

Truth

2 John

¹ The elder,

To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

⁴ It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵ And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

⁷ I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what we^[a] have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. ⁹ Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. ¹¹ Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

¹² I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³ The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

We are starting a new series in August

- Short and sweet, looking at some of the smallest books in the bible
- Philemon, Malachi (short for the Old Testament) today 2 John.
- 2 john runs for 1:51 on the bible gateway audio bible
- So that officially qualifies as short.
- Sitting on the L90 to the city you could listen to the book roughly 37 times

John is the 2nd most prolific Nt writers

- Paul being the first, writing 13 book of the NT
- John has written 5 , 2 being very small books, 2-3 john but a full Gospel as well
- And revelation which is a very significant book.

2-3 John are kind of like add on books from 1 john for these churches,

- warning them about particular issues in their communities

You notice there is a bit of a theme in 2 John. In the first 4 verses John mentions truth 5 times

- He is certainly not afraid of repeating himself
- Its either because he is not a very good writer or its because he's making a point
- This community is facing a crisis of truth,
- and John is writing them to steal them in the truth of the gospel
- to ride out the storm that is coming on the horizon

In V7 we see why John is so concerned about the truth

- The truth is under attack
- New comers to the community are preaching that Christ was not fully man
- They are actually like traveling evangelists, going town to town, church to church
- Trying to convert the churches to their theology about JC
- So they were probably smart guys, with slick arguments
- That many church has trouble refuting, and it was throwing people faith into crisis
- The foundational truth these churches were built on was being undermined
- Truth was under attack

The truth in our society has never been more under attack

- We are always talking about this post truth society
- We have a bit of a giggle today at the "alternative facts" and "fake new"
- But this is not a new phenomenon. For many years, we as a culture
- have drifted towards relative truth... what is true for you is not true for me
- my truth is relative to me and my circumstance

During an alpha conversation a while ago I asked a guy on my table

- what he thought about the Lunatic liar lord... argument
- C.S.Lewis put this argument forward a long time ago
- In the 70' there was this book "Evidence that demands a verdict"
- This book layed out the evidence for Jesus and said make a decision LL or L
- I have been told this was a very powerful book in its day
- A great tool to get people to think about Christianity seriously
- So I tried that argument on this guy and he said
- No .. why does it have to be LL or L... I just think of him as a good teacher

So faced with a reasoned argument biased on the claims Jesus made about himself

- The things he did and said.... His answer was I want to pick another option
- By discounting some facts and including others.
- I will decide on what is true for me and what is not

We live in a time where there are so many levels of truth

- That the real truth gets buried under a sea or alternative truths

Because for John the truth is not about being right or wrong

- Its about the very glue that hold God's people together
- It's the foundation on which the KOG is build.

V2-3

Do you get what he is saying? The sentence is a bit clunky

² because of the truth, .(that will be with us forever)...³ Grace, mercy and peace from God ... will be with us in truth and love.

John tells us right at the start that

- The truth that lives in us will be with us forever.

And because of this truth we are the recipients of Grace, mercy and peace

- When we rest in God's Truth and love
- His Grace mercy and peace are accessible in our lives
- I don't know about you but I need a bit more grace mercy and peace in my life.

The doctrines of the faith that we all hold as foundational truth

- Grant us access to grace mercy and peace
- The truth such as:
- God is sovereign over all creation
- He is a loving God
- In Jesus we see the perfect representation of who and what God is.
- Through Christ we are forgiven and come before God in righteousness

How do we live in the truth, this force that binds us together as God people

- This way to access God's grace and mercy and peace in our lives...
- Its to walk in Love, obedience and truth.

V5 john pulls one of his old classics out of the draw

- john 13:34, a new command I give to you...
- here its no longer a new command ... I am not writing you a new command
- because he has probably been banging this drum for years, with all his churches
- Love one anotheryou have heard this from the beginning.
- This was his opening line to them about the gospel

But he does add something new to this old hit record V6

- Walk in obedience Walk in Love
- Love it the great theme of the Writings of John.
- "God is Love" " for God so loved the world..." "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us"
 - o All this is Johns teaching love is central to his understanding of God
- And throughout his writings Love is linked to obedience
- John 15:10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love
- John 2:5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.
- God people walk in God's love, and to talk in God love our need to walk in obedience
- But this is not his main theme for this letter

V4 in 2 John what he really want his people to do is “Walk in the truth”

- Walk in love, walk in obedience, But he desperately wants his people to walk in truth

He says to the people of this house church....In the face of deception or doubt

- Hold on to the truth...
- In the face of hardship or isolation... hold on to the truths

And here is the message for us... in the face of hardship, or challenges to our faith... hold onto Truth

- Because in life we are constantly having stumbling block thrown at us
- In this era where truth is relative , its all up for grabs
- The obstacles to our faith come at us think and fast.

You have lost your Job, the mortgage need to be payed you don't know what next

- here it the truth
- ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink...
- ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?
- This is truth..... the world want to tell you... worry about everything
- Never give money away because you may need it one day.
- You can only rely on yourself

Because when we hold onto the truth we are set free from the shackles of this world

- We are set free from being defined by your Job....
- The truth is “I am who I am in the Lord Jesus Christ”
- 2 cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- You are not your career.... thats not what make you who you are
- You are a child of God fill with the love of Christ.. thats the truth

In truth you are set free from keeping up with the jones, from obsessing over possessions

- Because being rich is not about money
- Luke 12 “ life does not consist in an abundance of possessions...
- Woe be any one who stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”
- There's truth..... true Treasures are stored in heaven
- When we are in the midst of the greatest spiritual depression Australia has ever seen
- There is more spiritual poverty than ever before
- That truth... and that is where we should walk.

When in our lives we hold on to what we know is True the grace, mercy and peace of God can abound in our lives