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2 John 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

2 John 1.

INTRODUCTION: second John was written by John the apostle in the late first century to warn against the same false teaching that he spoke of in 1 John. This letter, however, was addressed to a Christian woman and her family, and focused on Christian hospitality. False teachers were using the kindness of Christians to gain influence within John's congregations. John's letter speaks of this danger and warned against opening one's home to these destroyers of the faith. While the basic themes of 1 John—holding fast to truth, love, and obedience—are evident, there is the additional focus on what Christian hospitality is all about.

Topics.

- The elect lady and her children.
- Grace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son.
- John rejoices greatly to find children walking in the truth.
- The antichrist.
- Abiding in Christ and abiding in the Father.
- Do not bring those who deny the teaching of Christ into your house.
- John hopes to visit the elect lady so their joy maybe complete.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

2 JOHN 1:1-2

The Elect Lady and Her Children.

- **2 John 1:1-2:** The elder to the elect lady and her children whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

It would appear that John (the elder) is writing to a faithful Christian mother (the elect lady) who it would seem is raising her children on her own otherwise John would address the letter to the husband. John and all the brothers and sisters in Christ love this woman because of her devoted faithfulness in the Lord Jesus Christ. The expression the elect lady by extension can refer to all who by faith belong to the global body of Christ the church since everything John writes to her and her children apply to all the elect in Christ.

NOTE: the word elect does not mean that she or anyone else has been chosen before the foundation of the world to be saved to eternal life, but that she has chosen from her free will to believe in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and is therefore a brother and sister of Christ and whoever is in Christ's family God accepts as his adopted child so in this sense all who belong to Christ are elect. The words:

- The truth that abides in us and will be with us forever (v2).

Refers to the truth that:

- God the Father and Christ the Son loved us before we loved them.

- Christ laid down his life that we would be saved to eternal life (John 3:16).
- God loved us and Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8).

The truth that will abide in us and will be with us forever primarily refers to the glorious and majestic knowledge that we became brothers and sisters of Christ and thereby adopted and loved children of God not by our own efforts, but by the love and grace of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) which means the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever (v2) also refers to the Lord Jesus Christ himself; it is Jesus who will be with us for all eternity. This is the majestic glory, the royal beauty, the wonder and splendour of the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: John tells the elect lady that he and all those in Christ, "Love her in the truth" (v1). The bond that cements all those in the global body of Christ together is the devoted love and faithfulness they have for the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 JOHN 1:3-4

Grace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son.

- **2 John 1:3-4:** Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. ⁴I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

Allow me to pause here for a moment to arouse certain questions, notice; John statement, "Peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son" (v4) there are many who are faithful and have a devoted heart toward the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father, but because of the mistaken teaching that has been established by traditional Christianity many centuries ago they are under the confusing theory that Jesus is God. My question is how, does the following statement of John:

- From God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son (v4).

Harmonise with the theory that Jesus is God. Sadly, this concept of God robs from a vividly clear view of the most stunning, majestic and glorious message God planned and purposed from the beginning of the foundation of the world and the Bible proclaims from Genesis to Revelation and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider for a moment: surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God, Christ would have told the apostles at least once in his discourses with them and in his messages of salvation, but all we find in the Scriptures is Jesus and the apostles proclaiming that people must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved, Added to this truth there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states Jesus is God or that we must believe he is God to be saved.

- Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God 'and' Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

John greatly rejoices to find children walking in the truth: John's words, "I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth" (v4) show the true heart of a minister of the gospel. There is nothing in this world that is as joyful to those who faithfully serve the Lord as seeing newly born converts and young men and woman growing in

faithful devotion toward the Lord Jesus Christ. There is great joy when those who love Christ see other brothers and sisters living in such a manner that their life is not only bringing a good testimony to the Christian faith, but also shining out God's grace and Christ's love toward others within Christ's family and toward those who do not know God's love. This is because whoever lives with love and grace (two of the great pillars of God's throne) in their heart and allows this love and grace to flow out to the world around them like a river that has broken its banks not only brings honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ, but warms the heart of the lost toward God in contrast to turning them against God by dogmatic and legalistic doctrine.

