

## Preached on 7/2/23 at GBC - Ruston

### “Abiding IN Christ, Pt.2”

### II John 4-6

As we continue this study of **2 John**, keep these **TWO ABSOLUTES** in mind: **FIRST**, all those chosen by God the Father in the everlasting covenant of grace; all those redeemed and justified by God the Son’s obedience unto death; all those regenerated and converted by God the Holy Spirit in time under the preaching of God’s Gospel, **CAN NEVER LOSE THIS SALVATION THAT IS FREELY BESTOWED ON THEM**. The **SECOND ABSOLUTE** is the theme of this epistle – Every elect sinner God’s saves by His almighty grace will forever “**ABIDE**”, continue, live and die, in the “**doctrine of Christ**”. **YOU CAN’T MAKE THEM LEAVE IT**. The writer of Hebrews made this **FACT** abundantly clear – “*Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*”(Heb.10:38,39) The Greek word translated “*of them that draw back*” means ‘the timidity of one stealthily retreating’. All God’s elect will **NEVER** through timidity stealthily retreat from the Gospel or the family of God. That was the truth by which the “**Elder**” Apostle John addressed this “**elect lady and her children**” – “*The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*”(Vss.1-3) Through persecution both from **WITHOUT** and **WITHIN**, through good times and bad times, this “**elect lady and her children**” had abode in the “**TRUTH**”. I don’t think we can overstress that truth, seeing the opposite of “**abiding in the truth**” reveals on to be abiding in **DEATH**, yet “**dead in trespasses and sin**” – “*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*”(I Jn.2:19-21)

Look at **Vs.4** – “*I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*” Listen to **YLT** of this verse – “I rejoiced exceedingly that I have found of thy children walking in truth, even as a command we did receive from the Father.” This great Apostle, though almost **100 years old**, “**rejoiced greatly**” to find this elect woman’s “**children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.**” This “**commandment from the Father**” has to do with His command for all His elect to believe on the God sent Messiah, the One in whom is **ETERNAL LIFE** – “*Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*”(Jn.12:44-50) Keep in mind how

Paul answered the Philippian jailer question: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” – “*And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*” I’d have you to notice what caused this Elder Apostle to **REJOICE EXCEEDINGLY**? It wasn’t in any **EARTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS** made by this elect sinner’s children! While there isn’t anything wrong with us being proud and congratulating children for their earthly achievements, John’s heart was filled with exceeding joy because he had found some of her “*children walking in **TRUTH***”. The original word translated “*walking*” means ‘to make one’s way, progress; to make due use of opportunities’. Like I told you last time, the word translated “*the truth*” means ‘the truth as taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ’. His rejoicing was that he found some of her children making their way, progressing, in the truth of salvation full and free through Christ’s accomplished work of redemption. Remember what Christ told those JEWS who had “*believed on Him*” – “*If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know **the truth**, and **the truth** shall make you free.*”; “*If **the Son** therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*”(Jn.8:31-32,36) This doesn’t mean that **ALL HER CHILDREN** believed and loved the truth, but by the grace and mercy of God, **SOME OF THEM DID!** I like what John Gill wrote in his commentary on these words – “Not all, but some of them; for good parents have not always good children, or at least not all of them; Adam had a Cain, Abraham an Ishmael, and Isaac an Esau: God is pleased to show his discriminating grace in tribes and families, by taking some, and leaving others: it is a great mercy when any are called by grace, and instead of the fathers are the children: and this was the case of some of the children of this elect lady.” What this verse teaches me is that this “**ELECT LADY**”, who knew the **TRUTH**, walked in the **TRUTH**, and was loved by others who walked in the truth, she diligently used all the means available to teach her children **THE TRUTH**, trusting God to show mercy and grace to them according to His sovereign will and purpose. There’s no mention of “**the elect man**”, meaning her husband, so she understood her responsibility as a **BELIEVING PARENT** concerning those children committed to her watch care. We **KNOW** that Adam and Eve **TAUGHT** both their sons about how redemption and salvation were accomplished, seeing that Abel was a justified saint according to the Scripture – “*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **by which he obtained witness that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*”(Heb.11:4) **LISTEN TO ME:** “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **So then faith** [cometh] **by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***”(Rom.10:13-17) We see the same truth set forth in the way Timothy’s Grand Mother and Mother taught him the truth from his childhood – “*When I call to remembrance the **unfeigned faith** that is in thee, **which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.***”(II Tim.1:5); “*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them]; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*”(II Tim.3:14,15) While we have **NO GUARANTEE** from God that our teaching our children the truth at home, and keeping them **UNDER THE GOSPEL** that they will be brought to know, believe, and love the truth, the Scriptures are clear on **HOW** God brings all His sheep to the knowledge of the truth. That’s why we read **I Cor.1** in the “**Call to Worship**”. Turn to **I Cor.1:17-24**. We also have the

promise of God that all His sheep will hear His voice – “*My sheep hear my voice, and they come unto me, and I give unto them eternal life.*” If you and your spouse believe the Gospel, seriously consider your responsibility to instruct and guide your children in the truth of the Gospel, emphasizing to them the great value of “**THE TRUTH**” by your words and your devotion to the truth. If you are a believing parent, and your spouse doesn’t believe the Gospel, you are without excuse in your responsibility to instruct your children at home in the Gospel – **ELABORATE**. If we as grand parents have unbelieving sons and daughters, and have been blessed with grand children by them and their spouses, like Timothy’s grandmother “**LOIS**”, it is our responsibility to teach and instruct them in the truth of redemption through the accomplished work of redemption by our Lord Jesus Christ. **THAT’S THE BELIEVERS RESPONSIBILITY**. When we’ve done all we can do, using all the means God has provide us, we must humbly submit ourselves to His sovereign will, trusting that His will is done in this matter.

Look at **Vss.5,6** – These verses are a reference to what John had been taught by the Lord Jesus Christ – “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*”(Jn.13:34) In John’s previous epistle, he wrote extensively of this commandment – “*Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*”(I Jn.2:7-10); “*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death.*”(I Jn.3:13,14); “*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*”(I Jn.4:7,8) John was instructing this “elect lady” concerning true brother love, i.e., true love and loyalty to the brethren, fellow believers, which springs from true God-given faith and is founded on the truth of the gospel. There are many ways that this brotherly love expresses itself, but John is referring specifically to that expression of love which takes sides with God's people against the world. This brotherly love is the fruit and effect of being born of God. This **love of the brethren** is not the same as love of our neighbor, our fellow man, which includes the world. We are all commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves, and though we all fall way short here, **this is our goal**. This brotherly love is something the natural man has in no degree. This brotherly love is perfectly consistent with our love of our neighbor, but it will not speak peace to our neighbor based on anything other than the imputed righteousness of Christ as the only ground of salvation.

**Consider this as we close:** Would love for our neighbor promote and encourage our neighbor to expect salvation based on idolatry and whoredom? **GOD FORBID!** So, true love won’t promote and encourage our neighbors to expect salvation based on deeds that are evil, fruit unto death. Justified sinners have been born again, brought to faith in Christ and repentance from dead works. Therefore, we love the brethren and won’t speak peace to the world. Where this love is absent, there has been no passing from death unto life. This is the love which the Apostle John encourages in the people of God, that we abide in the truth, firmly convinced that God is faithful to fulfil His promise of certain salvation based on the righteousness of Christ, and that God is faithful to carry out His threat of certain destruction based on anything else.