

"And This is Love"



The Second and Third Letters of John The Apostle

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." —II John 1:6

"Because of The Truth" II John 1:1-6

"It is contrary to reason for a thirsty person to turn from a pure, sparkling mountain stream to quench his thirst at a stale, putrid cistern—yet that is what the human race does when it rejects God's truth and standards in favor of the devil's impure philosophies." —Billy Graham

I. "WHO KNOW THE TRUTH" (II John 1:1, 2)

- A. The fellowship of truth (v. 1)
- B. The fulfillment of truth (v. 2)

"If Christ did not speak the truth in all matters, the claims about himself vanish like the idle babbling of a lunatic bent on deceiving the world. Unlike Plato and Aristotle, he could not afford to be wrong—even once." —Erwin W. Lutzer

II. "IN THE TRUTH" (1:3)

- A. The believer's source of dynamics for living (v. 3a)
- B. The believer's security in truth and love (v. 3b)

A collapsing world is more conducive to understanding the nature of truth than a triumphant world. —Malcolm Muggeridge

III. "WALKING IN THE TRUTH" (1:4)

- A. Verification of application (v. 4a)
- B. Verification of obedience (v. 4b)

"Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God, trusts God; and he that trusts God, obeys God." —Charles Haddon Spurgeon



IV. "WALK IN LOVE" (1:5, 6)

- A. The principle of love (v. 5)
- B. The performance of love (v. 6)

"God's Word often refers to the Christian experience as a walk, seldom as a run, and never as a mad dash." —Steven J. Cole

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION and APPLICATION...

1. The theme of this short letter from John the Apostle centers on the theme of truth and love. How do these two words embrace the whole matchless plan of salvation? What does it mean to "know the truth"?
2. Verse two is spectacular in scope. Truth has to be much more than facts alone. Agree or disagree? What's the difference between knowing the truth and having it as that which "lives in us and will be with us forever"?
3. There has been a long, on-going question as to whom the Apostle was writing. He addresses "the chosen lady" (v. 1), the "dear lady" (v. 5), and makes reference to a "chosen sister" (v. 13). Some believe that he was written to one real woman, while others think he writes to the Church as the Bride of Christ. What do you think?
4. John the Apostle frequently refers to the Christian life as a "walk" (v. 4). Do you agree with Steven Cole's quote? What do you think he's implying? Is it possible to run spiritually when we should be walking at times?