

SERIES: II JOHN: LOVING AND LIVING THE TRUTH,
WEEK 3

TITLE: BEWARE OF DECEIVERS!

TEXT: II JOHN 1:7-13

INTRODUCTION: (1) SATURDAY, MAY 21ST HAS COME AND GONE.

* NOW THERE IS NOTHING PROFOUND OR PROPHETIC ABOUT THAT, EXCEPT IF YOU ARE OR MAYBE WERE, A DISCIPLE OF HAROLD CAMPING.

** FOR HAROLD CAMPING, PRESIDENT OF FAMILY RADIO, A CALIFORNIA RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING NETWORK WITH OVER 150 OUTLETS, PREDICTED OVER TWO YEAR AGO THAT "BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT", MAY 21ST AT 6:00PM WOULD BE JUDGMENT DAY AND THE RAPTURE OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS.

*** IN FACT, THE PREDICTION FOR MAY 21ST WAS THE EARTH WOULD BE RIPPED APART AS EARTHQUAKES ROLL ACROSS THE EARTH.

**** NOW ACCORDING TO CAMPING, HE DERIVED HIS FINAL NUMBER OF MAY 21ST ON A FORMULA HE BASED ON BIBLE VERSES.

(2) AND THE REASON HE WAS PRIVY TO SUCH SACRED INFORMATION IS BECAUSE GOD REVEALED IT TO HIM PERSONALLY.

* AND SINCE HE HAD BEEN A “TIRELESS STUDENT OF THE BIBLE FOR OVER 5 DECADES”, HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO HEAR GOD’S MESSAGE.

** THE “TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HOURS HE HAS SPENT ANALYZING THE BIBLE HAS GIVEN HIM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE OF THE ENTIRETY OF SCRIPTURE,” HIS WEBSITE SAYS!

*** NOW BEING A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC FROM CAMPINGS WEBSITE TWO THINGS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN ON MAY 21ST.

**** AND I QUOTE FROM THE WEBSITE: “THESE EVENTS COULD NOT BE MORE OPPOSTIE IN NATURE, THE ONE MORE WONDERFUL THAN CAN BE IMAGINED; THE OTHER MORE HORRIFIC THAN CAN BE IMAGINED. A GREAT EARTHQUAKE WILL OCCUR. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES IT AS

‘SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE MEN WERE UPON THE EARTH, SO MIGHTY AN EARTHQUAKE, AND SO GREAT.’ THIS EARTHQUAKE WILL BE SO POWERFUL IT WILL THROW OPEN ALL GRAVES. THE REMAINS OF ALL THE BELIEVERS WHO HAVE EVER LIVED WILL BE INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED INTO GLORIFIED SPIRITUAL BODIES TO BE FOREVER WITH GOD.”

(3) “ON THE OTHER HAND THE BODIES OF ALL UNSAVED PEOPLE WILL BE THROWN OUT UPON THE GROUND TO BE SHAMED. THE INHABITANTS WHO SURVIVE THIS TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE WILL EXIST IN A WORLD OF HORROR AND CHAOS BEYOND DESCRIPTION. EACH DAY PEOPLE WILL DIE UNTIL OCTOBER 21ST, 2011 WHEN GOD WILL COMPLETELY DESTROY THE EARTH AND ITS SURVIVING INHABITANTS” (END QUOTE)

* NOW OBVIOUSLY MAY 21ST HAS COME AND GONE, BUT JUST IN CASE IT DID HAPPEN, I THOUGHT, I WILL BE GONE, BUT BRUCE SMITH WILL BE LEFT BEHIND SO HE CAN PREACH. BUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT PLAN, HE’S ON VACATION.

** BUT IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, THIS WAS NOT CAMPINGS FIRST PREDICTION. FOR HE FIRST DECLARED THE END OF THE WORLD TO BE IN SEPTEMBER 1994, BUT WHEN THE PREDICTION PASSED WITHOUT CATAclysmic RESULTS, HE SAID HE MISCALCULATED AND THAT THE END WOULD BE MAY 21ST, 2011. WHICH HE SAID THIS

TIME, "IT IS ABSOLUTELY GOING TO HAPPEN WITHOUT QUESTION."

