

## IN HIS TRUTH

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### 2 John

The Elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I **love in truth**, and not only I, but also all those who have **known the truth**, because **of the truth** which abides in us and will be with us forever:  
Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, **in truth** and love.  
I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children **walking in truth**, as we received commandment from the Father. And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ [**truth**] does not have God [the Father]. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ [**truth**] has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. The children of your elect sister greet you.  
Amen.

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Today being Father's Day we're going to look at what is called the second epistle of John, or the second letter written by the Apostle John, who is also the author of the gospel according to John. The Apostle John is, what we can call, one of the first father's of the Christian faith, that is our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. John walked with Jesus in His ministry for 3 years where as Jesus told the messengers of John the Baptist, "**The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**" (**Matthew 11:5-6**) He saw Jesus as "He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (**Matthew 17:2**), and it was there where Jesus stood talking with the prophets Moses and Elijah. John was also a witness as "a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (**Matthew 17:5**) And if that weren't more than most people ever get to experience of the great things of God, the Apostle John was a witness to the resurrected Christ after He rose from the dead on the third day after

His crucifixion. And then finally, after Jesus had been seen by them for forty days, after He had raised from the dead, as Jesus was talking with them "while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9) What came after that was the promise by Jesus of the gifting of the Holy Spirit of which John was a witness to and recipient of. What John gives us in this letter is really a condensed version of his gospel of Jesus Christ in what we call the book of John. Although he just introduces himself as the Elder, when comparing it with the gospel of his, there is no mistaking it to be from any other author as we'll look at the parallels of this letter in comparison of the gospel of John and then how the full gospel of Jesus Christ comes out in this one page letter and that what John is talking about is not just following after a philosophy put forth by Jesus but that He IS the Way, He IS the Truth, and that He is the Life. The Elder, that is, the Apostle John also gives us an abridged version of the Vision of Jesus, as Christ is purposed to be God the Father's Way and Truth and Life for each of us, throughout our journey on this earth but also into the eternal life beyond.

In His letter he uses two words, multiple times, that after you see them they just jump out at you and make you to take notice. It's like when you see a block of text and see the same word appearing here and there and there and there, sort of like a word search puzzle. At first you may not see any words in the puzzle but after looking at it for a bit, the words starts popping out at you from the other letters, and after you've seen them you can't help but see them quickly after that. One of the fathers of our faith in Christ Jesus, that is, the Apostle John, in his letter to the elect lady and her children, which may have really been a lady with children or a church with members (it has been much discussed amongst scholars and students of the Bible, with no conclusive answer), here is pointing out and mentioning two words multiple times. Those two words are this: Father and truth. John was pointing to the truth and the Father of truth. We are being led and called to follow in our Heavenly Father's truth, and that truth is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) After that, Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Just imagine being there and hearing that dialogue. Jesus boldly claims, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me", and then Philip says basically, "yeah, yeah, that's great and all but show us the Father and we'll be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the

works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves., (John 14:9-11).

Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." He is the Way we are intended to follow, to follow Him and His example, to emulate the ways of Jesus, as He was showing us the very character of God, the Ways of God. As Jesus claimed, "I and My Father are one." (John 10:30) This is what we are being shown in this letter, in John's gospel, and what God then is telling us in His Word, Jesus said, ""If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"" (John 8:31-32), "therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) While none of us here will experience near the same things as the Apostle or Elder John, but once you see the truth, and you grab hold of it, as it has got ahold of you, you'll be able to testify to what John was telling us of the truth and of what Jesus said, that "if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." Once again, it is in Christ Jesus that God has purposed for us to find the Way, know the Truth, and to live the Life in Christ Jesus and as Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) In that IS the fullness of the gospel!

While today is a day that is recognized as a day to celebrate Father's Day and it is also a day that is being called Juneteenth which is the day in Texas in 1865 that the slaves were told they are free, while I am not intending to minimize the recognition and celebration of either of those things, nevertheless it must be pointed out and understood by all of God's people that the freedom that the world offers is nothing in comparison to what God gives us in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. And while we can honor our father's this day, and recognize our father's in the faith, there is but one Heavenly Father who, with His Son is the maker of the heavens and the earth, and all that is on the earth and that it is in Christ alone to where we find the Way and Truth and Life that is purposed for us.

As I've mentioned in the past, anytime a writer in the Scriptures repeats something, especially when it is more than once, it is most certainly something that is being emphasized and is of most importance. In our passage of Scripture today, John mentions truth 5 times in the first four verses and in this short letter he also mentions the Father 5 times. As Jesus stated clearly that He IS THE TRUTH, we could substitute Jesus Christ for each of the times John mentions Truth. 1. Love in Truth (love in Christ or let's say that is to love as Christ loves), 2. know the truth (know Christ), 3. of the truth which abides in us (abide in Christ), 4. Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. (that is, bearing

fruit in Christ) and then 5. walking in truth (walking in Christ, being led by Christ, following Christ as He leads us). As the Elder, one of the first church fathers of the faith that is in Christ Jesus, he is pointing the elect lady, and now to us, to the truth that is in Christ Jesus.

