

Message #2

II John 1:1-3

KNOWING TRUTH AND DEFENDING TRUTH MUST BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF EVERY PERSON IN THE CHURCH, FROM THE ELDERS TO THE CHILDREN.

You will notice that the word “truth” shows up four times in three verses. The Greek word “truth” is the word “alatheia.” This particular word stresses what is actual and real and factual and genuine. It is a word that is totally opposite of what is a lie or false or non-factual (Smith, p. 20).

INTRODUCTION #1 – The introduction of the author. 1:1a

As we said previously, the author of II John is John the apostle. He simply identifies himself as “the presbuteros” or “the elder.” The word “elder” refers to mature age. It can refer to mature age physically and mature age spiritually. It is this word that is connected to an office of the church—the office of “bishop/elder.” Both words refer to the same office in Titus 1:5, 7. The word “bishop” has its focus on spiritual responsibility, namely, managing the church, and the term “elder” has its focus on spiritual maturity.

This shows you how important the “elder” is to the church, because as he nears the end of his life he does not refer to himself as an apostle, but an elder; in fact, “the elder” stressing his status as elder was very high.

Elders and deacons are leaders of a church and they are very important to the church. They should take their office as being very serious and sacred for that is how God views them. Now if we put this term “elder” in the context of II John, we observe the following:

- 1) The elders of a local church are very important.
- 2) The elders of a local church are to be those who are mature in the faith. It is true that one does not have to be old to be an elder, as proved by Timothy (I Tim. 4:12), but they **must** be men who are spiritually mature in life, mind and doctrine.
- 3) The elders of a local church must protect and warn the flock against false teachers and doctrine. That is the purpose for II John. Paul taught the same thing—Acts 20:17, 28-30; Titus 1:9-11
- 4) The elders of a local church should be respected and obeyed.

INTRODUCTION #2 – The introduction of the recipients. 1:1b

The recipients of the letter are: 1) The elect lady; 2) The elect lady’s children.

The term “elect” or “chosen” is one that means one who has been chosen, selected or picked out. The term specifically is used in connection with a divine choice of God, referring to one who has been chosen, selected or picked out by Him.

When John uses this term in regard to this woman, he has two facts in mind:

Fact #1 - This woman has been specifically chosen by God to receive salvation.

Fact #2 - This woman has been specifically chosen by God to receive revelation.

A God-fearing woman can make a powerful impression on her children. This elect lady was so dedicated to God that John had to tell her to back off from her service and not let certain people into her home. Let me point out one other thing—the Bible is written to the elect.

INTRODUCTION #3 – The introduction of love in the context of truth. **1:1c-2**

True love is always in the context of what is true. True love is only found in the context of Biblical truth. Let us put this in the context of II John. John loves this woman and her children, but he warns they can lose rewards (v. 8). He tells them to not permit certain people into their homes or else they participate in their evil deeds (v. 11).

Reason #1 - The internal reason. **1:2a**

Reason #2 - The eternal reason. **1:2b**

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He said, in the hearing ear of John that the focus of truth would be the ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17).

INTRODUCTION #4 – The introduction of the greeting. **1:3**

(Blessing #1) - The blessing of grace.

(Blessing #2) - The blessing of mercy.

God cannot be simply merciful to a sinner, but He can provide a merciful sacrifice for the sinner.

(Blessing #3) - The blessing of peace.

This is “from” the Father and “from” Jesus Christ. That preposition “from” indicates that the departing point of grace, mercy and peace is God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son.

In other words, if you are not willing to come to faith in Jesus Christ, you will not enter into the grace and mercy and peace from God. This is loving truth. Now this elect woman and her children had come to faith. The question is, have you?