

2 John

Passage: 2 John 1-13

Title: The Guardians of the Gospel (Truth & Love)

Summary: We often say “Truth and Love” need to be balanced, but for us it is when we combine them and weave them together as inseparable, that we find great and tremendous power in our walk with the Lord, and with all our personal relationships (marriage, family, friendships, and neighbors).

2 John (NKJV) ¹ 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, ² because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: ³ 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. ⁴ I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received a commandment from the Father. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. ⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹ for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. ¹² 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. ¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

Lord's Return / Great Books / Overlook / Proverbs 30:5

I believe the Lord's return is soon, and so when we get to heaven and see John we can say what few people can (for most don't spend the time reading them), John your second and third book were great. People can have a tendency to overlook these next two books. I can have the tendency to overlook these next two books of the Bible; they are small, they look so much like 1 John which we study so in-depth, that it appears we are rehashing things we have already studied, and not to mention they are so close to the Book of Revelation that we want to get on to the good stuff, so we might think. But Proverbs 30:5 says:

(Proverbs 30:5 NKJV) Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

And thus we are reminded, God has a rich word here in these next two little books, but powerful books.

The Theme of the Book – “Truth & Love”

(2 John 1:3 NKJV) 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. – Take careful note of the last part of this verse, “in truth and love”, this is the theme of this short little power-packed epistle.

We often say “Truth and Love” need to be balanced, but for us it is when we combine them and weave them together as inseparable, that we find great and tremendous power in our walk with the Lord, and with all our personal relationships (marriage, family, friendships, and neighbors).

Personal Correspondence – Eaves Drop / Early Church – Upside Down / People - Problems

Because they were written as personal correspondence rather than as doctrinal statements or historical records, John's second and third epistles afford us the opportunity to eavesdrop on the early church, to read mail addressed to the group who “turned the world upside down” (see Acts 17:6). And in so doing, we see that the old adage is indeed true: Wherever there are people, there are problems. So it is that in 2 and 3 John, John deals with people problems in the early church. In 2 John, He deals with them generically; in 3 John, he deals with them specifically.

Speak Truth – Holy Spirit Application / Problems – Upside Down

There are times when we must speak the truth generally and let the Holy Spirit make application specifically. But there are also times when, like John, we must speak the truth to people individually and personally. So the church that turned the world upside down, they too had problems, which should encourage us today. Makes us think, hey Lord you used them to turn the world upside down, then so too can You use us.

Lessons – Application / Congregational – Family - Individuals

The lessons seen in John's last two epistles have great application to us congregationally, as families, and as individuals.

Outline of 2 John:

- John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)
- John - Commands her to continue in her Love (2 John 1:5-6)
- John - Cautions her in her Love (2 John 1:7-11)
- John - Comforts her with his Love (2 John 1:12-13)

Much to Say – Important what Said

(2 John 1:12 NKJV) 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. - I have many things to say to you, but I am only going to say 13 verses of things, that means what he says in these 13 verses are the most important of what he has to say. We would do well to examine them closely.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)

John commends her for the love that was found in her home, and in her children.

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) 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,

Elder / No Retirement – Just Beginning / Life Richer & Richer / Best Chapters

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER - Written by John. John refers to himself as “the elder” because in addition to being the last surviving apostle, at the time he wrote this letter, he was most likely close to one hundred years old. That’s the great thing about ministry, there is no retirement program. A thirty-three-year-old player in the NFL is considered an old man. But in the things of God, a man that age is just beginning. Because our lives become richer and deeper the longer we walk with the Lord, there is no disqualification for age. If you look at the life of Jacob, his life just got richer and richer with age, and as we say his best chapters were yet to come, and too can it and will it be for you and I.

Elders..... you are a gift, the world may be youth driven, but not the church, and I pray you use your life experiences to minister to the younger. You’ve been where they have yet to walk, you have overcome what they have yet to face, you have experienced and have learned and gained wisdom and knowledge on what they have figured out. You are one of God’s great treasures in the church, and I pray you see your great value and worth here in the church, and that you open yourself and make yourself available “to the elect and her children”.

Elect Lady / Home Church / Is Your Home a Church

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER, To the elect lady and her children - Written to, the elect lady and her children. Who this lady is we do not know, but very likely it was her home that was where this early church met, for most, close to all of the churches in that day met in homes.

