

# 2<sup>nd</sup> John



# John's 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle

- The message & themes of John's 1<sup>st</sup> letter are again emphasized here:
  - The Father and Son are One v3
  - The Importance of walking in the truth v4
  - We must love one another v5
  - Deceivers have gone out into the world v7
  - Those who (habitually) sin are not abiding in Christ and have not God v9
  - If you abide in the Word you will have fellowship with the Father and the Son v9
  - Our Joy may be full if we have fellowship with the Father & the Son (which in turn leads to fellowship with our brethren)

<sup>1</sup> The elder **unto the elect lady** and her children, whom  
I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they  
that have known the truth;

**2 John 1:1**

# The Elect Lady?

- Who was John writing to?
  - Jerome and many since suggest it is the Church
    - Yet this 'Elect Lady' has children
      - The Church does not have children!
    - She also has a sister?
      - How can the Church be said to have a sister?
    - John also says he intends to visit her & speak face to face
      - Whilst there may be lessons for the Church in this letter (as in all scripture) it clearly seems to be addressed and an individual
  - For this reasons others suggest that is was simply a prominent individual in the early church (whom we cannot identify)
    - Yet John says that all those who are of the truth know her!?

# The Elect Lady?

- Who was John writing to?
  - An overlooked possibility is that John was writing to Mary, the mother of Jesus
  - John was entrusted with the care of Mary by Jesus at the Cross – John 19:26-27
  - Mary was of course respected and well known in the early church
    - John says this Elect Lady is known and loved by all those who know the truth (all those who are born again!)
      - Who other than Mary was known to all believers?
  - It is believed that Mary ended up at Ephesus
  - John became the pastor at Ephesus

<sup>1</sup> The elder unto the **elect** lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 John 1:1

- Of all women, Mary was Elect!
- We are conditioned in our thoughts about Mary by the heretical teaching of the Roman Catholic church.
  - Mary was the mother of Jesus...
  - ... but not the mother of God!
  - Mary was not 'sinless' – she needed a Saviour Lk 1:47
- But she was chosen to bear the Messiah!
- Jesus never calls Mary 'mother'

<sup>1</sup> The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 John 1:1

- Jesus had 4 brothers and (at least) 2 sisters
- *“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?” – Mark 6:3*
- We know that James (author of the NT Letter) became a believer after the Resurrection and the head of the church in Jerusalem
- Jude also became a believer – and defender of the truth!

<sup>1</sup> The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 John 1:1

- Truth occurs 5x in the first 4 verses
- Love – one of the key themes in 1 John is found 4x in 13 verses
- Chuck Missler suggest that ‘the truth’ may be a veiled reference to Jesus



2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

2 John 1:2

- What is the 'truth' that dwells within us...
- ...and shall be with us forever?
- The Holy Spirit
- He is the Spirit of Truth

<sup>3</sup> Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

**2 John 1:3**

- As Paul uses, John prays for Grace, mercy and peace.
- We need constant Grace
  - Paul tells Timothy to be strong in the Grace...
- We need God's mercy (which endures forever).
- If we have Grace & Mercy we will have Peace!

<sup>3</sup> Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, **the Son of the Father**, in truth and love.

2 John 1:3

- The only time this expression is used...
  - Interesting if this is indeed addressed to Mary.
- Many try to claim that Jesus never claimed to be God...
  - Mary was under no illusion who Jesus really was
- This statement would be an encouragement to Mary, who had endured years of sneers and whispering behind her back that Jesus was an illegitimate child!

# The Pharisees Slur...

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

**John 8:41-42**

# Jesus' Childhood

<sup>10</sup> When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting,  
that was to my reproach.

<sup>11</sup> I made sackcloth also my garment;  
and I became a proverb to them.

<sup>14</sup> They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was  
the song of the drunkards.

**Psalms 69:10-12**

# Jesus' Childhood

14 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.

**Psalm 69:14**

3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

2 John 1:3

- John's statement is in effect:
- Jesus was the legitimate Son of the Father!

<sup>3</sup> Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

2 John 1:3

- All that we do should be in truth & love
- Not in love only, but also truth
- We are to '*speak the truth in love*' – Eph 4:15
- '*Thy Word is truth*' – John 17:17
- If we try to show love apart from God's Word it is incomplete.
- Love must be in the context of God's Word
  - This is never truer than when speaking to the unsaved



# Speaking The Truth in Love...

- Don't just tell someone God loves them..
  - Tell them how to be saved
- Don't tell someone 'it will be ok...' regarding a particular situation...
  - Preach the Gospel – then, whether it works out 'ok' by the natural reckoning or not, it places the outcome in the context of the eternal
- Don't just tell someone 'I'll pray for you...'
  - Tell them you'll pray for them to know Jesus too

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

**2 John 1:4**

- We know that at least James and Jude were 'walking in the truth'

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

2 John 1:5

- The clear implication is that both John and the Elect Lady were there at the beginning.
- In a general sense, the ‘commandment’ is for all believers
  - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”. John 13:34
  - “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you”. John 15:12
  - “These things I command you, that ye love one another” John 15:17

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, **that we love one another.**

**2 John 1:5**

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

**John 19:26-27**

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as **ye** have heard from the beginning, **ye** should walk in it.