*** WELL IT DIDN'T! AND HAROLD CAMPING AGAIN HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A FALSE TEACHER, A DECEIVER, ALONG WITH OTHER FALSE DOCTRINES HE PROMOTES.

**** FOR ONE WAY BIBLICALLY THAT GOD WOULD EXPOSE A FALSE PROPHET WAS , WHAT HE WOULD SAY WOULD NOT COME TO PASS, FOR DEUTERONOMY 18:22 SAYS: WHEN A PROPHET SPEAKS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, IF THE THING DOES NOT COME ABOUT OR COME TRUE, THAT IS THE THING WHICH THE LORD HAS NOT SPOKEN. THE PROPHET HAS SPOKEN IT PRESUMPTUOUSLY; YOU SHALL NOT BE AFRAID OF HIM."

(4) AND IN THE N.T., ACCORDING TO I JOHN 4:1 WE ARE TO TEST WHAT A PERSON SAYS, AND ULTIMATELY DOES IT LINE UP WITH SCRIPTURE IS THE ULTIMATE QUESTION.

* AND SPECIFICALLY, ABOUT THE RETURN OF CHRIST, JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 24:36 (QUOTE IT)

** NOW MY POINT FROM ALL OF THIS TODAY IS THE BIBLE HAS WARNING AFTER WARNING AFTER WARNING ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS, FALSE PROPHETS AND DECEIVERS.

*** IN FACT, THE AMOUNT OF WARNINGS IS STUNNING!

**** AND TODAY IN OUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD WE HAVE ANOTHER WARNING TO WATCH OUT, TO LOOK OUT, TO BE ON GUARD, FOR MANY DECEIVERS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD.

(5) AND JOHN USES THE WORDS DECEIVER AND DECEIVES AND ANTICHRIST IN OUR TEXT FOR TODAY.

* AND THE WARNINGS ARE CLEAR AND WE NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY ON GUARD AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS LIKE HAROLD CAMPING AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS AMOUNT OF DECEIVERS.

** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD TODAY, "BEWARE OF DECIEVERS!"

*** AND AS WE WORK OUR WAY TO THE END OF II JOHN TODAY BY GOD'S GRACE, WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS. NO. 1 THE WARNINGS, VV 7-11 AND NO. 2 THE WISH, THE DESIRE OF JOHN, VV. 12&13.

**** AND BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER TODAY, LET'S GET RIGHT INTO THE TEXT AND LOOK AT OUR FIRST POINT, THE WARNINGS, BEGINNING IN V. 7, LOOK AT VERSE SEVEN PLEASE.

I. THE WARNINGS (READ V. 7)

A. NOW WE LEARNED LAST WEEK IN VV. 4-6, THAT TRUE BELIEVERS ARE TO WALK IN TRUTH, TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE, AND TO WALK IN LOVE.

* AND THE FIRST WORD IN V. 7, THE CONJUNCTION FOR OR BECAUSE IN MOST TRANSLATION, TAKES US BACK TO THOSE PRINCIPLES.

** FOR WALKING IN TRUTH AND OBEDIENCE MAKES US DISCERNING AND WALKING IN LOVE WE WILL SEE DOES HAVE IT'S LIMITS.

*** FOR BIBLICAL LOVE IS NOT A NAÏVE UNDISCERNING, ACCEPT EVERYTHING, KIND OF LOVE THAT JUST GIVES A PASS TO ANYONE WHO USES THE WORD JESUS AND ACCEPTS THEM AS A BROTHER OR SISTER WITH ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE IN THE CHURCH.

**** AND V. 7 IS A WARNING TO BE DISCERNING AND DISCRIMINATING WHEN IT COMES TO FALSE TEACHERS, LIARS, AND THOSE WHO ARE ANTI-CHRIST, AGAINST CHRIST IN WHAT THEY TEACH.

1. FOR JOHN TELLS THIS WOMAN HE IS WRITING TO AND TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST SINCE THEN, THAT

THERE ARE MANY DECEIVERS THAT HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD.

* AND NOTICE THE ADJECTIVE "MANY". NOT A FEW, BUT A LARGE NUMBER OF DECEIVERS WERE IN EXISTANCE OVER 1900 YEARS AGO WHEN JOHN WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE THIS BOOK.