The Church in My Home

Christian, do you consider your home a church (I don't just mean when you have visitors)? Do you consider it a place for God's Spirit to move, in both you and your children. A place where God's Word can be studied and taught. A refuge where one feels secure and at rest, and place where peace rests upon it? A place where you can have fellowship with the Lord, and fellowship with one another? If you don't then you should, and then adjust accordingly within your home. This little book is a great book to come back to over and over again for the model in the home.

**(2 John 1:1 NKJV) 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,
(2 John 1:2 NKJV) because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:**

The Truth Lived (Abided) Was at Home

John and all those who have come to know the truth, love her "for the truth's sake." "For" is dia (δια), a preposition which means, "for the sake of, because of." That is, they loved her because of her Christian character which exemplified the truth as it is found in the Word of God. This truth, John describes as "abiding in us." Smith says, "not merely apprehended by the intellect but welcomed by the heart." The word is menō (μενω), which is used often in the Gospels of one living as a guest in the home of another. Thus the truth is a welcome guest in the heart of the Christian. This truth, John says, "shall be with us forever." Smith adds "as our guest and companion. (Wuest)

Truth Not Comfortable

Beloved, you will live in absolute peace and comfort, in "all things", when in "all things and everything", I/we say, this is the truth of God, I receive it and believe it, regardless of what the world may say, or my flesh, or the Devil. No matter the pain, the struggle, the warfare, the doubts..... when we are settled in the truth, then we will be settled in "all things".

What is Truth? / Perfect Truth – Perfect Love Writes/Speaks to Us Today

What is truth? Pilate the governor of the great Roman Empire asked. I think every man should ask that same question, what is truth.

- *The definition of truth is, "in accordance with fact or reality".*

Jesus summarized better, when He said I am the truth! To spell that out, "Everything I am, everything I say, everything I do..... "is in accordance with fact and reality". My truth is perfect, and thus everything I say is not just perfect, but perfect for you.

Definition: that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

God is love..... and perfect love has written this epistle, and this Book, to tell us, and to give us life, not just in heaven, but here today.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

We know perfect Love, by Perfect Truth (the fact and reality of Jesus Christ), and we know Perfect Truth, only through Perfect Love (Jesus Christ – in accordance with all that He is and has done).

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Greek: There Shall be With Us Grace-Mercy-Peace

The Greek text has, “There shall be with us grace, mercy, peace.”

Grace - Briefly, in the ethical terminology of the pagan Greeks, charis (χάρις) (grace) referred to a favor conferred freely, with no expectation of return, and finding its only motive in the bounty and free-heartedness of the giver. Of course, this favor was always done for a friend, never for an enemy. When charis (χάρις) is taken into the New Testament, it leaps an infinite distance forward, for the “favor” God did at Calvary in becoming sin for man and paying the penalty instead of man, was done for a race that bitterly hated Him, a race, unlovely, and humanly speaking, unlovable.

Mercy - (eleos (ἔλεος)) is God’s “kindness and goodwill toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them” (Vincent). Grace meets man’s need in respect to his guilt and lost condition; mercy, with reference to his suffering as a result of that sin. Trench says: “In the divine mind, and in the order of our salvation as conceived therein, the mercy precedes the grace, God so loved the world with a pitying love (therein was the mercy), that He gave His only-begotten Son (herein the grace), that the world through Him might be saved. But in the order of the manifestation of God’s purpose of salvation, the grace must go before the mercy and make way for it. It is true that the same persons are the subjects of both, being at once the guilty and the miserable; yet the righteousness of God, which it is quite as necessary should be maintained as His love, demands that the guilt should be done away before the misery can be assuaged; only the forgiven may be blessed. He must pardon before He can heal ... From this it follows that in each of the apostolic salutations where these words occur, grace precedes mercy.”

Peace - is eirēnē (εἰρήνη). The verb is eirō (εἶρω), “to bind together.” Thus, our Lord made peace through the blood of His Cross when He made it possible for a holy God in perfect justice and holiness to bind together a believing sinner and Himself in an indissoluble, living union. Grace for daily living as the Holy Spirit ministers to the spiritual needs of the yielded saint, mercy in the form of God’s care over the physical needs of the saint, and peace in the form of heart tranquility, shall be with us, John says.

from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, - These come from the presence of God the Father and from the presence of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father. The Greek preposition translated “from” is not apo (ἀπο), speaking of ultimate source, but para (παρά), referring to immediate, personal source. Of course all these find their ultimate source in Deity, but the personal, immediate source is emphasized here by John. This preposition “from” is repeated with the words, “Jesus Christ.” Westcott says that “it serves to bring out distinctly the twofold personal relation of man to the Father and the Son.” Brooke comments: “The Fatherhood of God, as revealed by one who being His Son can reveal the Father, and who as man (Jesus) can make Him known to men.” “The Son has interpreted the Father to man, ‘not merely in truth,’ enlightening the intellect, but ‘in love,’ engaging the heart” (Smith).

in truth and love. – In truth and love, God’s love is for us is in accordance, is, the fact and reality! God loves you!

