

## **July 11 2010. 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1-6 - A Way to Walk**

### **1) Introduction:**

In the early days of the church, there were teachers who travelled from place to place. As they went, they taught the people about Jesus. It was the duty of the church members to receive these teachers into their homes. The church members gave the teacher whatever he needed. They looked after the teacher until he went to the next place. When he went, they blessed him.

The problem was that some of the teachers taught false things. (See vs. 7) Many of them had wrong ideas about Jesus. They did not agree that Christ became a real man. They taught that the Christ did not really die for us. They said that Jesus died as a man and not as Christ. They denied the truth that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God. John said that such teachers were not real Christians. He said that they were against Christ. What they taught about Jesus was not true. They tried to damage the church by what they taught. (A closer look at this next Sunday).

### **2) Truth and love (2 John, verses 1-3)**

- a) Verse 1 John wrote this letter from Ephesus, where he lived. He was an elder, which is a leader, in the church there. He was a leader of the churches in that region as well. He wrote to the lady whom God had chosen to belong to God. She and her children knew John well.
- b) 'The lady whom God has chosen' was probably a church. 'Her children' were the members of that church. Most Bible teachers say that the 'lady' was in fact the local church. The style of John's letter seems to show that he was writing to a church. It was normal to speak about cities or towns as if they were female. So, the lady whom God has chosen could mean the local church. Her children were the church members. John also writes about her sister whom God has chosen (verse 13). That would mean the church where John was. The house (verse 10) would be the place where the church met. This is because they did not have a separate church building. We cannot be sure whether the 'lady' was a person or the church. But what the letter teaches is good for us all.
- c) The Church, as a mother, must teach new believers how to walk.
  - (1) John loved that church and its members.
  - (2) He told them that he loved them in the truth. Jesus is the truth.
  - (3) All who know Jesus are in the truth. Jesus is the way the TRUTH and the life.
  - (4) John loved them because they believed in Christ. They were to John as brothers and sisters. All who knew the truth of the gospel loved them as well. All the Christians loved them.
  - (5) We must learn to walk in The Way
- d) Verse 2 The reason for their love was that the truth lived in them. The truth gives people an inner desire to love. They loved each other because of the truth that they shared.
  - (1) Truth is more than what we know. Truth lives in us and it changes us. Truth becomes part of us and it will be in us always.
  - (2) The truth is that they knew the Lord Jesus Christ. They trusted in him. They shared the life that the Lord gives. He gives it to those who believe the gospel. This truth becomes part of them and it lives in them. This is the truth. Those who accept the Lord Jesus have eternal life.
  - (3) This is TRUTH AND LOVE.
- e) Verse 3. We do not deserve anything from the Lord. But God will do good things for us, his people.
  - (1) He will show how kind he is toward us. He loves us and he will help us in all our troubles.

- (2) He is ready to forgive us for our sins.
- (3) God will make our hearts calm even when we have troubles. We will have a good relationship with God.
- (4) God the Father and his Son will bless us. There is only one God. The Father and the Son are equal persons with the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Son of the Father. This shows the unity that there is between them. The Father and the Son are two persons in the one God. The false teachers taught that Jesus was less than God. But John shows that Jesus is the Christ. He is God the Son.
- (5) All God's gifts are truthful. God gives his gifts to us because he loves us. To receive God's gifts we must believe him. We know that he is true. And we must love him.

### 3) **Truth and Love & how to live (2 John, verses 4-6)**

- a) Verse 4 John may have met some of her children. Or perhaps someone had brought news about them to him. (The 'children' probably means members of the church.) John was glad to find that some of them were living in the truth. (That is, they were living their lives loyal to God's truth.) But it seems that some did not live in the truth. Maybe there was trouble in the church and some members had left.
- b) To live in the truth we must first believe in the truth. The truth is that Jesus Christ had come to earth as a man. He was God then, and he is always God. But he also became a man. He died for us so we could come to God through him. We must believe this and give our lives to him.
  - i) To live in the truth we must live our lives loyal to God's truth. He shows us this truth in Jesus. To live in the truth is to obey God. We must do what he has shown to us. Truth is like a path along which we walk. We would not wander from a good path, so we must not neglect God's commands.
  - ii) God the Father has told us to follow the truth. We must obey the command that he has given to us. His command is that we must believe in Jesus as the Son of God. We must also love each other.
- 4) Verse 5 John now comes to the main subject of his letter.
  - a) This is how they should live in the truth. He asks them to love each other.
  - b) This is a polite command. He expects that they will obey him. He tells them that they must love each other. This rule is for all those who believe in Christ.
  - c) If we love God, we must love his people. If we do not love God's people then we do not love God. Love is the test of the truth. If we do not love, we are not living in the truth.
  - d) John is not giving them a new command.
    - i) The command to love was there when they first heard the gospel. It was also the first command of the old law.
      - (1) A man asked Jesus to select the most important command. Jesus replied that you must love the Lord your God. And you must love your neighbour as you love yourself (Mark 12:30-31). Jesus did give us as a new command that we should love each other. He told us how we should love. We should love as he loved us (John 13:34).
- 5) Verse 6 To love is to obey the command of God.
  - a) We must express our love by obeying God. If we do not obey God, we do not have real faith or true love. We should love him and love each other.
  - b) If we love God, we will obey his commands. When we obey God, we show our love for him.
  - c) **This is the command that these Christians had heard. They should love God and they should love each other. This is the way to walk – Walk in Truth and Love for each other!**