** AND IF THERE ALREADY WERE "MANY" 1900 PLUS YEARS AGO, HOW MANY DO YOU THINK THERE ARE NOW, CLOSER TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST?

*** WELL, MUCH MORE, FOR PAUL WOULD WRITE IN I TIMOTHY 4:1, (QUOTE IT).

**** NOW WITH THAT SAID, NOTE THAT THE GREEK WORD FOR DECEIVERS IS PLON-OCE FROM WHICH OUR ENGLISH WORD PLANET IS DERIVED. AND THE IDEA BEHIND THE WORD IS SOMETHING THAT WANDERS, A WANDERER.

2. AND FROM THE NAKED EYE, A PLANET IN THE SKY APPEARS THAT IT JUST WANDERS FROM PLACE TO PLACE, NOT IN AN ORBIT.

* WELL, DECEIVERS ARE INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE WANDERED FROM THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE. THEY ARE SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ROVING AROUND MISLEADING PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT IN THE ORBIT, THE PATH OR

COURSE OF GOD'S WORK. THEY HAVE WANDERED FROM IT, FROM THE TRUTH.

** SO JOHN SAYS, FOR MANY DECEIVERS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD, AND INTO THE WORLD MEANS THESE DECEIVERS HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH AS JOHN COMMUNICATED IN I JOHN 2:19, THEY WENT OUT FROM US, AND NOW THE WORLD IS THEIR DOMAIN FOR THESE FALSE DOCTRINES, THEY HAVE LEFT THE BELIEVING COMMUNITY TO PEDDLE THEIR POISON.

*** NOW NEXT NOTICE IN V. 7 THAT JOHN DEFINES THESE PARTICULAR DECEIVERS IN WHAT THEY TEACH, AS THOSE WHO "DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS CHRIST AS COMING IN THE FLESH."

**** AND THAT MEANS THEY DENY THE DEITY OF CHRIST, THAT JESUS WAS GOD IN THE FLESH, THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH, THE ANNOINTED ONE, WHICH RIPS THE GUTS OF THE TRUTH OUT OF THE GOSPEL.

3. FOR IF JESUS WAS NOT GOD IN THE FLESH, WE COULD NEVER BE RESCUED OR SAVED FROM OUR SIN. YOU WOULD HAVE ONE MAN DYING FOR OTHER MEN, OTHER PEOPLE. ONE SINNER DYING FOR OTHER SINNERS. BUT JESUS THE GOD-MAN WAS SINLESS, AND ONLY SOMEONE SINLESS COULD PURCHASE SALVATION AND BE THE SAVIOR.

* WELL, THIS IS A CARDINAL ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIANITY AND ANYONE WHO DENIES AND DOES NOT TEACH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS A DECEIVER AT THE END OF V.7 AND THE ANTICHRIST.

** AND ANTICHRIST IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST THAT WILL RISE IN POWER IN THE TRIBULATION, BUT AN ANTICHRIST IS ONE WHO IS AGAINST CHRIST, WHO OPPOSES CHRIST, ONE WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE AND PRECURSOR OF THE ANTICHRIST, PEDDLING TEACHINGS OF DEMONS.

*** AND JOHN SOUNDS THE WARNING SIRENS IN V. 7 BUT THE SIREN GETS LOUDER IN V. 8. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 8 NOW THE WARNING GROWS TO WATCH YOURSELVES OR LOOK TO YOURSELVES IN V. 8 WHICH LITERALLY MEANS WATCH OUT! LOOK OUT! AND THIS VERB IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK WHICH COMMUNICATES THAT THIS IS A COMMAND, A DIVINE IMPERATIVE.

* SO TO WATCH OUT, TO LOOK OUT, A WARNING IS A MUST.

** THEREFORE THIS ELECT LADY AND ALL OF US WHO TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST MUST BE VIGILANT,

DISCERNING, EVEN SUSPICIOUS, BECAUSE WHAT IS AT STAKE IS SO VITAL.

*** FOR JOHN, HAVING LABORED AND WORKED WITH THIS LADY AND HER CHILDREN WANTED TO SEE THE FULL FRUIT OF THAT LABOR AND EFFORT, SEEING THEM COME TO MATURITY SPIRITUALLY.