- *The definition of truth is, “in accordance with fact or reality”.*

(2 John 1:4 NKJV) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Commended for Love in Her Home

John commends her for the love that was found in her home, and in her children.

John talks of Love More / Truth - 39 – 20 – 9 – 5 - 5

Although John talks about love more than any other writer in Scripture, he also emphasizes truth more than any other writer—using the word “truth” twenty times in his Gospel, nine times in 1 John, five times in these opening verses of 2 John, and five more times in 3 John.

Apostle of Love – Truth / Love rather Honest / Economy USA / True for You – Pilate - Jesus

I find it interesting that it was the “apostle of love” whom the Lord tapped on the shoulder to also be the one who stressed truth. Love and truth must go together, because when you talk about love, it’s very easy to get mushy, to become sentimental, to begin to say, “I’ll just love that person rather than be honest with him.” Such is not the case with John. And his example is a needful one in a day when the economy has eclipsed integrity as our nation’s top priority, in an age where what is true for one person may or may not be true for another, in a culture that embraces Pilate’s question, “What is truth?” (John 18:38), rather than Jesus’ declaration, “I am the truth” (John 14:6).

Batten the Hatches – Nor People led to Destruction / Truth & Love Vital / Eph 4

While I don’t want to be one who causes people to batten down the hatches whenever they see me coming, neither do I want to let the church, or my kids walk in ways I know will be destructive. Our relationships with our kids, our spouses, and our sisters and brothers in the Lord cannot survive without truth. That’s why Paul says we are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)—for both are vital: *(Ephesians 4:15 NKJV) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;*

Church – Home – Heart / Have to be Truthful if Truly Love / Elect Lady

Whether it be in the church, in the home, or in your heart, you have to be truthful, you have to be honest, if it is truly love. You have to have them both together. The elect lady’s home was filled with both truth and love, and it effected the children in her home. John commends her for that.

(2 John 1:4 NKJV) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Rejoice

“I rejoiced” is chairō (χαίρω) expressing a glad surprise. John had often been disappointed in the kind of lives some of the young people of the early Church were living. But when he met some of this elect Lady’s children, he experienced a glad surprise.

Found – Perfect Tense

“I found” is perfect tense, “I have found.” He sits down and writes this Lady at once, telling her of the good news. The character of the lives which these children were living demonstrated to John that this was no spasmodic thing, but a practice with them, for the present results of the perfect tense are not lost sight of here. Evidently he had had contact with them for some time.

Walking in Truth – Lives Led by WORD OF GOD

The expression, “found of thy children” is literally, “found some out of thy children.” The indefinite pronoun is understood here. John ran across some of this Lady’s children in his preaching and administrative itineraries. They were “walking in truth.” “Walking” is peripateō (περιπατεω), “to order one’s behavior, to conduct one’s self.” “In truth” is the locative of sphere. Her children were conducting themselves in the sphere of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. That is, their actions and words were circumscribed by the Word of God. Their conduct was governed by the Word of God. This truth is further defined by John as being the commandment received from God as to how a Christian should conduct himself. John uses the word teknon (τεκνον), born-ones. (Wuest)

Parents – Model Integrity / No Compromise

Mom and Dad, make sure you model absolute integrity to your kids. Never let them see (or even the unseen things) you compromise truth even in little, seemingly insignificant ways—for such actions will plant seeds in their hearts that will take root, causing them to be people who do not walk in integrity or deal with others honestly.

