FATHER."

*** AND TO GO ASTRAY FROM REVEALED TRUTH WHETHER IN DOCTRINE OR MORALS IS NOT JUST AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR, BUT AN ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE, FOR WE ARE TO WALK IN TRUTH JUST AS THE FATHER COMMANDED US.

**** HENCE, OUR GOD HAS NOT REVEALED HIS TRUTH IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAVE US FREE AT OUR PLEASURE TO BELIEVE OR DISBELIEVE IT OR TO OBEY OR DISOBEY IT. WE ARE TO BELIEVE AND OBEY THE TRUTH OF GOD'S REVELATION TO US IN HIS WORD.

4. SO TO WALK IN THE TRUTH MEANS TO OBEY IT, TO PERMIT IT TO CONTROL AND PERMEATE EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES.

* SO WE MUST FIRST OF ALL KNOW THE TRUTH TO WALK IN IT AND THEN WE MUST OBEY THE TRUTH, WE ARE COMMANDED TO FOLLOW THE TRUTH. AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S TRUTH IS NOT OPTIONAL. AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S TRUTH IS BEST.

** THEREFORE JOHN WAS GLAD THAT SOME OF THIS LADY'S CHILDREN HE WAS WRITING TO WERE WALKING IN TRUTH, WHICH IS WALKING IN OBEDIENCE. AND TO WALK IN TRUTH AND OBEDIENCE LEADS A BELIEVER TO WALK IN LOVE, WHICH IS OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

II. WALK IN LOVE, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW TO WALK IN TRUTH IS NOT THE FATHER'S ONLY COMMANDMENT, FOR THE WORD COMMANDMENT IS NOT ONLY USED IN V. 4, BUT ALSO HERE IN V. 5 AND TWO MORE TIMES IN V. 6.

* 4 TIMES IN 3 VERSES WE HAVE THE WORD COMMANDMENT OR COMMANDMENTS.

** AND JOHN WILL BEGIN IN V. 5 BY MAKING A PLEA TO THIS LADY, FOR THE WORD ASK LIT. MEANS TO ENTREAT, TO BEG, TO BESEECH, TO REQUEST. HE IS ASKING FOR HER UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

*** AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE? TO REMIND HER OF THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

**** AND THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER WAS NOT A NEW COMMANDMENT, BUT ONE WHICH WE HAVE HAD FROM THE BEGINNING.

1. AND THE QUESTION COMES UP, THE BEGINNING OF WHAT?

* AND THE ANSWER IS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HER CHRISTIAN LIFE, SINCE SHE WAS SAVED, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE TIME THAT SHE CAME TO KNOW CHRIST, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HER SALVATION.

** AND WE SAW THAT PHRASE “FROM THE BEGINNING” USED IN OUR STUDY OF I JOHN, IN I JOHN 2:7, I JOHN 2:24 AND I JOHN 3:11.

*** SO JOHN USES THIS PHRASE “FROM THE BEGINNING” TO TALK ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THIS LADY’S CHRISTIAN LIFE.

**** AND LOVING ONE ANOTHER WAS A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE FAITH, TAUGHT TO BELIEVERS RIGHT AWAY, A FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH.

2. FOR LOVING ONE ANOTHER WAS NOT A NEW COMMANDMENT, FOR LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS EMBEDDED IN THE O.T. BEGINNING WITH THE 10 COMMANDMENTS.

* FOR THE FIRST FIVE COMMANDMENTS DESCRIBE HOW TO LOVE GOD AND THE LAST FIVE COMMANDMENTS DESCRIBE HOW TO LOVE PEOPLE.

** FOR IF YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR YOU WON'T COVET WHAT THEY HAVE, YOU WON'T LIE TO THEM, YOU WON'T STEAL FROM THEM, YOU WON'T COMMIT ADULTERY WITH THEIR WIFE OR HUSBAND AND YOU WON'T MURDER THEM.

*** AND THEN IN LEVITICUS 19:18 THE LORD GOD SAID: "YOU SHALL NOT TAKE VENGEANCE, NOR BEAR ANY GRUDGE AGAINST THE SONS OF YOUR PEOPLE, BUT YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF; I AM THE LORD."

**** AND THEN JESUS WILL AFFIRM THOSE TRUTHS IN THE N.T. FOR JESUS SAID IN JOHN 15:12: (QUOTE IT).

3. SO THE COMMAND TO LOVE WAS NOT NEW AND WAS A TRUTH THAT THIS BELOVED LADY THAT JOHN WRITES TO

WAS TAUGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF HER CHRISTIAN LIFE.