Those five things that are pointed out by John, of the truth that is in Christ is a condensing, of what I call, the Vision of Jesus. There are seven that I've come up with in the gospel of John, five are mentioned in this short letter which really comprises all 7 in the book of John:

1. Love as Christ Loves-Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment of God and He replied, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (**Matthew 22:37-39**) After all, as John mentioned in **1 John 4:7-8**, "7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.."
2. Know Christ, encompasses two of them, one is that He is to be our Lord and Savior and that as we obey Him He is our friend. A friend of God! Who wants to be known as a friend of God?
3. Abiding in Christ-which is being sanctified in Christ, being set apart in Him in God's holiness, to be as Christ, to be the light of Christ, to be His witnesses (see John 15, Abiding in the Vine)
4. Bearing fruit in Christ-in this letter, John mentions love, joy, and peace. We know the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." (**John 15:8**) Anyone here praying that God would be glorified in their lives? That's what you'll get, the bearing of much fruit.
5. Being Led by Christ-also encompasses the other two principles of the vision of Christ, where we do the work of Christ and we then are being where Christ is. Jesus IS our Great Shepherd who leads us, sometimes to green pastures, sometimes beside still waters, and yes, sometimes through the valley of the shadow of death, after all that is usually where the lost sheep are, right?. (**Psalms 23**)

All of what the Apostle John, the Elder, is telling us, and of what God is telling us in His Word, is that what He is calling us to is what He is working in us in Christ Jesus. As the Apostle Paul spelled it out for us in **1 Corinthians 1:30-31**, that, "of Him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." May we all glory in the Lord. Amen?

Epistles in the New Testament of the Bible were letters written to persons or churches by one or more of the apostles. I say persons because the letter of Philippians opens saying it was from Paul and Timothy. There are 21 epistles out of the 27 books in the New Testament. Can you guess the six that aren't epistles? It's pretty easy to remember. The first five books, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts and then the last book of Revelation. The much quoted John the Apostle, who wrote the epistle we're looking at today, is regarded as, in his own words, the one Jesus loved, as he referred to himself in his gospel of Jesus Christ. That always sounded somewhat self-exalting to me until I got to thinking about it and realized that, while it is certainly within the realm of possibility that John was being a bit silly, or as the British say, a bit cheeky, I think really John is actually pointing the glory back to Christ. As John said in his first epistle, "we loved Him because He first loved us." It really is very noticeable in reading John's letters that he recognized the primary importance of understanding the whole gospel of Jesus Christ. In **John 3:16-17**, he quotes Jesus as saying, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**" (**John 3:16-17**) God SO loved the world, God SO loved YOU, God SO loved me, that He was willing to have His only begotten Son, Jesus, to come to this earth, and to suffer and die on a cross for us. It could be said, based upon his persistent emphasis on the love of God that John was the Apostle of love or the Apostle of God's love. After all, he alone went so far as to say, "God is love." Not once but twice (**1 John 4:8, 16**)

The many quotes of the Apostle John are usually from his gospel account (such as John 3:16-17) and from his first epistle, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." (**1 John 1:1-4**) John is not just talking about a man named Jesus that just said a lot of over the top statements about Himself, but that He was and is the Son of God who was manifested to them, doing all of the marvelous works that I already mentioned, and then raising from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion and that He had the words of life, for He IS the Life and then that they were and we are today called into fellowship with God the Father in Christ Jesus. In the opening of his gospel of Jesus, John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through

Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (**John 1:1-4**) Then he continued, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**) Now God wants to manifest His glory in us, as we bear fruit for His eternal kingdom!

In his first epistle he doesn't introduce himself as John, the Elder but really what's more important, letting people know who you are or who Jesus is? I guess it could be assumed that the messenger of the letter would have clued the recipient of the letter in of whom it was from. Or perhaps there was a cover letter like in business correspondence, where it says who it's to, who it's from, and the subject or title. But in his second and third epistles John refers to himself as The Elder. What is notable is that the Apostle John was of course not the only elder. Peter stated that he was a fellow elder in **1 Peter 5:1** and Luke's narrative in Acts refers to James as "James and all the elders" (**Acts 21:18**). Also James was referred to, with Peter and John, as being the pillars of the early church by Paul (**Galatians 2:9**) But with this letter from the Elder John, when you compare it to the gospel of Jesus Christ that John wrote, it becomes quite clear who wrote this letter. How is that important, and what is the significance in knowing who wrote the 2nd epistle of John, as it is now titled? It can be recognized in his words and in his actions who he was. His words had weight and importance, not because of who he was but who he was IN CHRIST. John's letter opening with introducing himself as "the Elder" really is saying not who he is, but who he is in Christ Jesus. That is an example we would want to follow. Not just someone who talks about Jesus Christ but someone who IS in Christ. See the difference? Do we want people to know who we are or who Jesus is? I personally don't care if anyone knows my name or anything about me other than we (Susie and I) are just that couple that comes on Sunday sharing the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. What's more I want you to know Jesus. Period. People will come and go in our lives, "but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (**Proverbs 18:24**) His name is Jesus!