The Examples of Jesus

Jesus Showed the Way

As we walk together, with, ahead of, away from, honestly before, and close behind our kids and those whom we disciple, as is the case in every area of spiritual life, we have the example to follow of One who walked in each and all of these ways:

- Jesus **walked with** the otherwise-saddened disciples on the road to Emmaus and opened the Scriptures to them, explaining all things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27). Then they were greatly lifted up. Jesus walked 3 years with His disciples teaching them and training them up.
- Jesus **walked ahead** of John's disciples in such a way that caused the Baptist to proclaim, "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36), and they ended up following the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Jesus **walked honestly** before the skeptic, not saying, "Listen to My sermon," or, "Watch My miracle," but, "Touch My wounds" (see John 20:27).
- Jesus **walked away** from His disciples, to the point He allowed them to enter into the storm (Mark 6). Jesus walked away when He sent them out to preach about the kingdom (Matthew 10). And while they were gone, what did He do? He preached in their hometowns (Matthew 11:1). Had they not gone, Jesus wouldn't have moved in. So, too, do what the Lord tells you to do and watch and see how He moves into your city, how He touches and teaches your family.
- Jesus **walked behind** His disciples as He prayed for them constantly—not only as they toiled in the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:23), but even as they slept in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 17).

Jesus Showed Way – Does it With Me – Now Our Turn

Jesus shows us what it means to walk with people, to walk ahead of people, to walk honestly before people, to walk away from people, and to walk prayerfully behind people. He does that with me. He's done that with you. Now let's do the same thing for those we're discipling and parenting.

John - Commands her to continue in her Love (2 John 1:5-6)

(2 John 1:5 NKJV) 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.

Continue from Time Given to Time Everlasting

"Beseech" is *erōtaō* (ἐρωτᾶω), "to request, entreat, beg, beseech." "Had" is imperfect tense, "which we were constantly having." The commandment was always with the Christian Church ever since its beginning, and was with the individual saint from the beginning of his Christian experience. The commandment was to the effect that Christians should love one another.

Agape Love – It Needs to be Defined - & Demonstrated

The verb is in the present subjunctive, stressing continuous action. The distinctive word for "love" here is *agapaō* (ἀγαπάω). This love with which saints are to love one another needs to be defined. The English word "love" may mean any one of a dozen kinds of love. There are as many meanings to it as there are persons in a preacher's audience, for a speaker is understood in the definition his audience puts upon a word, unless he defines it himself. Wise is the preacher who defines it for his people. This love with which a saint should love another saint is produced by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the saint, and its amount and intensity are determined by the degree of yieldedness on the part of that saint. It is self-sacrificial in its essence (John 3:16). It is longsuffering in its character, kind, self-abasing, humble, well-behaved, altruistic, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, never fails (I Cor. 13:4–8).

Matthew 22:36–40 (NKJV) ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (NKJV) ⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

One Another - Reciprocating

The words “one another” are a reciprocal pronoun in the Greek text. That is, there must be reciprocity among the saints as to this love. A saint must reciprocate the love shown him by a fellow-saint.

(2 John 1:6 NKJV) 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.

Love is Walking in Accordance with God’s Commandment

“Love” has the definite article. It was the love just referred to in the commandment, namely, “And this is the aforementioned love.” John defines it as walking according to God’s commandments.

- *“According to” is kata (κατα), the local meaning of which is “down,” thus suggesting domination.*

We are to order our behavior, conduct ourselves, dominated by the commandments of God. They are to be the dominating factor in our behavior. In the clause, “ye should walk in it,” the word “it” refers to “love,” not “commandment.” We should conduct ourselves in the sphere of love. Divine love, produced in the heart by the Holy Spirit, is the motivating factor that impels saints to observe the commandments of God.

Our keeping the commandments of God, is reflection and demonstration of our love for Him.... And how we love one another, is a reflection and demonstration of our love for Him.

Commended – Now Commanded / Unbeatable Team – Dynamic Duo / Harsh - Dangerous

After commending her for walking in truth, John reminds the elect lady of the command to love. Truth and love are an unbeatable team, a winning combination, a dynamic duo, John ties them together so nicely here in these first 6 verses. Truth without love makes a person harsh. But love without truth makes a person dangerous because he will allow cancers to grow and problems to take root in his life, in his family, on the job, or in the church.

613 / Jesus Sums up – Love / Heart of Every Command is Love / Our Benefit – Others Benefit

The Jewish rabbi’s determined that there were 613 OT commandments; Jesus summed them up simply to love. That is what is the heart of every commandment, love, for it is for our benefit and the benefit of others when we do the right thing to and for them.