In verse four John states that the elect lady was in the truth, "Just as the Father commanded. The Fathers commandment refers to the following:

- This is God's commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us (1 John 3:23).
- This commandment we have from God: whoever loves God must also love their brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 4:21).

God's commandments are that:

- We believe God is one and love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- We believe Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
- We love all those who belong to the family of Christ.

When John said, "I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father" (v4) it is to these commandments of God that John is referring to and that the elect lady and her children were walking in. Jesus himself said: -

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- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is *no other commandment greater than these*" (Mark 12:30-31).

Paul said the whole law is fulfilled in the words:

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Gal 5:14).

James wrote:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself, you are doing well" (James 2:8).

The command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour. The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus in this sermon calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. Biblically a wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans, in contrast to this a good person is one who worships God and the Lord Jesus Christ and do all they can, to do what is right, and what is just (i.e., fair for all). To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

2 JOHN 1:5-6

Love One Another.

- **2 John 1:5-6:** And now I ask you, dear lady— not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning— that we love one another.
⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

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God gave the commandment, "To love one another" (V5) to Israel thousands of years before Jesus spoke it in the New Testament. God when giving the Levitical law to Moses said:

- You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall 'love your neighbour as yourself' I am the LORD (Lev. 19:18).

Not only was this command to Love one another given in the beginning to the children of Israel, but it was also given to us at the beginning of the Gospel. There should be among the brothers and sisters of Christ mutual love so that in all circumstances and relations they would show love toward each other. Jesus said:

- This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12).

And to magnify the importance of this command Jesus repeats it again saying:

- These things I command you, so that you will love one another (John 15:17).

True Christianity never prevails anywhere without prompting the observance of this law. Christian love is the foundation of the Gospel and all should walk in this love. Every brother and sister should be on guard that this love of God dwelling in their hearts does not decay in its outward flow toward others, but consciously endeavour to allow its majestic kindness, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness more frequently and more earnestly flow out toward those they come in contact with in everyday life.

**THE FOLLOWING VERSES SHOW THAT THE
GOSPEL IS A GOSPEL OF LOVE**

- Paul said, “Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s *love* has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5).
- Paul states, “Beloved, let us *love* one another, for *love* is from God, and whoever *love* has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).
- John wrote, “We *love* because he first *loved* us” (1 John 4:19).
- John said, “If anyone says, I *love* God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not *love* his brother whom he has seen cannot *love* God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20).
- Paul said, “*Love* does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore *love* is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10).
- Moses, Paul and Jesus said, “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall *love* your neighbour as yourself” (Gal 5:14).

Anyone who confesses to believe in Christ and does not have love dwelling in their heart or show love toward their brothers and sisters in Christ and toward those outside of God’s Kingdom is deceiving themselves. This is because God is love (1 John 4:8) and the greatest commandment regarding mankind is one of love. Added to these Jesus showed the greatest love toward us all in that he laid down his life down not for himself, but for the world. John who not only deeply loved Christ, but also understood God’s heart and the heart of Christ’s message wrote the following awe-inspiring, majestic and glorious verses: -

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us, because God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16).

2 JOHN 1:7-9

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The Antichrist.

- **2 John 1:7-9:** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.
⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Antichrist: means, an opponent of the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.

Flesh: in the context of these verses refers to being human and embraces human nature with its frailties and passions.

NOTICE: the antichrist in this context is not one person, or a person who is impersonating to be Christ or claiming to be Christ, but refers to everyone who denies Jesus came by the birth of a woman. During John’s era this would clearly apply to the Jewish scribes and the Pharisees who not only refused to believe that their promised Messiah the Christ the Son of God was born of Mary who they knew, but, also accused Jesus of being born from of sexual immorality (John 8:41). But it is clearly not limited to John’s era since today there are two groups of people who confess to believe in Christ, but deny that he was a human man born of a woman.

1. Those in the Kingdom of Christ who proclaim to believe in Christ; have a knowledge of the Scriptures; are dedicated to their belief and teach the Bible as truth, yet they deny Jesus came as a human man born of a human woman and that his Father was God).
2. The mega millions in the world (especially amongst new age spiritual thinkers) who believe in the Christ Spirit and the return of the Christ Spirit, but deny Christ the man and that he was born of a woman.