A quick comment about the Old Testament. Some may ask, but what about the the Old Testament? God was a God of war and vengeance in the Old Testament. I challenge you to go through the Old Testament and find how many times God pleaded with His people the Israelites, to repent from following other gods and come back to Him, the only True and Living God. He not only did that with the Israelites but other nations around the Israelites as well. With many kingdoms God operated with great longsuffering in dealing with kingdom after kingdom. Yet in the end, He will bring forth judgment and wrath if His people or the people that refuse Him will not turn from their wicked ways. After all, God is perfect in all of His Ways, which includes, grace, and love, and mercy, and goodness, but also in



judgment, righteousness, and wrath. God has not changed. He has revealed to us His salvation in Christ Jesus and gives His Holy Spirit to those who will obey Him (**Acts 5:32**) but He will still judge the kingdoms of the present as He did with kingdoms of the past. Judgment is coming but we are called into the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

The gospels of Jesus Christ as well as the epistles in the New Testament by the apostles, including this 2nd Epistle of John's were and are important to us in guiding us in God's truth, as the Word of God is Truth that has been given to us and then we are called to pass that Word along. It is equally important to know that the will of God in this present time is that God is calling us into eternal fellowship with Himself and His Son Jesus and to abide in the Truth of God, from here to eternity. Jesus, in His prayer to God the Father, before He was to be crucified on a cross, prayed, "I do not pray for these alone [the disciples], but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one." (**John 17:20-22**)

Isn't it ironic at how today, with the internet, we have a vast or endless sea of information but with most people it just leads them further from the truth that can truly set them free. The world cannot lead us to the truth and it will never set anyone free. As the apostle Paul told his spiritual son Timothy, there will in the last of days be those, "having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!... always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (**2 Timothy 3:5, 7**) "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (**1 John 5:7**) We are to continue to cling to God for He is our life (**Deuteronomy 30:20**), as God told the Israelites to do, and we are told today, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [one of which is the elder, the apostle John], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:1-2**) Jesus is the hope that we are to be looking for. Not in our government, not in this world, not in anyone around you, but in Jesus. We are told of how Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He conquered death, being raised from the grave on the 3rd day, and that we are then told to believe on Him and His teachings and then to receive Him into our hearts with His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and then we are led by the Holy Spirit to then walk in the Ways of Christ.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) God the Father has given us His eternal truth in Jesus Christ His Son. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He loves us and wants nothing more than for each of us to overcome this world and walk in His truth-for it is in Christ Jesus we truly can be free indeed! And all of the Vision of Christ will be manifested in us as we continue to abide in the Truth that is in Christ Jesus!

Heavenly Father,  
I confess that I have sinned against You.  
I ask that You forgive me of my sins.  
I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins,  
I confess with my mouth that Jesus is my Lord,  
and I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead,  
so that I can have forgiveness of sins,  
and be reconciled to You, God, My Father.  
I now commit to You, that I will repent of my sins,  
and live in the newness of life,  
being led by Your Holy Spirit,  
all this I pray, in Christ Jesus, my Savior and Lord. Thank You Lord!



**One in Christ Mission**  
"That the world may believe"  
(John 17:21)

**Vision Statement:**

One in Christ Mission seeks to fulfill the vision of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, which is the will of God the Father, to build His kingdom for His glory, honor and praise by being disciples of Christ and operating as the body of Christ.

**THE VISION OF CHRIST**

**Have Eternal Life in Christ (John 17:3 NKJV)**

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

[Also **John 3:16**]

**Be Sanctified in Christ (John 17:19 NKJV)**

"And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."

[Also **Hebrews 10:14**]

**Be a Friend of Christ (John 15:14 NKJV)**

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

[Also **1 John 1:3**]

**Love as Christ Loves (John 13:35 NKJV)**

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

[Also **Matthew 22:37-39**]

**Be Where Christ is (John 12:26 NKJV)**

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

[Also **Matthew 25:35-36**]

**Do the Work of Christ (John 14:12 NKJV)**

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

[Also **Mark 16:15-18**]

**Bear Much Fruit in Christ (John 15:8 NKJV)**

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

[Also **Matthew 4:19**]