

2nd John # 6 “Don’t be Deceived”

2nd John 7-8; James 1:22-25

Unconditional impersonal love from John’s integrity is a result of his learning, understanding, believing and applying the doctrine of love from God’s perspective.

Truly knowing, understanding, believing and applying biblical truth causes any believer to love like Jesus Christ loves with a mental attitude that may or may not include an immediate recipient.

Grace is all that God is free to do for us because of His Son’s work on our behalf; *mercy* is the fact that God has chosen not to give us what we all deserve in retribution for our sins and *peace* is judicial in that God the Father is completely satisfied with His Son’s judgement for our sins in which full payment has been made and knowing and applying this leads to our experiential peace, contentment and stability.

The Word of God is not just beautiful thought-provoking literature to be quoted and enjoyed for its poetic nature.

When properly applied, it promotes a change of heart that brings a change of behavior. *Anyone who truly knows God, understands His love for them and realizes that His Word is to be obeyed.*

John is repeating Jesus’ command to remind them and us that we are prone to forget how to love or likely to try to do it in our own strength and our own way; so we must remember that the standard for love is God the Father sending His Son and His Son personally demonstrating their amazing love which can potentially be our experience if we first and foremost have His truth circulating in our frame of reference.

There never has been a problem in all of human history for which God did not have the solution.

The greatest problem in life is that of having no relationship with God; no salvation and no eternal life.

The problem of our sins was solved by God when our sins were judged on the Cross, at which time, the barrier between God and man was removed.

Mankind does participate in the solution provided by God for him by expressing non-meritorious faith alone in Christ alone and in that way, man crosses the line where the barrier between he and God once stood and man does this only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Because God is completely satisfied with Jesus Christ and His work, man is reconciled to God and the conclusion becomes very simple:

Since all sins in human history were judged on the Cross, sin is not an issue in salvation; the issue is faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

This worm, TOLAH in Hebrew, was crushed in large vats and its crimson blood was used to dye the robes of kings and by analogy, our Lord Jesus Christ was crushed on the Cross by the weight of our sins so that we might wear the robes of kings forever!

Now that this greatest problem was solved by the work of salvation, the door of reconciliation is wide open to anyone who will walk through it by personal faith in Christ.

In grace, there is no place for human merit or ability of any kind, so it's non-meritorious.

We're unable to gain salvation by any human works, so God did all the work for us and His policy in dealing with sinful man is by grace alone through faith alone and faith is a transitive verb which requires a subject and an object; we are the subject when we have the faith and Jesus Christ is the object who has all the merit.

God is perfect; therefore His plan is perfect and under God's policy of grace, He provided a perfect plan for imperfect people.

Contradictions cannot exist in a perfect plan and deception leading to distraction is the greatest spiritual problem we face after we believe in Jesus Christ.

The pin of the self-destructive grenade is always connected to some form of arrogance related to jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, self-pity, revenge, slander, maligning, gossip, judging or improper ambition leading to improper competition.

The trend toward lawlessness results in reaction against biblical truth because lawlessness is associated with self-righteous arrogance which always clashes with grace-oriented truth.

Sudden disaster often places a believer under great pressure and moves him to panic where he can't concentrate on truth he has learned.

The difference between fear and courage is the ability to concentrate under great pressure. *Adversity, suffering, stress and disaster have the ability to destroy concentration and cause our rate of forgetting to exceed our rate of learning.*

Faith always selects something (a promise from God or a doctrine) that is stronger than the pressure that comes from stress.