* AND A FRUIT OF WALKING IN TRUTH IS TO WALK IN LOVE, IT IS CHRISTIANITY 101.

** IT IS A BASIC COMMAND. AND SOME WILL OBJECT, WELL, I JUST CAN'T LOVE SO AND SO. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT GOD CAN COMMAND LOVE, CAN GOD REALLY COMMAND FOR US TO LOVE?

*** WELL, THE ANSWER IS YES. AND WE MUST REALIZE THAT LOVE IS UNDER THE SPHERE OF ACTION, NOT EMOTION. LOVE IS A CHOICE, AN ACT OF THE WILL, IT IS UNSELFISH SERVICE.

**** AND UNFORTUNATELY, MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE MISTAKEN IDEA THAT CHRISTIAN LOVE IS A FEELING, A SPECIAL KIND OF RELIGIOUS EMOTION, BUT BASICALLY CHRISTIAN LOVE IS AN ACT OF THE WILL.

4. IT SIMPLY MEANS TREATING OTHER PEOPLE THE SAME WAY GOD TREATS YOU. IN FACT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOVE PEOPLE WE DO NOT EVEN LIKE.

* AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WILL OUR AFFECTIONS AT ALL TIMES, BUT THROUGH BEING FILLED AND WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, WHICH THE FRUIT IS LOVE, WE CAN WILL OUR ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS THROUGH HIM.

** THEREFORE, WHEN PEOPLE ARE RUDE TO US, WE CAN BE KIND IN RETURN. WHEN PEOPLE PERSECUTE US, WE CAN PRAY FOR THEM, WE CAN AND SHOULD OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD, QUOTE ROMANS 12:21.

*** BUT IF WE FOLLOWED OUR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS, WE WOULD WANT TO RETALIATE. BUT IF WE ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CONTROL OUR WILLS, THEN WE CAN ACT TOWARD THEM AS JESUS WOULD HAVE ACTED, IN CHRISTIAN LOVE AND TRUTH.

**** SO WE HAVE AN OLD COMMANDMENT TO WALK IN LOVE GIVEN TO THIS LADY IN V. 5 AND OF COURSE ALL OF US ARE TO WALK IN LOVE, QUOTE EPHESIANS 5:1&2.

5. AND BELOVED, AS WE WALK IN LOVE, WE WILL WALK IN OBEDIENCE, OUR THIRD POINT TODAY. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW THE TEST OF WALKING IN LOVE IS TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE. AND HERE LOVE AND OBEDIENCE ARE CONNECTED, THEY ARE LINKED TOGETHER.

* LOVE CLEARLY IS WALKING (LIVING) ACCORDING TO HIS COMMANDMENTS AND WHOSE COMMANDMENTS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

** THE ANSWER IS CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS, GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, THE TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD.

*** SO LOVE AND OBEDIENCE MUST GO TOGETHER. AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DIVORCE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE, FOR JOHN SAID IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE THESE WORDS IN I JOHN 4:20&21 (QUOTE THEM).

**** NOW IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL LOVE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST. LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM LOVE FOR GOD.

1. AND JESUS MADE THIS TRUTH CRYSTAL CLEAR IN LOVING HIM IN JOHN 14:15: (QUOTE IT).

* AND THEN JOHN SAID IN I JOHN 5:3 (QUOTE IT).

** NOW YOU MAY BE WONDERING AT THIS POINT IF YOU WERE HERE FOR OUR STUDY OF I JOHN, WHY SO MUCH REPETITION OF THESE TRUTHS? ESPECIALLY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND TO SHOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD BY OBEDIENCE?

*** WELL, THE ANSWER TO THAT IS THAT WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO HEAR BUT NOT OBEY, JAMES 1:22-25. WE HEAR THE COMMAND TO LOVE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BUT HOW MANY OF US ARE CONSISTENTLY OBEYING THIS COMMAND? SO WE LEARN AND ARE CHALLENGED THROUGH REPETITION. THE OLD RULE STILL HOLDS: "REPETITION IS THE MOTHER OF LEARNING."

**** SO AGAIN, THE TEST OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND ONE ANOTHER IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMANDS.

2. AND IAN HAMILTON IN HIS COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN INSIGHTFULLY MAKES THE STATEMENT AT THIS POINT AND I QUOTE: "IN OUR PRESENT AGE OF SELF-INDULGENT LICENSE, WE CANNOT BE REMINDED TOO OFTEN THAT OUR FREEDOM IN CHRIST (GALATIANS 5:1) IS NOT A FREEDOM TO LIVE AS WE PLEASE, BUT A FREEDOM TO LIVE TO PLEASE GOD. THE GOSPEL DOES NOT SET US FREE FROM KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, BUT ENABLES US, IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, TO KEEP THEM. JOHN IS CLEARLY CONCERNED THAT HIS READERS ARE TO BE LAW-FUL

AND NOT LAW-LESS. THIS PROBABLY FURTHER REFLECTS THE INFLUENCE THAT THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE HAVING IN THIS AND OTHER CHURCHES.” (END QUOTE)

* AND BELOVED, CHRISTIAN LIBERTY IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OBEDIENCE (OR LAW) ANY MORE THAN LOVE IS. TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT UNDER LAW IN THAT OUR SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW.

** HOWEVER, THE FREEDOM WITH WHICH CHRIST HAS MADE US FREE IS NOT TO BREAK GOD’S COMMANDMENTS BUT FREEDOM TO KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENTS.

*** LOVE AND OBEDIENCE AGAIN ARE VITALLY CONNECTED. WE OBEY OUT OF LOVE!

**** AND THEN IN THE LAST PART OF V. 6, JOHN REPEATS WHAT HE HAS JUST COMMUNICATED FOR EMPHASIS, “THIS IS THE COMMANDMENT, JUST AS YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING, THAT YOU SHOULD WALK IN IT.”

3. NOW HERE AGAIN WE SEE THE TWO KEY WORDS, COMMANDMENT AND WALK AND THE PHRASE AGAIN, “FROM THE BEGINNING.”

* AND THE WORD WALK HERE MAKES REFERENCE TO WALK IN LOVE, THAT IS THE COMMANDMENT THAT THIS LADY HAD HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING OF HER CHRISTIAN LIFE, TAUGHT TO HER RIGHT AWAY AND ALL BELIEVERS AS A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE FAITH.

IN WRAP UP: (1) HOW THEN ARE WE TO WALK AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST? WELL AS THIS LADY WAS COMMANDED TO, TO WALK IN TRUTH, TO WALK IN LOVE AND TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE.

* AND ALL THREE OF THESE WAYS TO WALK CLEARLY GO HAND IN HAND AND GIVE EVIDENCE OF TRULY KNOWING JESUS CHRIST.

** FOR IT IS INTERESTING TO ME, WE COME BACK TO THE 3 TESTS OF HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FROM I JOHN.

*** THE TEST OF LOVE, I JOHN 4: 7&8 (QUOTE THEM)

**** THE TEST OF OBEDIENCE, (THE MORAL TEST), I JOHN 2:3&4, (QUOTE THEM)

(2) AND THIRDLY THE TEST OF TRUTH, AND SPECIFICALLY, DOCTRINAL TRUTH ABOUT WHO JESUS CHRIST IS, I JOHN 2:22&23, I JOHN 4:2.

* NOW AS YOU SET THOSE TESTS BEFORE YOU AGAIN TODAY OR FOR THE FIRST TIME, DO YOU PASS THE TEST? AND THE KEY IS THE DIRECTION AND DESIRE, THE PATTERN, NOT THE PERFECTION OF YOUR LIFE.

** SO I ADMONISH YOU AGAIN TO APPLY II CORINTHIANS 13:5 TO (QUOTE IT).

*** NOW IF YOU DON'T PASS THE TEST, YOU NEED TO TURN TO JESUS CHRIST IN REPENTANT FAITH. YOU NEED THE SAVIOR TODAY, SO TURN TO HIM IN FAITH AND RECEIVE HIM AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

**** BUT ONE LAST THING. WALKING IN TRUTH, WALKING IN LOVE AND WALKING IN OBEDIENCE ARE 3 TESTS IN A SENSE TO SHOW MATURITY, IF YOU TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST.

3. FOR THE MORE YOU LIVE IN TRUTH, IN LOVE AND IN OBEDIENCE, THE MORE CHRIST-LIKE YOU ARE. THESE ARE FRUITS OF A PERSON THAT IS WALKING AS CHRIST WALKED.

* FOR CHRIST WAS THE EPITOME OF TRUTH IN SPEAKING IT, HE WAS THE INCARNATION OF LOVE AND THE MODEL OF OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER.

** SO OUR PASSION AND DESIRE AS BELIEVERS IS TO BE MORE LIKE CHRIST. AND THE MORE WE WALK IN TRUTH,

IN LOVE AND IN OBEDIENCE, THE MORE WE ARE LIKE HIM,
WHICH SHOWS MORE AND MORE SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

*** MAY OUR PASSION IN LIVING AND LOVING THE TRUTH
TO BE MORE AND MORE EACH DAY LIKE OUR SAVIOR.
(LET'S PRAY)