

## Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group Notes 7/8th May 2014

### 2 John Walking in the Truth

*Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. - Psalm 25*

This letter was written by the Apostle John, probably in Ephesus between 85 and 95 AD. The chosen lady and her children probably refers to a specific church that the letter was originally addressed to.

#### **Truth in John's Gospel**

Grace and truth came through Jesus (John 1:17)

We are to worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32)

"I am the way and the truth<sup>1</sup> and the life." (John 14:6)

The Holy Spirit is described as "The spirit of truth".

"Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth". (John 17:17)

Pilate asked "What is truth?" John 18:38 - In a postmodern society that has difficulty with concepts of absolute truth the same question can be asked today. So what does John mean when he uses the word truth?

#### **Reminders**

What does it mean to walk in the truth? v.4 Are you walking in the truth?

What does it mean to walk in obedience? v.6 Are you walking in obedience?

How would you define love? Does the definition in verse 6 surprise you?

v.5 - not a new command. We often need to be reminded of old truths.

The commandment referred to in this section probably refers to the love command introduced by Jesus in John 13:34-35. How does this relate to Leviticus 19:18 and what comes before?

#### **Concerns and Warnings**

v.7 - We must never think that "deceivers" and false teachers were a uniquely 1st century problem. It is very much a 21st century problem too.

v.8 We must be discerning.

v.9 Could refer to "Jesus plus" gnostic type teaching.

How should we interpret v.10 & 11? At a first glance they appear to go against what the Bible says elsewhere about offering hospitality.

v.12 - "Our joy may be complete" The source of this joy is given in v.4. Does hearing about and meeting other Christians who are walking in the truth give us the same joy that John expresses here? - Think also of the similar expressions in the introductions to many of Paul's letters.

#### **Summary**

*The focus of 2 John is living in the love of God in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ. This love extends not only to God but to other people. It is also discerning; it does not "go on ahead" of biblical revelation (v.9) and it does not lend aid to enemies of the gospel message (v.10-11). Instead, Christ's followers "walk according to his commandments" (v.6) and through faith "win a full reward" (v.8). - ESV Study Bible*

#### **Prayer Pointers**

ADB

Prayerfully reflect on the words from Psalm 25 above and on this passage.

The long term impact of recently heard Easter messages.

The people who were baptised recently.

Identify one or two of the less high profile church activities to pray for.

---

<sup>1</sup> By claiming to be truth personified, Jesus is the opposite of Satan - the Father of lies.