Many of these teachers have global followings and write books that reach to millions worldwide. Most of their books do contain many principles, concepts, values, philosophies, ideologies and theories that are not only good, but can also mentally benefit the life of people who practice some of their teachings, obviously if they didn't they would not have global followings, but here is the deceptive flaw contained within these books and their author's teachings. No matter how much they might enhance a person's life in this world nothing they say or write has any power to connect a person to the God of creation, the God of the Bible neither do they have power to give eternal life. This is why no-matter how good what they teach is they are deceivers and antichrist's if their messages are proclaiming a path to God and eternal life devoid of believing Christ was a human man born of a woman though the power of the Holy Spirit of God. The key words, the best advice and the greatest wisdom regarding antichrists and deceivers are the following words of John:

- Watch yourselves so that you may not lose what Christ achieved on the cross and the apostles worked for so that you may win a full reward (v8).

The message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is God's truth that leads to eternal life, whoever is in Christ, loves Christ and believes the Gospel of Christ should have no fear of antichrists, since John made it very clear in the following verse who they are: -

- Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son (v9).

John is warning this mother who is raising her children in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and by extension the global body of Christ to be careful we do not lose what John and the apostles have taught not only her, but all who belong to the family of Christ and loose our eternal reward and crown of everlasting glory by listening to antichrists and allowing them to deceive us with their enticing and seductive messages.

Abiding in Christ and abiding in the Father: if anyone has ever wondered how they can have both the Father and the Son dwelling in their heart all they have to do is look at the following words of John, "Whoever abides in the teaching of Christ has both the Father and the Son" (v9), here is the answer in brilliant light, whoever believes the teachings of Christ will have both the Son and the Father.

2 JOHN 1:10-11

Do not bring those, Who Deny the Teaching of Christ into your House.

- **2 John 1:10-11:** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting (Bid him God speed in the KJV) ¹¹for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

These words of John do not apply to friends or acquaintances who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ or even who have belief contrary to our Christian faith. John is not saying that Christians should never invite a man or woman into their home simply because they do not believe in Jesus or hold fast to a different faith so what is John's saying to us in these verses? Before we consider what John's, words mean to us, we need to look at what he was saying to the faithful Christian mother he is addressing this letter to. It is certain this lady was a generous woman and a hospitable receiver of travelling ministers and Christians. Since this elect lady was accustomed to entertain such teachers John is telling her not to give the same kindness or hospitality to those who teach their followers a message contrary to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles.

John is saying: "Do not support or entertain ministers or teachers who come under the guise and character of an apostle or evangelist who profess and preach a message that:

- Denies Jesus came in the flesh (the birth of a woman).
- Do not respect and acknowledge Christ as the Son of God.
- Denies salvation is by faith in Christ and God's grace.
- Denies Jesus died for the redemption of the world.

John is saying that the elect lady should receive and show hospitality to any teacher or minister who teaches these doctrines, but should a teacher or minister deny any one of them or distort and twist these teachings she should not entertain them into her home or extend to them a brotherly welcome. The key thought of John in these verses is, "Do not give these deceiving evangelical teachers hospitality and do not let them preach or teach under your roof." John is not teaching that we should never extend hospitality, show acts of kindness or take those who have received a different gospel into our homes. The central focus is not on those who have been deceived by false teaching, but upon those who are aggressively distorting, twisting and teaching deceptive and false teachings. When Christians do have contact with such deceivers the true rule for Christians in regard to them is to treat them as neighbours, or strangers, (i.e., we are to be honest, true, kind, and just), but we are not to receive them into our house to teach us, nor teach others or do anything that will approve them as religious teachers or aid them in any manner to further their teachings. John is saying we are not to commend them to others, or to give them any reason to use our names or influence in propagating the distorted gospel they are proclaiming. John is not saying as some religious ministers teach that we should not receive a family member, a friend, relative or even a stranger into our homes and show them kindness simply because they hold a different view of faith to ours, but rather that we should not welcome a professed teacher of religion into our home who teaches a message that is contrary to the Gospel of Christ.

Do not bid him God speed: the words, "Do not give him any greeting" (Bid him God speed in the KJV) (v10) since this verse carries two thoughts (i.e., greetings and bidding farewell) we will look at them separately.