***JOHN DID NOT WANT THEM TO TAKE A STEP BACK SPIRITUALLY IN THEIR WALK WITH THE LORD AND HE DID NOT WANT THEM TO GET SIDETRACKED IN THEIR WORKS FOR CHRIST.

1. FOR WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR A TRUE BELIEVER THAT WILL NOT GO APOSTATE OR DEPART FROM THE TEACHING OR DOCTRINE OF CHRIST?

* WHAT'S AT STAKE IS FULL REWARD ONE DAY AT THE BEMA JUDGMENT, THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, II CORINTHIANS 5:10 (QUOTE IT) ALSO QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 3:11-15.

** NOW THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT BELIEVERS WILL BE REWARDED IN HEAVEN FOR THEIR WORKS FOR CHRIST DONE OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM IN THIS LIFE. QUOTE MATTHEW 5:11-12, MATTHEW 16:27, AND REVELATION 22:12.

*** NOW REWARDS OR CROWNS ARE AHEAD FOR BELIEVERS, YET WHILE SALVATION CAN NOT BE LOST, SIDETRACKED OR UNFAITHFUL BELIEVERS CAN FORFEIT SOME OF THEIR REWARDS THAT THEY IN REVELATION CHAPTER 4, LIKE THE 24 ELDERS CAN CAST AT THE LORD'S FEET.

**** AND LOSS OF REWARD AND FRUITFULNESS IS THE ISSUE IN V. 8 FOR THOSE SIDETRACKED AND MISDIRECTED, WHO GET OFF COURSE BY DECEIVERS. SO JOHN'S WARNING IS WATCH OUT, LOOK OUT, KIND OF LIKE THE WARNING OF PAUL IN COLOSSIANS 2:8, WHICH SAY, (QUOTE IT).

2. NOW WITH THAT WARNING OF WATCH YOURSELVES BY PAUL AND JOHN HERE IN V. 8 OF OUR TEXT, JOHN CONTINUES TO SOUND THE ALARM IN V. 9 WITH SOME BOLD STATEMENTS. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 9, NOW ONE THING THAT WILL JUMP OUT IN V. 9 IS THAT JOHN THE APOSTLE OF LOVE, IS RADICALLY INTOLERANT WHEN IT COMES TO FALSE TEACHERS AND DECEIVERS.

* WHICH REMINDS US BIBLICAL LOVE DOES NOT IMPLY UNDISCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF ANYONE WHO CLAIMS

TO REPRESENT JESUS CHRIST. BIBLICAL LOVE IS NOT BLIND LOVE, IT IS FIRST OF ALL A LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST AND HIS TRUTH.

** HENCE V. 9 BEGINS AND SAYS, ANYONE, EVERYONE, OR WHOEVER GOES TOO FAR AND DOES NOT ABIDE OR REMAIN OR CONTINUE IN THE TEACHING OR DOCTRINE OF CHRIST DOES NOT HAVE GOD.

*** AND THE WORDS "GOES TOO FAR" TRANSLATED GOES ON AHEAD IN THE ESV, OR WHO RUNS AHEAD IN THE NIV, OR TRANSGRESSED IN THE NKJV, MEANS IN THIS CONTEXT "TO GO BEYOND IN A BAD SENSE THE ESTABLISHED BOUNDS OF TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION.

**** IT MEANS TO GO FURTHER THAN IS RIGHT OR PROPER, AND IN THIS CONTEXT TO GO BEYOND THE LIMITS OF TRUE DOCTRINE WHICH IS FOUND IN SCRIPTURE.

1. AND BELOVED, THE ESTABLISHED BOUNDS OF TEACHING OR INSTRUCTION ARE REVEALED IN THE BIBLE.

* AND JOHN IS DESCRIBING THE DECEIVERS FOR THEY WERE RUNNING AHEAD TOO FAR, THEIR CLAIM WAS PROBABLY WE ARE PROGRESSIVE IN OUR BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS, THEY HAD THE GO AHEAD VIEWS, THE

SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE THAT ENABLED THEM TO ADVANCE BEYOND THE UNSOPHISTICATED VIEWS OF THE APOSTLES LIKE JOHN AND OF SCRIPTURE.