Fear not Commandments – Releases Love / God’s Word Stable – No 2nd Rev

We need not fear the word command, it is not binding, but releasing. God’s commands, His Word, releases God’s love in our life. God’s Word is true, it is stable, it never needs to be amended and updated (notice there is no 2nd revision to the Bible):

(2 John 1:2 NKJV) because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

Word – is Truth & Love / Draws me in – Fall Deeper in Love / Not Ink – Word that Became

His Word is truth and love, and it draws me in, and I just fall deeper and deeper in love with His Word because it is truth and love. I am not falling in love with ink on paper, but the Word that became flesh:

(John 1:1 NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....

(John 1:14 NKJV) 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.

Commend – Command – Now Cautions

“I commend you for walking in truth,” said John, “and I command you not to forget love.” And then he issues a word of caution....

John - Cautions her in her Love (2 John 1:7-11)

(2 John 1:7 NKJV) 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.

Urgent Reason for Writing - Deceivers

And now John gives his reason for his urgent entreaty that the saints conduct themselves in the sphere of God's commandment to love one another. It is the presence of heretics and their heresies in the visible Church. "Deceivers" is *planos* (πλανος), "wandering, roving, misleading, leading into error, a vagabond, tramp, impostor, a corrupter, deceiver," thus, a false teacher who leads others into heresies.

Go About World – Not Agreeing Jesus Came in Flesh

"Are entered into," is *exēlthon* (ἐξηλθον), "went forth into" the world. The verb is aorist, speaking here of a particular crisis in the first-century Church when these false teachers suddenly broke with the saints in matters of doctrine, and went forth teaching heresy. "World" here is *kosmos* (κοσμος), the world of unsaved humanity. These, John says, "confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." "Confess" is *homologeō* (ὁμολογεω), "to agree with" someone as to a certain teaching. These teachers were not in agreement with the doctrines of the Church. They not only did not admit them to be true but differed with them by teaching heresy.

Antichrist

"Is come" is a present participle in the Greek text. There is no article before the word "flesh." The emphasis is upon character or manner. The prepositional phrase qualifies the coming as a flesh-coming. The word "flesh" refers, not to the totally-depraved nature, but to the physical body and human life with its human limitations. The denial here is that of the incarnation, not specifically of the First and Second Advent, although both are included in the apostle's thought, but of the fact of an Advent of Deity at all, of an incorporation by Deity of human nature. Here we have Unitarianism with a vengeance again. John says that this is "the deceiver and the antichrist," the definite article appearing with both nouns. "This" is *houtos* (οὗτος), the demonstrative pronoun in the masculine gender, referring here to personality. That is, the teacher who denies the fact of an incarnation is a deceiver and an anti-christ, and as Alford says, a representative and precursor of Antichrist himself.

(2 John 1:8 NKJV) Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

Don't Lose

Look to yourselves" is literally, "ever keep a watchful eye upon yourselves" (*blepō* (βλεπω)). The best texts have, not, "we lose not," but, "ye lose not." "Lose" is *apollumi* (ἀπολλυμι), "to destroy, ruin, lose." "We receive" is in the best texts, "ye receive."

Smith explains: "We have worked together: see that you do not forfeit the reward of your labor. Get a full wage. Be not like workmen who toward the close of the day fall off, doing their work badly or losing time, and get less than a day's pay.... We have been fellow-workers thus far, and I mean to be faithful to the last: see that you also be so." He adds, "Their danger lay in taking up with false teaching and losing the comfort of the gospel in its simplicity and fulness."

Watch Out for People – Jesus Hasn't Come – or Will Come

"Watch out," John says, "for people who say or imply that Jesus hasn't come in the flesh, or isn't coming in the flesh, who tell you not to get too serious about prophecy and not to look for Jesus to return physically."

Watch Out – Don't Get Fuzzy – Sloppy / In Name of Unity – Open Minded / Things Worked For

He is saying watch out lady, John says don't get fuzzy in your thinking, your theology. That in this idea of love, make sure you still realize there are deceivers, don't let your theology get sloppy, for there is a spirit

of antichrist that wants us to water down our theology, all in the name of love, unity, being open minded. In verse 8 he says don't lose the things you worked for, what you have gained, don't lose you full reward.

Not Seeker Friendly / Won't Lose Reward / Nor Bible Beaters

I can tell you this, this is not a seeker friendly church. We will never water down the gospel and the truth, in order not to offend, because the word here tells us when we do, we lose what we have worked hard for, and we lose part of the reward that God has for us. Nor is this a Bible beating church either, we tell the people the truth, in love, and then commit the rest to prayer and working of the Holy Spirit. People need to hear the truth, it is the only things that can set them free:

(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:33 NKJV) They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"

(John 8:34 NKJV) Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

(John 8:35 NKJV) "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever."

