

THE BLESSINGS OF GOD'S TRUTH AND LOVE

Sunday, June 26, 2022 -- 2nd JOHN series -- Msg 2 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

2nd JOHN 1:1-13

English Standard Version (ESV)

*1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in **truth**, and not only I, but also all who know the **truth**, 2 because of the **truth** that abides in us and will be with us forever:*

*3 **Grace, mercy, and peace** will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth** and love.*

*4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the **truth**, just as we were commanded by the Father. 5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. 7 For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

REVIEW:

- 1) First John was a letter to many churches in the Roman province of Asia
Second John was a letter written to a specific church
Third John was a letter written to a specific person
- 2) False teachers were persisting and this church needed to be specifically warned.
- 3) The BIBLE constantly centers on the theme of TRUTH.
The WORLD increasingly REJECTS the truth.
The CHURCH is called the "PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the TRUTH". (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

THE TRUTH THAT ABIDES IN US:

'abide' = 'stays', 'remains', 'indwells'
used 60 times in John's writings

1) God's truth indwells true followers of Jesus.

(This applies to the church as a corporate body and the church as individual members.)

- The truth permeates every aspect of church life... starting with preaching/teaching and then radiating to all other areas like fellowship, ministry and care and mission.

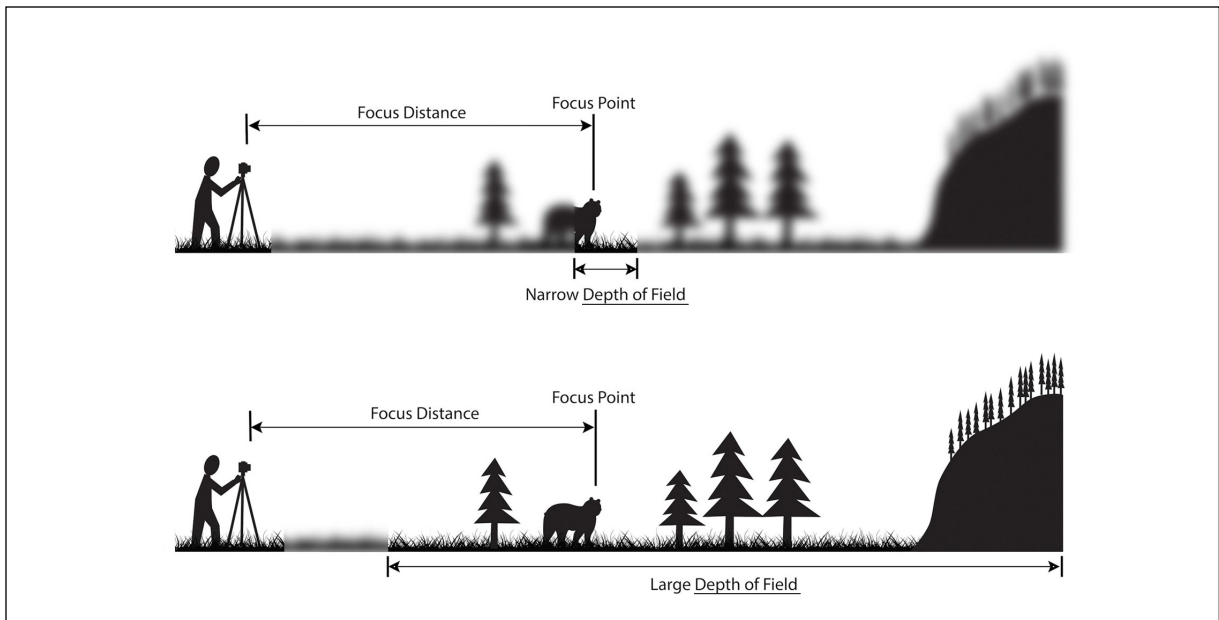
1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

2) God's truth is with Believers FOREVER, and this changes EVERYTHING.

The reality of eternity is absolutely essential to properly understand God and His Word.

A lack of ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE is one of the main reasons for misunderstanding the Word and works of God.

Attempting to understand God's actions, plans, motives and purposes without **eternal perspective** is like viewing something either totally out of FOCUS or without proper DEPTH OF FIELD.



We often have an extremely narrow depth of field when viewing a particular event in life or Scripture. This can cause great misunderstanding of God's actions. We can draw many incorrect conclusions. But when we have a larger depth of field, we can see God's actions in the greater context of His over all plan.

There are MANY of examples of this in Scripture. Consider carefully each of these accounts:

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| • Job loses everything. | Job 1:13-22 |
| • Abraham is told to sacrifice his son Isaac. | Genesis 22 |
| • Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt. | Genesis 37 → Genesis 50 |
| • Gideon is told to send home most of his army. | Judges 7 (22,000 down to 300) |
| • Moses dead-ends at the Red Sea. | Exodus 14 |
| • Joseph's fiancé, Mary, turns up pregnant. | Matthew 1 |
| • Lazarus dies before Jesus comes to him. | John 11 |
| • John the Baptist ends up beheaded. | Matthew 14 |

Hebrews chapter 11 reveals the necessity of having the eternal perspective for ALL God's people. For His true people, God saves THE BEST FOR LAST.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who LOVE HIM."

1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

*3 **Grace, mercy, and peace** will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth and love**.*

3) God's truth **BLESSES** true followers of Jesus.

GRACE →→ MERCY →→ PEACE

God's Salvation Plan: His GRACE led to His MERCY which gave us His PEACE.

ROMANS 5:20

*Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, **grace** abounded all the more,*

EPHESIANS 1:7

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his **grace**,*

TITUS 3:5

*he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to **his own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*

1 PETER 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to **his great mercy**, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

*For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making **peace** through the blood of His cross.*

vs 3 **...from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son...**

These blessings don't JUST HAPPEN. John reminds us over and over of their divine source.

JAMES 1:17 -- GOD THE FATHER

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 -- GOD THE SON

For all the promises of God find their Yes in Christ. That is why it is through him that we utter our "Amen" to God for his glory.

vs 3 **...in truth and love.**

ALL the blessings of GRACE, MERCY and PEACE come to us in TRUTH and LOVE.

The great motivation of God for our salvation is His love. *Why did He send His Son??*

1 JOHN 4:9

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.