

2John – Week 1

I. Quick review of last class

A. The Bible describes death as a separation, not an annihilation

- i. Physical (first) death: Spirit separated from the body (Eccl. 12:7; James 2:26)
- ii. Spiritual death: Physical man separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2)
- iii. Second death: Man separated from God forever (Rev. 21:8)

B. Life would be the very opposite of death:

- i. Physical life: Spirit and body enjoined
- ii. Spiritual life: Man and God enjoined
- iii. Eternal life: Man and God together forever

C. Therefore, one can view Matthew 25:46 (ESV), “*And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life*” as saying...

- i. The righteous will be with God forever (eternal life)
- ii. The unrighteous will be separated from God forever in hell (eternal punishment; second death- Rev. 21:8)

D. Resurrection Day

- i. Both the saved and the unsaved will rise (John 5:28-29)
- ii. Paul says the resurrected will have imperishable and immortal bodies (1Cor. 15:53)
 1. If the new bodies are made imperishable and immortal, how can they cease to exist?

E. The Greek word “*apollumi*” which translates to destroy, lose, ruin, perish, die

- i. When something is destroyed, it does not mean it is annihilated.
 1. The lost (*apollumi*) sheep – Luke 15:4
 2. The lost (*apollumi*) coin – Luke 15:8
 3. The ruined (*apollumi*) wine and wineskins – Mark 2:22

II. Introduction to 2John

A. The two main points of this short epistle is:

- i. We are to walk in love and this means keeping God’s commandments
- ii. We are not to encourage false teachers in any way.

B. 2John 1:1 (ESV), “*The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth*”

i. The elder is the apostle, John

1. Greek word “*presbuteros*” literally means “elderly; aged; old”
2. This suggests that John had both intimacy and authority with his readers.
3. In his first epistle, John referred the Christians as his little children.

ii. Who is the chosen lady?

1. The Greek word, “*Kuria*” may either mean “*lady*” or the proper name “*Cyria*”
 - a. Some believe John may be writing to a literal woman.
 - b. However, many believe John was referring to a local church.

i. Personification is not unusual in the Scriptures:

1. The church is personified as a bride (Ephesians 5:25-27; 2Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-9)
2. Wisdom is personified as a beautiful woman/sister (Proverbs 3:13-15, 7:4, 9:1)

ii. Also, consider the following:

1. In verse 8, the plural pronoun “yourselves” is used
2. And in verses 10 and 12, the Greek words “*humas*” and “*humin*” translate into the plural form of “you.”

- iii. This congregation was loved by John and loved (and well-known) by all the “sister” congregations of the time.
 - 1. Such was the church at Thessalonica (1Thess. 1:8)
 - a. The gospel rang out from them into other regions and their faith in God has become known to all.
 - 2. The phrase “*all who know the truth*” refers to those who have not submitted themselves to the Gnostics doctrine spoken by John in his previous epistle.
 - a. **Question: What truth have we learned in 1John?**
 - i. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, not some “secret knowledge”
 - ii. Jesus came in the flesh
 - iii. A true disciple does not continue practicing sin
 - iv. Jesus came by water and blood (i.e., He was Christ at His baptism and at His death)
 - v. Jesus is the Christ (the anointed one, the Messiah)
 - vi. Those born of God love one another (not in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.
 - vii. Those born of God practice righteousness.
 - viii. Those born of God keep His commandments.
- iv. 2John 1:2 (ESV), “*because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever*”
 - 1. Many have tried to destroy God’s Word but have failed!
 - a. In 300AD, Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered that every Bible be burned, hoping he’d destroy Christianity...
 - i. 50 years later, Roman Emperor Constantine ordered that 50 copies of the Bible be made at government expense.
 - b. Voltaire, a French philosopher, said that the Bible would disappear from the face of the earth within 100 years. He died in 1728 and the Bible is still here!
 - c. And even though time and culture has changed, the truth is still here and will continue to live forever within those who are faithful to the Lord!
 - v. 2John 1:3 (ESV), “*Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.*”
 - 1. This is not a mere wish, it is the true assurance of all those who walk in truth and love:
 - a. Grace – God’s unmerited favor toward sinners (getting what we don’t deserve)
 - i. G.R.A.C.E. (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense)
 - b. Mercy – God’s compassion toward sinners (not getting what we deserve)
 - c. Peace – The result of God’s grace and mercy (the removal of guilt and condemnation)
 - 2. All this comes from the God, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ!