

## 2John – Week 3

### I. Quick review of last class

#### A. 2John 1:4-8

- i. John was glad to find some members of this beloved congregation walking in the truth
- ii. The Lord's congregation must be known for their love without neglecting God's other commandments
  1. Jesus was full of grace and truth (John 1:14) and therefore, His Church must reflect His grace and truth!
    - a. Example of Jesus' grace and truth is found in Mark 10:17-21
      - i. Jesus loved this man
      - ii. However, Jesus did not withhold the truth from him!
      - iii. Love does not withhold truth.
- iii. Since many deceivers have gone into the world, the Lord's congregation must be watchful so her work may not be destroyed
  1. For this reason, it is important for:
    - a. Disciples to know their Bible well (Ps. 119:11; Col. 3:16)
    - b. Disciples to impress the Word of God within the hearts of those they teach (Deut. 6:6-7; Matthew 28:20).
    - c. For Church leaders to appoint teachers with great care (make sure they are solid in the truth).
    - d. Disciples to be aware of the false doctrines that are out there.

### II. Continuation

#### A. 2John 1:9, *“Everyone 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.”*

- i. The teaching of Christ includes:
  1. Holding to the proper views about Jesus, that He came in the flesh (cf. 2John 1:7)
  2. Loving one another (2John 1:5; John 13:34-35)
  3. Abiding by His word (2John 1:6a; 1John 3:24; John 8:31)
- ii. False teachers like the Gnostics consider themselves to be “progressive” or “advanced thinkers”
  1. They claimed to have a superior “*gnosis*” or “knowledge” that enabled them to “advance” beyond apostolic teaching.
  2. John saw this not as “progress,” but as “apostasy.”
  3. Anyone who does not abide in Christ's teachings do not have God!
    - a. This is reminiscent of what we learned from 1John...
      - i. Anyone who claims to have fellowship with God, yet does not practice the truth, walks in darkness (1John 1:6)
      - ii. Anyone who claims to know God yet does not keep His commandments is a liar (1John 2:4).
- iii. Modern “progressive” or “advanced thinkers” today
  1. They have an appearance of wisdom and are very convincing with their teachings. They are also very friendly and accommodating.
  2. Such men claim to be “mature” in their thinking, viewing those who oppose them as either being “negative,” “rigid,” or “immature.”

3. What modern “progressive thinkers” say today:
    - a. Preach the ‘core’ gospel, not doctrine
      - i. According to these teachers, the ‘core’ gospel involves believing that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived, died, rose again, was seen, ascended and was crowned.
      - ii. Anyone believing this, regardless of anything else, they perceived as being in fellowship or united with them.
      - iii. To them, doctrinal matters do not stand in the way of unity.
        1. This is an old teaching in a new suit!
          - a. For years the denominational world has been saying: “*Preach the man (Jesus), not the plan (doctrine)*”
        2. Such philosophy undermines the very authority of the Bible
  4. One cannot separate the Teacher from His teachings! (cf. John 12:48)
- B. 2John 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, <sup>11</sup>for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*”
  - i. In context...
    1. These false teachers (Gnostics) were going around preaching false doctrines, opposing the apostolic doctrine and encouraging members to join their number.
    2. The people in view by the apostle here were immoral, pure children of the devil (1John 3:10).
  - ii. In principle...
    1. This would apply to modern day false teachers as well
  - iii. Is this passage saying that we should not allow people like JWs or Mormons into our homes under any circumstances?
    1. In the NT times, churches often met in homes (Col. 4:15; Rom. 16:15; 1 Cor. 16:19; Philemon 1:2)
      - a. John was giving a warning to the church against...
        - i. Allowing these false teachers into the church and...
        - ii. Giving them a platform to teach.
      - b. The goal of this warning was to keep the church doctrinally pure and from losing what she has worked for (cf. 2John 1:8).
      - c. To extend hospitality to a false teacher would imply that the church accepts or approves of their teachings.
        - i. For this reason, John says in verse 11, “*whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*”
        - ii. This greeting would be understood as expressing success in their endeavors.
    2. Also, in the NT times, missionaries, like Paul, would depend on the hospitality of Christians when traveling from location to another.
      - a. John is discouraging the Christians not to extend this type of hospitality to these false teachers.
      - b. Christians are not to allow false teachers to stay at their homes and use their homes as a base of operations from which to spread their poison.
      - c. It is interesting to note that false teachers will attempt to go to homes of those who are easily swayed by flattery (see. Romans 16:17-18).
  3. This passage does not prohibit a Christian from allowing the misled into their homes for evangelistic purposes, but it does warn the Christian not to receive those who seek our approval to their doctrine and our support to help them spread it.