** WELL, INDEED THESE ANTICHRISTS HAD RUN AHEAD AND THEY HAD ADVANCED SO FAR THAT THEY HAD EVEN LEFT GOD BEHIND THEM!

*** FOR ANYONE WHO DENIES THE DOCTRINES OR TEACHINGS OF CHRIST FORFEITS GOD, HE CANNOT REJECT CHRIST AND RETAIN GOD.

**** IT IS TO SAY, IF YOU DO NOT REMAIN, CONTINUE, ABIDE, OR PERSIST IN THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST, MOST LIKELY IN THIS CONTEXT, THE TEACHINGS ABOUT WHO HE REALLY IS, GOD THE SON, THE MESSIAH, GOD IN THE FLESH, DOES NOT KNOW OR HAVE GOD.

2. BUT IF YOU ABIDE OR REMAIN IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, YOU HAVE A PROPER CHRISTOLOGY, YOU TRULY KNOW GOD! FOR NO ONE CAN KNOW THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH KNOWING THE SON, (QUOTE JOHN 14:6 AND I JOHN 2:22&23)

* SO JOHN IS PAINTING A PICTURE WITH BROAD STROKES, HE'S BOLD, HE'S UNRELENTING WHEN IT COMES TO THE TEACHING OR DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, AND MAKES A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THAT IN V. 10. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 10 NOW THE CONJUNCTION “IF” HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF V. 10 FOLLOWED BY THE INDICATIVE VERB “COMES” INDICATES A CONDITION THAT IS LIKELY TRUE.

* IT IS TO SAY THE INDICATIVE MOOD ASSUMES THE FACT, WE HAVE A FULFILLED CONDITION HERE.

** MEANING THE LADY THAT JOHN WAS WRITING TO HAD ALREADY, UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF LOVE AND HOSPITALITY, HAD ALREADY WELCOMED DECEIVERS AND ANTI-CHRISTS INTO HER HOME.

*** AND IT WAS SUCH LOVING, WELL MEANING, DEDICATED PEOPLE LIKE THIS ELECT LADY, THAT FALSE TEACHERS WOULD TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.

**** BUT JOHN DRAWS A LINE IN THE SAND HERE AND SAYS, IF ANYONE COMES TO YOU DEAR SISTER IN CHRIST, AND OBVIOUSLY THEY ALREADY HAD, AND DOES NOT BRING THIS TEACHING, THE TEACHINGS OR DOCTRINES OF CHRIST TALKED ABOUT IN THE EARLIER VERSES, A PROPER BIBLICAL CHRISTOLOGY, DO NOT, A COMMAND, DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO COME INTO YOUR HOUSE, DO NOT SHOW BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY TO SUCH

DECEIVERS, AND DO NOT EVEN GIVE THAT MAN A GREETING.

1. AND THE WORD GREETING HERE IN THE GREEK MEANS, REJOICE, BE GLAD, A GREETING OF JOY.

* AND THIS WAS A COMMON GREETING AMONG BELIEVERS IN THAT DAY, CONVEYING THE JOY BELIEVERS HAD IN ONE ANOTHER'S PRESENCE.

** BUT IT ALSO WAS AN AFFIRMATION OR SOLIDARITY THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMUNICATE TO DECEIVERS, HERETICS.

*** FOR FALSE TEACHERS, HAVE NO PART IN THE TRUTH OR GENUINE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

**** AS JOHN MACARTHUR SAY AT THIS POINT IN HIS COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE OF JOHN, "SUCH EMISSARIES OF SATAN MUST BE EXPOSED AND SHUNNED, NOT AFFIRMED AND WELCOMED."

2. SO JOHN SAYS, DO NOT LET THEM STAY WITH YOU, DO NOT SHOW THEM HOSPITALITY AND DO NOT EVEN GREET THEM AND IN V. 11 JOHN EXPANDS ON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT EVEN BE GREETED. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 11 NOW THE KEY WORD IN V. 11 IS THE VERB “PARTICIPATES” OR THE GREEK WORK KOY-NO-NEH-O, THAT IS FROM A WORD THAT KOINOHIA IS DERIVED FROM THE WORD FELLOWSHIP.

* AND THIS WORD IS TRANSLATED PARTAKER IN THE KJV, TAKES PART IN THE ESV, SHARE IN THE NIV AND NKJV AND IT LITERALLY MEANS TO COME INTO COMMUNION OR FELLOWSHIP WITH.