Greetings: John is saying, when we meet religious teachers who distort the Gospel of Christ:

- Do not treat them with the same affection and friendly greeting as we would true friends and true brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Do not act towards them so as to cause others to believe that we accept them as brothers or sisters in Christ and their teachings as being right and proper.
- Do not show special favour simply because of their fame or give any encouragement or importance, but instead make it very clear to others (especially new Christians and the vulnerable) that they are deceivers so that they will not become a snare and stumbling-block to Christians whose faith has not yet grown full spiritual muscle.

Farewell: do not say, "Health, peace and blessing" means:

- Do not wish them a prosperous enterprise and success in their ministry as you would a true disciple of Christ. The reasons for this are obviously since they are proclaiming a false Gospel.

NOTE: this does not mean that we should not help or show kindness should they be in need of the necessities of life or relief from illness, hunger and hardship, since as Christ's ambassadors on earth though we are called to speak against those who distort the majestic and glorious Gospel of Christ, we are not called to hate them, go to war against them or wish their destruction, but rather we are to copy the following examples of God and the Lord Jesus Christ:

- God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Though all Christians are called to show love toward all people it does not mean that they should compromise their faith to manifest the love of God dwelling in them. Some people think being accepted is love, but this is a deception, if a person has to compromise who they are and what they believe to be accepted that is not love, but simply responding to a desperate need in the heart to be accepted or conforming to the control and demand of other to be accepted.

NOTE: should any brother or sister feel this way they should not put themselves under condemnation since they can be certain they are not alone and God understands. One of the keys to overcome this is to continue in the faith and know that you are loved by Christ and that we are saved not because of our maturity and strength in the faith but because of our faithfulness and devotion in Christ. As we grow in Christ's love and God's grace the overwhelming need to compromise our lives to be accepted by others will slowly diminish.

Whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works: the words, "Whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works" (v11) means whoever welcomes in their heart and mind a professional teacher who denies Christ, denies his Gospel and denies the apostles teachings as they would a true brother or sister in Christ are taking part in their wicked works. This is because they are by their acceptance encouraging them rather than shinning a light on the errors they are teaching. Though we must obey the law of love and show kindness and a good spirit toward those who differ from us in lesser matters, we must hold firmly to the all-important teachings concerning eternal salvation in Christ.

Antichrists, deceivers and false prophets: no Christian should think it strange, that there are antichrists, deceivers and opposers of the Lord Jesus Christ, since they have existed since the days of the apostles. Added to this the Bible clearly teaches they will abound in greater numbers as we near the return of the Lord.

Antichrist's, deceivers and false teachers:

- Serve their own way to feed their own bellies.
- Are driven by ego, pride, selfish-ambition and greed for gain.
- Distort and twist Scriptures to increase their religious empire.
- Spread pernicious, malicious, wicked, destructive and fatal doctrines.
- Delude people's minds and rob their hearts from the love and grace of God.
- Undermine the glory and Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though all Christian should expose such teachers and show that their teaching are not only a gross offence to God, but also rob those who follow them from eternal life any such teaching should be presented in a Spirit of righteous love toward those who are being deceived and not in anger or hatred toward those who are deceiving. This is because God's Spirit and the Spirit of Christ always flows from love and never hatred.

2 JOHN 1:12-13

John Hopes to Visit the Elect Lady so their Joy maybe Complete.

- **2 John 1:12-13:** Though I have much to write to you I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.
¹³The children of your elect sister greet you.

Clearly John has a deep affection for this faithful lady as he would for any brother and sister in Christ who is not only devoted to the Lord in love, but is walking in Christ's love in that she welcomes those who proclaim the Gospel of Christ and belong to the Lord's family into her home and no-doubt attends to their needs. As any friend would, he tells her rather than give her anymore advice by writing he hopes to visits her and share his wisdom and knowledge with her face to face and encourage her so that their joy in the Lord would be complete in fellowship together. It is certain that the expression:

- The children of your elect sister greet you (v13).

Refers to other similar home churches in which brothers and sisters in Christ were not only showing hospitality toward strangers and those seeking God, but who were also enjoying the ministry and teaching of visiting teachers and evangelist who they welcomed into their home churches as the elect lady was doing.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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