**Postcard Epistle Series July 3, 2022**

**Living in Truth and Love – 2 John 1:1-13**

Background of 2 John

* Written by the **apostle John**
  + “the elder”
    - The apostles considered themselves elders (1 Peter 5:1-3)
  + Author of 5 New Testament books
    - Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation
* Date written
  + 90 A.D. (approximately)
  + From the city of Ephesus, where John did much ministry
  + One of the last books of the NT written

2 John Big Idea

All Christians are to conduct their lives following the truth of God’s Word, while living in such a way as to show God’s great love through our lives and conduct.

Truth and Love Unites Believers Together 2 John 1:1-3

* Truth: it is the foundational message of **God’s Word** as most clearly demonstrated through **God’s Son** (see John 14:6, John 17:17)
* Love: **committed** and ongoing demonstration of devotion to another
  + Jesus taught that it embodies the two greatest commandments (see Matthew 22:37-39)
* All Christians commit themselves to living in the truth which will last eternally
  + We will be with Jesus Christ (i.e. the Truth) forever!
* Christians who live **in love and truth** will experience God’s grace, mercy and peace

No One is a Christian without Truth and Love 2 John 1:4-6

* “walking in truth” means an on-going and consistent intent to be living **according to the Gospel**
  + Our beliefs direct how we live our lives
* This is a persistent message throughout all of the NT
  + 20 times in the NT we are commanded to love one another

We Must Watch our Doctrine Carefully 2 John 1:7

* Some falsely claim that God did **not become a man**
  + We call this the “incarnation” and it’s a foundational truth of the Gospel
  + Only God alone could pay for the sins of mankind
  + If Jesus was not God in the flesh, then we are dead in our sins and trespasses and stand in condemnation
* Satan and his demons use deception as one of their primary tools to get God’s followers off track

Discern and Act According to the Truth 2 John 1:8-11

* Be **on guard** to carefully think through what you hear and is taught
  + While genuine believers cannot lose their salvation (see John 10:28-29), eternal rewards can be sacrificed
* Some people wrongly think that are true **Christ followers**, yet their adherence to false teaching shows they are not truly born-again by the Holy Spirit
* Christians must steer far away from those who are dispensing teaching that is opposed to Scripture
  + There is no new revelation from God that supersedes any Scripture

**What does this mean for us?**

* Are you living in truth and love every day?
  + With your family?
  + With our church?
  + With our community?
* Are you exercising discernment as you read Christian works (i.e. books, podcasts, blogs, social media posts)?

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