(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

(2 John 1:9 NKJV) Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

Transgress – Go Beyond True Doctrine

Transgresseth" is proagō (προαγω), "to lead forward, to go before," in a bad sense, "to go further than is right or proper," in this context, "to go beyond" the limits of true doctrine.

Doctrine – Teaching of Jesus

"Doctrine" is didachē (διδάχη), "teaching," namely, that which is taught. The teaching which recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Saviour.

(2 John 1:10 NKJV) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

(2 John 1:11 NKJV) for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Don't Keep Inviting them In

John applied the general command to the particular situation which his friend now faced. The form of "if" used assumes that the sentence is a statement of reality. False teachers actually were coming to this home, men who did not carry with them the genuine teaching of Christ. When this happened, John's command was clear. Do not receive them! The present tense suggests that the lady may have been welcoming such people indiscriminately in the past, so John called on her to stop doing so. She was not to bring them into her home, and she was not to provide them with the hospitality and help that went with a formal greeting in that culture.

Clear That Day – Persecution / Today no Fears – Bring Errant Doctrine

For the most part in John's day it was mostly black and white, fairly clear on who believed and who didn't. For persecution was ever so present, and your profession of faith could get you killed. Today, in American its easy for people to say I am a Christian for they have no fear of persecution, so we have to be even more on guard than early church was about these people who would bring errant doctrine.

Transgression – Beyond Set Point / We not to be Involved with Them / No God Bless - Home

Transgression means to go beyond a limit that is set. We are not to get involved with people who don't believe in the literal, physical coming and return of Jesus. This is a strong word. We are not to say, "God bless you," to such people, or to invite them into our homes. Those who reject Jesus Christ, those who are not looking for Jesus Christ, those who have diminished the Person of Jesus Christ are to be shunned.

OKJV

I like the OKJV for better clarity on this passage:

(2 John 1:10 KJV) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

(2 John 1:11 KJV) For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

No Shotgun / Not Ok what Preach / Jesus 2000 yrs ago – Throne – Earth / Lamb - Lion

Does that mean we get the shotgun and run them off the porch, no it means we are not say it ok that you don't believe that Jesus is God, the Holy God, that He left the throne 2000 years ago to come to this earth to be brutally beaten and scourged, nailed to a cross, for my sin, and for your sin, and that He is coming back, this time not as a Lamb, but as a Lion, and instead of taking the propitiation (the wrath for sin), He will be pouring His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.

Can't Say Bless You – Sake of Unity / Inkling we Agree / Only 1 Way

We can't say "God speed", God Bless You, we can not, for the "sake" of unity give them any inkling that we agree with their doctrine, that all roads lead to heaven, or that their road leads to heaven, but there is only one way, through "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" – Jesus Christ:

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 Empty Tomb

There was only one empty tomb, just one!

Receive in Home / No Host Bible Study / So You don't Lose Reward

Verse 10 - do not receive him into your house - Also, we are not to receive them into your home, meaning don't let them come into your home and host their Bible Studies week after week, God says don't do it.

One reason is so you don't lose the things that you worked for, that you may receive the full reward.

What did Paul say in 1 Timothy:

(1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

(1 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Amazed Christians Sucked Away / Parents Guard Kids – No Tolerance / They sow Seeds

I am amazed at how Christians have been swayed or sucked into errant teaching. We are told guard ourselves from allowing them into our lives to continually plant their seeds of heresy. Also, parents, you need to guard your children and make sure that there is no one in their lives that has an avenue to continually plant heresy into their minds. You can't continually have them in you home, and in your life, as they drop a little here and a little there, and over time some of it has seeped into your very being, or that of your child. Our children need to see that we have no tolerance for these things, we shun them immediately, so when they leave the house and go to that university, or that workplace, that won't sit around and engage these people and allow anything to creep into their doctrine. For most of you, you have invested a lifetime in training your children in the way they should go, you can not allow anything to penetrate them that can rob them of that full reward.

Neighbor Next Door / Endorsement

Know this, you bless them, you allow them and have a Bible study, when they go next door, they will be sure to let your neighbors know, oh yes I just left their house and we had a wonderful time. They will use you as an endorsement, and all that work you put into your neighbor could be ruined.

