



and obey Him, becoming the self-sacrificial servant to Him and our fellow man (1 John 1:7).

Corinthians 6:14). We can't allow ourselves to have a bond with them because they don't have a bond with God and Jesus. That is evident in their activities. There is only ONE way that we can have a bond with them and that is if we all accept the doctrine of Christ

In conclusion, what John says to this elect lady and to us today is that we should love God and man with everything that we've got. We can only do this by putting their interests before our own and reject the words of anyone who says otherwise. This is what John has to say to us all in this very short but powerful little letter. May we open our hearts to these three lessons so that we might understand and obey them. May we always glorify the Lord God Almighty in everything that we do, say, and think because it is to Him and Him alone from whom all blessings flow and to whom all praise is given.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.40 October 4, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
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ISSUE

11.40

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

October 4
2009

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
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Three Lessons from Second John

by Curtis Carwile

In the second letter which bears his name, John writes to a lady who is not only a Christian, but also the mother of some Christians with whom John had come into recent contact. In this very short letter, John offers three very important things for this “**elect lady**” (1) and us to consider. So, let us open our minds as we open our Bibles and examine these three great lessons from Second John.



I. The Bond of Love (1-3)

The very first thing we need to notice in this letter is the bond of love that John and this lady share with each other. We don't know who this lady was. Some have suggested that it was Mary, the mother of Jesus, others see her as a

personification of the church, but it doesn't really matter. They had a bond with one another and that bond was their mutual love for God and Jesus. Their love of God and Jesus was manifested in their obedience to His commandments. The commandments of Jesus are simple because they are the "two greatest commandments" Jesus brought up in Matthew

22:34-40, to love the Lord with everything you have and to love everyone the same. We can have the same bond today, not only with each other, but with John and this elect lady and her children and all other Christians. However, what is even more impressive and wonderful than that, we can have that same bond with God and Jesus today and in the life to come. All we have to do is love God by obeying Him and love everyone by bringing them closer to God and Jesus through our words and deeds.

II. The Message Doesn't Change (4-6)

The second thing we must understand is that the Message of Christ never changes. John rejoices that her children were "**walking in truth**" (4), the truth of the Gospel. This message, which they "**heard from the beginning**" (6a) he says they always "**should walk in it**" (6b). John says this over and over again (just like every other Gospel writer). God's Word just does not change. From the very beginning God has required us to humbly serve Him and each other sacrificially (Romans 12:1-2). Now, it is important to note that some things DO change; the book of Hebrews explains that. A perfect example of this change is found between the Old and the New Covenants. Originally, God would make covenants with the heads of individual households such as the one He made with Abraham. If they did what God commanded, God would bless them and their households. Eventually, God made a covenant

with one particular people, the Jews. In that covenant, if they did what He commanded, He would bless them. Finally, after Jesus' resurrection, the final covenant was made and it was with all people of every family and nation. That New Covenant explains that if we do what God commands us to do, He will bless us spiritually. In this, I think it is important for us to see that, even though the covenants did change, the Message never did. The Message has always been and will always be to trust and obey the Lord and He will bless you. This means that we need to look at the Covenant that God has made with us today and do what He commands today so we can be equally blessed.

III. Reject Those That Reject Jesus (7-11)

The last lesson that we need to learn from this short letter is that we must reject those who reject Jesus. He warns of the "**many deceivers**" (7) who have gone out into the world and charges Christians not to give any impression that we share in their evil deeds (11). The Bible is no stranger to warnings and Second John is no different. John warns the Elect Lady (and us) to be watchful for false teachers. And, he tells us that these false teachers can be spotted because they reject the doctrine of Christ (9). The doctrine of Christ is easily seen in His life. Jesus was the ultimate example of humble servitude even despite Him being the Lord God Almighty. His

whole life was a humble sacrifice even to the point of sacrificing Himself on the cruel cross of Calvary. His doctrine is simple humble service to God and man. Those that reject the doctrine of Christ are those that teach self-indulgence instead of self-sacrifice. This can be seen in a number of different ways from misusing the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-22) to the use of instruments in our congregational worship to God (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) and from not engaging in personal evangelism to refusing to do good works as we have opportunity to do them (Galatians 6:10). We need to reject those that reject the doctrine of Christ so that we are not "unequally yoked" with them (2

