

## **“Walking in Truth” II John**

**Introduction** - The letters of second and third John are the shortest books of the New Testament, shorter even than Jude or Philemon which each have only one chapter. This does not mean that either second or third John is insignificant! Remember, good things come in small packages. Sadly, these little letters are perhaps the most neglected books of the New Testament.

The theme in II John is very important for the day and age which we live. The theme of the book is *truth and love*, verses four and five. The reason John wrote on this subject was because the false teachers of I John had not only invaded the churches, but they were also trying to come into Christian home (vs. 7 & vs. 10).

Christian love must not be deceiving!

1. There have been and always will be problems in the church. There are no perfect churches.
2. We have a responsibility to deal with such problems.

### **I. The Author and Recipients**, vv. 1-2

- A. The truth unites believers, vs. 1.
- B. The truth indwells believers, vs. 2.

So truth and fellowship.

### **II. The Greeting**, vs. 3

- A. The truth blesses believers, vs. 3.

### **III. The Commendation**, vs. 4

- A. The truth controls believers, vs. 4.

### **IV. The Exhortation and Warning**, vv. 5-11.

- A. The believer exhorted, vs. 5.
- B. Love explained, vs. 6.

C. The exhortation justified, vs. 7.

D. The believer warned, vs. 8.

- Look to yourselves - It's watch yourselves and it's in the present tense. So be on your guard, don't let anyone rip you off.
- Lose not those things which we have wrought."
- But that we have received a full reward.

So, the dangers of going back.

E. The enemy and believer contrasted, vs. 9.

- The danger of going ahead. The Liberals called, "Modernist". Today the "Progressive Theology" or "The Emergent Movement."

F. The believer instructed, vv. 10-11.

John is telling us as true believers what our attitudes and actions should be towards false teachers.

The word "if" in verse 10 literally means "since" and the word "so" means "stop receiving" and "stop bidding". He thought it was the loving thing to do.

Do John's words seem harsh? *"If John's words seem harsh, it can only be that John's concern for Christ and His glory is greater than ours and that our so-called tolerance is in reality just an indifference to truth and a misunderstanding of true love."* -John Stott

"The doctrine of Jesus Christ is a test of truth, a basis for fellowship and a bond for mutual cooperation." - Warren W. Wiersbe

#### **IV. The Conclusion, vv. 12-13**

What's the message of II John?

- We must *know* the truth.
  - It's found in Jesus!
  - It's found in the Bible, God's Word!
  - It's objective truth, it's "Reality".

- We must *walk* in the truth.

- Truth is also to be a subjective experience in our lives. We must not just know the truth, we must “love in truth.” The truth must live in us and through us.

- We must *abide* in the truth.

- The danger of going *back*, vs. 8.
- The danger of going *ahead*, vs. 9.
- The danger of going *with*, vv. 10-11.