Old Dogs / Young Kids

Now when the doorbell rings and it is some crusty old dog, totally set in his ways, just tell them Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and by Him and Him only, there was only one empty tomb, consider that this day. But if some young ones show up, I step out on the porch, and say how are you, and do the work of an Evangelist (2 Tim 4:5). The next day usually they show back up again, but this time with the old crusty dog, and I give them the way the truth the life speech. Some show up to deliberately deceive you, and they are hardened to it, others show up who are just deceived, and you have opportunity to sow seeds into their life.

Apply Also

These words can be applied to who a person dates and marries. These words can be applied to who we continually hang out with. I am not talking seclusion from the world, but watching out for those who will draw you away from the Lord.

Strong Words from John / Apostle of Love

It's a good thing these strong words come from the pen of John—for if Paul had written them, this severe warning could simply be attributed to his forceful personality. But the fact that this warning comes from the “apostle of love” makes it all the more imperative.

John - Comforts her with his Love (2 John 1:12-13)

(2 John 1:12 NKJV) 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.

(2 John 1:13 NKJV) The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

Commend – Command – Caution – Now Comforts / Face to Face

Finally, after commending, commanding, and cautioning, John comforts. “I’d like to deal with many more things,” he says, “but I’ll do it face-to-face rather than with pen and paper.” I’m coming to see you face to face, and that would bring this woman comfort, fill her with love, my brother John is coming to see me, we will fellowship together.

Psalm 45

David said in his psalm:

(Psalms 45:1 NKJV) My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Fellowship in the Home/Church

It is such a blessing, a great comfort in love, when the brethren get together and the words of the Lord are being spoken and shared. I love getting letters and email, but I love it so much more when I can look the person face to face, hear their words, see their smiles, or even their tears, and that we can embrace one another, hold one another. I look so forward to our times together, I’m glad we have mid-week because I don’t want to go a whole week. My heart and my soul are lifted each and every time we come together.

Face-to-Face

Would” is *boulomai* (βουλομαι), “a desire which comes from one’s reason.” John had considered the matter carefully and had come to the conclusion that it would be wiser to wait until he saw this Lady again to talk things over with her rather than include them in this letter. Smith has a most helpful note in this connection: “Why would he not write all that was in his mind? It was a deliberate decision ere he took pen in hand: This is the force of ‘I would not.’ His heart was full, and writing was a poor medium of communication.... he was an old man, and writing was fatiguing to him (Plummer).

The reason is deeper. The ‘many things’ which he had in mind, were hard things like his warning against intercourse with heretics, and he would not write at a distance but would wait till he was on the spot and had personal knowledge. It is easy to lay down general principles, but this application to particular cases is a delicate task, demanding knowledge, sympathy, charity. (1) The sight of peoples’ faces appeals to one’s heart and softens one’s speech. (2) When one meets with people and talks with them, one’s judgment of them and their opinions is often modified. Writing from Ephesus, St. John might have condemned a teacher in a neighboring town whose teaching he knew only by report; but perhaps if he met the man and heard what he had to say, he might discover that there was nothing amiss, at all events, nothing which called for excommunication. Dr. Dale of Birmingham was at first inclined to look with disfavor on Mr. Moody. He went to hear him, and his opinion was altered. He regarded him ever after with profound respect, and considered that he had a right to preach the gospel, ‘because he could never speak of a lost soul without tears in his eyes.’ St. John shrank from hasty condemnation that there might be no after-regret.” (Wuest)

Verse 12 - that our joy may be full – As we fellowship with Him, and with each other, our joy is full.

(2 John 1:13 NKJV) The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

Your Sister's Children

In John's closing statement, he passed on greetings from the woman's nieces and nephews. "The children of thy elect sister greet thee." There is no greeting from the sister herself, who may have been absent or deceased.

Conclusion

Outline 2 John:

- John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)
- John - Commands her to continue in her Love (2 John 1:5-6)
- John - Cautions her in her Love (2 John 1:7-11)
- John - Comforts her with his Love (2 John 1:12-13)

John commends her for the love in her home, and we should consider our homes a church, a place where God has full reign. John commands her to continue in love and truth, the dynamic duo. John cautions her to watch out and not let that love get sloppy, and lead her to deception, and the deception of her children. And lastly, John says I'm coming to fellowship, looking forward to seeing you face to face, and talking about the goodness and love of our Lord.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Gospel / If You Were to Die Tonight

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ 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.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.