** AND IN SHORT, CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO PRETEND THAT HERETICS ARE FELLOW CHRISTIAN, FOR TO TOLERATE ERROR IS TO SHARE OR CONDONE ERROR.

*** AND BELOVED, THE BIBLICAL VIEW IS THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS TRUTH AND SUCH A THING AS ERROR AND TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP AND TO ASSOCIATE OR TO GRANT FAVOR IS TO CONDONE, ENCOURAGE AND IN SOME CASES WITH GUILT THROUGH ASSOCIATION, TO ASSOCIATE OR BE IDENTIFIED WITH ERROR, LIKE IT IS O.K.

**** AND I UNDERSTAND THAT TO THOSE WHO ARE INUNDATED OR IMMersed WITH POST-MODERN THINKING, THIS SOUNDS HARSH, CRUEL, OR UNLOVING.

1. BUT JOHN'S PASTORAL LOVE WANTS TO PROTECT THE SHEEP AND SPECIFICALLY THIS LADY FROM THE POISON OF ERROR.

* AND JOHN'S BOLDNESS AND INTOLERANCE OF FALSE TEACHERS IS CONSISTENT WITH CHRIST'S DENUNCIATION OF DECEIVERS AND FALSE TEACHERS AS RAVENOUS WOLVES IN MATTHEW 7:15 &16 AND THIEVES AND ROBBERS IN JOHN 10:1 WITH THE SOLE INTENT TO STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY IN JOHN 10:10 (QUOTE IT).

** THEREFORE WITH THOSE SCRIPTURES BEFORE US, WE CANNOT AID OR HELP OR IDENTIFY WITH FALSE TEACHERS BY DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD GIVE THEM CREDIBILITY OR ACKNOWLEDGE THEM AS O.K.

*** FOR THE ONE WHO DOES SO, EVEN BY DOING SOMETHING AS SEEMINGLY INNOCENT AS GREETING A FALSE TEACHER – PARTICIPATES IN THEIR EVIL DEEDS BY HELPING THEM FURTHER PROMOTE THEIR LIES AND THEIR DECEPTIONS.

**** SO IN SUMMARY IN VV. 7-11, WE HAVE A SERIES OF STRONG BOLD WARNINGS BY THE APOSTLE OF LOVE WHO LOVES THE TRUTH AND HATES ERROR. (QUOTE PS. 119:103-105).

2. AND WITH THAT SAID WE MOVE FROM JOHN'S WARNINGS TO HIS WISH, HIS DESIRE. LOOK AT V. 12

PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE WISH.

II. THE WISH, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW JOHN'S WISH, LITERALLY HIS HOPE WAS TO COME AND SPEAK TO THIS DEAR SISTER IN CHRIST FACE TO FACE.

* AND THE PHRASE FACE TO FACE LITERALLY MEANS MOUTH TO MOUTH, WHICH MEANS THAT JOHN WOULD RATHER TALK FACE TO FACE THAN WRITE ANY MORE TO HER.

** AND JOHN DID HAVE MANY MORE THINGS TO WRITE TO HER ABOUT, BUT DID NOT WANT TO CONVEY THOSE THINGS BY WRITING WITH PAPER AND INK, BUT WANTED TO DO IT IN PERSON, EYEBALL TO EYEBALL.

*** IN OTHER WORDS, JOHN WITH HIS PASTORAL HEART LONGED TO HAVE A PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH THIS INFLUENTIAL CHRISTIAN LADY TO FURTHER TEACH HER, TO INSTRUCT HER IN THE TRUTH.

**** SO HE TOOK CARE OF WHAT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BY LETTER AT THAT TIME WITH THE DESIRE TO COME TO SPEAK TO HER FACE TO FACE, IN MORE OF A PERSONAL WAY.

1. AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

* SO THAT HER JOY MAY BE MADE FULL AT THE END OF V. 12.

** FOR THE GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF THE TRUTH, THE GREAT THE BELIEVERS' JOY.

*** AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, FULL JOY, GREAT JOY, ABOUNDING JOY COMES FROM KNOWING THE TRUTH AND OBEYING THE TRUTH. OUR CUP OF JOY IS FILLED TO THE BRIM BY KNOWING, LIVING, AND OBEYING THE TRUTH.