2 John 1:6

- *“How are we to love one another?... By keeping His commandments”*
- All believers have this same commandment
- How do we know that we love God?
- By the love that we have for the brethren
- If you love the brethren your life and conduct will reflect the knowledge that what you do affects your brothers and sisters in Christ

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. **2 John 1:7**

- Mary, of all people, knew the false teaching of the Gnostics, claiming that Jesus was not really human, but some sort of phantom
- Or that he was not God, just an ordinary man whom the 'spirit of Christ' came upon
- Mary would still, no doubt, remember the labour and birth of her firstborn in the 'Tower of the Flock' on the outskirts of Bethlehem!
- John says to Mary IKR! (I know right!)

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

2 John 1:7

- “...is come in the flesh and still exists in the flesh”
- Right now, there is a MAN seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven!
- Jesus will be a Man for eternity.
  - Rev 5:4-7



8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2 John 1:8

- So, it is possible that we can get to Heaven and find we have lost or forfeited our reward!
- Jesus said we are to 'lay up treasure in Heaven' -  
Matt 6:21
- But if we live a carnal life, we don't lose our salvation – that is a free gift - but can lose reward
- Peter speaks of having an abundant entrance into Heaven! - 2 Peter 1:11
  - But it is possible to forfeit this! - Even for Mary!



# How We Live our Lives Here Will Have Eternal Consequences

- What we do ‘after we have been born again’ affects our role, position, place & authority in the coming Millennial Kingdom.
- This kingdom is not heaven, but a literal, physical kingdom on earth where Jesus will reign for 1000 years. We acknowledge this kingdom, but don’t know the criteria required to inherit it
- The truth “that not only our “rewards,” but our place of responsibility in that kingdom is being determined now; thus, there is an urgent need for a renewed recognition of our personal accountability.
- We must learn to be “partakers of Christ’s Life”— these are called “overcomers” or “faithful ones”

# Overcomers

- Overcoming means “victory over hostile powers.” Jesus is the real Overcomer. The only way we become an overcomer is by yielding ourselves to Him
- Overcomers are not ‘perfect;’ they are just ones who make the right choices to go God’s way.
  - David is an example
- All believers will enter the kingdom; but only overcomers will inherit that kingdom (Heb.3:14; Rom.8:17; Matt.24:43, 47)
- Overcomers” (the faithful ones) will rule and reign there; the “overtaken” will simply dwell there (Rev.21:7; Matt.7:21)
- The deciding factor is how we live our lives here

# The Kingdom Perspective

- *“All will be in heaven, but the difference between those who have lived for Christ & those who have not will be eternal”* (Donald Grey Barnhouse)
- *“Are there any eternal consequences when a believer sins (and doesn’t repent)? Absolutely!”* (Charles Stanley)
- *“Rewards have more to do with levels of responsibility that will be given to us”... “important positions of high responsibility over the whole universe”* (Erwin Lutzer)
- *“Christians will be assigned specific areas of service in proportion to what works they did on earth”* (Tim La Haye)

# Our Goal

- All Christians will be “with Christ” in the kingdom (John 14:3), but only the overcomers and the faithful ones will have the potential of co-reigning with Him
- Regeneration (new birth) is only the prelude of an intimate relationship with God
- Ruling and reigning with Christ is the final and ultimate goal.
- It's the “prize of the high calling” (Phil.3:14) and to be sought after with everything we have

# Being *Born Again* Does Not Change our Character

- Even though we are now spiritually “justified,” our character and our actions are not automatically changed
- Christ has simply imputed His righteousness and His Life to us by means of a new Spirit (Rom.4:6)
- “Positionally” we have been set apart and made holy; but “experientially” nothing at all has changed
- Now, we must begin the long road towards “life transformation” which is a process called sanctification
- So being ‘born again’ is just the 1st step of salvation



# Salvation is a Lifelong Process

Heaven

← - - - - - Salvation - - - - - →

New Birth



Rapture

## Justification

- ◆ Spirit saved
- ◆ Receive Eternal Life
- ◆ Partaker's *in* Christ

## Sanctification

- ◆ Soul being saved
- ◆ Live Christ's Life
- ◆ Partaker's *of* Christ

## Glorification

- ◆ Bodies will be saved

Earth

Chart 1

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

**2 John 1:9**

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

2 John 1:10

- *“The words mean, according to the eastern use of them, ‘Have no religious connection with him, nor act towards him so as to induce others to believe you acknowledge him as a brother.’ ” Adam Clarke*
- *“This may also be translated do not receive him into the house. John may be referring most specifically to not allowing these heretical teachers to come into the house where Christians meet together”. David Guzik*



<sup>11</sup> For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

2 John 1:11

- *“So when they leave, don't say, Well, God bless you, brother. Or God bless, you don't want God to bless their pernicious ways. They are denying the truth of God that Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh and that Jesus is coming in the flesh. They deny that. So don't bid them God bless you. You might say, God bring you to the truth. God bring you out of darkness into the glorious light of His Son, but not God bless you”.*

- *Pastor Chuck Smith*

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house neither bid him God speed:

2 John 1:10

- Consider the repercussions that would have occurred if Mary had opened her home to someone with false doctrine!

- 12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
- 13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

2 John 1:12-13

- *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full”. — 1 John 1:3*



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