**** AND THEN JOHN'S FINAL WORDS TO THIS DEAR SISTER IN CHRIST ARE GIVEN IN V. 13. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 13 NOW JOHN ENDS THIS SHORT EPISTLE WITH A GREETING FROM HER NIECES AND NEPHEWS, THE CHILDREN OF HER SISTER.

* POSSIBLY THEY WERE LIVING AT EPHESUS WHERE JOHN WAS AT, AT THE TIME, OR JOHN CAME IN CONTACT WITH THEM ON HIS TRAVELS TO OTHER CHURCHES, SO

THEY WANT JOHN TO PASS ALONG THEIR GREETING TO THEIR SPECIAL AUNT.

** AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT THEIR SISTER HAD ALREADY PASSED AWAY, BUT REGARDLESS, THEY LOVED THEIR AUNT AND WERE MOST LIKELY STRONG BELIEVERS WALKING IN THE TRUTH.

*** FOR CERTAINLY THEY WERE RAISED IN THE TRUTH, FOR THEIR MOTHER WAS A BELLIVER, FOR SHE IS CALLED THIS LADY'S CHOSEN OR LITERALLY ELECT SISTER, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE OF CHOOSING TO SAVE SOME SINNERS TO BE HIS OWN BY SOVEREIGN GRACE WITHOUT FORESEEING ANYTHING IN A PERSON THAT WOULD LEAD GOD TO CHOOSE THEM EXCEPT THE KIND INTENTIONS OF HIS WILL TO THE GLORY OF HIS NAME, EPHESIANS 1:5&6.

**** AND WITH THAT SAID, WE FINISH THIS SHORT EPISTLE.

IN WRAP UP: (1) AND IN APPLICATION: TWO THINGS: NO. 1 OUR JOY DEPENDS ON OUR KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION TO THE TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD.

* MUCH OBEDIENCE, MUCH JOY. LITTLE OBEDIENCE, LITTLE JOY.

** AND I KNOW THAT IS A VERY SIMPLE STATEMENT, BUT HAVE YOU MADE THAT CONNECTION?

*** I MEAN, DO YOU REALIZE THAT DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS A GREAT WEIGHT UPON YOUR SOUL, AND THAT WE ARE MISERABLE WHEN WE DON'T OBEY?

**** AND JESUS CHRIST WANTS US TO HAVE FULLNESS OF JOY. QUOTE JOHN 15:11 ALSO QUOTE I JOHN 1:4 AND GALATIAN 5:22.

(2) CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT THE JOY OF CHRIST? I HOPE SO. REMEMBER OBEDIENCE BRINGS JOY.

* AND LASTLY, JOHN'S WORDS HAVE BEEN STRONG TO US ABOUT DECEIVERS AND ANTICHRISTS. MAY WE NOT BE SPIRITUALLY GULLIBLE AND YIELD TO A NAÏVE ECUMENISM. TRUE CHRISTIAN UNITY IS MARKED BY TRUTH, NOT A UNITY OF ECCLESIASTICAL CONVENIENCE.

** JOHN'S LANGUAGE IS INTOLERANCE IN A MULTI-FAITH WORLD. JOHN'S MISSION IS NOT INCLUSIVENESS, BUT THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE TEACHINGS AND DOCTRINES OF CHRIST.

*** MAY WE STAND AND LIVE FOR TRUTH AND NOT CAPITULATE, BUT SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

**** I CLOSE WITH A QUOTE FROM JOHN MACARTHUR: “IN AN AGE OF RELATIVISM AND SKEPTICISM THE CHURCH MUST REMAIN FIRMLY ANCHORED TO THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF DIVINE TRUTH. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR INSIPID, SHALLOW, THEOLOGICALLY CONTENTLESS PREACHING, FOR WORSHIP BASED ON EMOTION DEVOID OF TRUTH, OR FOR TOLERATING FALSE TEACHING. THERE IS NO VIRTUE IN IGNORANCE, NO SUBSTITUTE FOR LEARNING, LOVEING AND GUARDING THE TRUTH. ONLY BY SO DOING WILL THE CHURCH BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS DIVINE CALLING TO BE THE “PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH” (I TIM. 3:15), SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD’S TRUTH IN THE WORLD OF DARKNESS.

(3) LET’S PRAY.

