

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: THE PRESENCE, POWER AND PROPERTIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Unit II – HIS POWER

“JOHN’S LOVING CONCERN FOR A SAINTLY SISTER AND HER FAMILY”



Sunday School Lesson IX – April 26, 2015
Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: II John 1-13

Required Reading: II John 1-13

Motto Text: II John 8, *“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; MacArthur Study Bible; Spiritual Warfare by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Barnes Notes on the New Testament

Introduction

My lesson this week is from a very short book called II John, which is very long in truth, doctrine and concern. According to the Bible Exposition Commentary, there are two main views as to whom the letter is addressed. And this is the common core thought by many great and acceptable theologians. Note, “The apostate teachers not only invaded the churches, but they also tried to influence Christian homes. Titus faced this problem in Crete (Titus 1:10-11) and Timothy faced it in Ephesus (II Tim. 3:6). As goes the home, so goes the church and the nation; thus the family is an important target in Satan’s war against truth. This brief letter was written to a godly mother and her children. Some Bible students have concluded that *‘the elect lady’* refers to a local church and that *‘her children’* are the believers fellowshipping in the church. *‘Thy elect sister’* (2 John 13) would then refer to a sister church that was sending Christian greetings.

While it is true that John does address a group in this letter (note the plural in II John 6, 8, 10,12), it is also true that he addresses an individual (II John 1, 4-5, 13). Perhaps the solution is that a Christian assembly was meeting in this home, along with the family of the *‘elect lady,’* so John had both the family and the congregation in mind (see Rom. 16:5; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2). He was concerned that this godly woman not permit anything false to come into her house (II John10) or into the assembly.

The dominant feelings in this little epistle are those of friendship and joy, even though these are mixed with concern and warning. If you and I are to keep our homes true to Christ, then we must have the same characteristics as this family to which John wrote.”

Anticipated Power Points are found in the writings of Dr. H. L. Willmington as we investigate **“John’s Loving Concern for a Saintly Sister and Her Family.”** They center on Willmington’s words: Commendation, Command, Caution, and Comfort:

- **An Apostolic Commendation. II John 1-4**
- **An Apostolic Command. II John 5-6**
- **An Apostolic Caution. II John 7-11**
- **An Apostolic Comfort. II John 12-13**

LESSON OUTLINE

“John’s Loving Concern for a Saintly Sister and Her Family”

I. An Apostolic Commendation. II John 1-4

A. John’s position. vs. 1

(An elder or presbyter). He was old in age and respected for his position as a wise senior teacher of the Word. More than likely the last living of the original apostles.

B. John’s purpose. vss. 2-4

He writes to commend a faithful lady and her children personally or the Church of Jesus Christ collectively. In order to apply the contextual teaching of the text to us today, I will focus on the general term, being the Church in all generations. John expressed his love for the Church. John also expressed the importance of the truth in the Church. Truth and love are the foundations of the Church, for they are founded in Christ and the Church!

I John 4 reminds us that God is Love and John 8:32 testifies that *“the truth will make you free.”* Let us not forget that, as the Church, to express love and live by the truth.

II. An Apostolic Command. II John 5-6

Above all be clear and factual with our truth and love. The church should never walk in a way that is not distinct and easy to follow. John commands his readers to keep it simple and clear. Walk in truth and walk in love. H. L. Wilmington speaks: “How important it is not to separate these two. To practice truth without love leads to legalism. To employ love without truth leads to liberalism. Paul likewise combines these two: Eph 4:15, *‘But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the head, even Christ.’* Remember John’s Loving Concern for a Saintly Sister and Her Family.

III. An Apostolic Caution. II John 7-11

A. Beware of Satan’s snare. vss. 7, 9-11

The teaching of John is lined up parallel to other apostles. Satan’s greatest desire is to confound the saints with wrong doctrine and counterfeit living as saints.

I John 2:19, *“They went out from us, but they were not of us.”*

Jude 4, *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Paul in Acts 20:30 warned, *“Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* All of these individuals are antichrists! They seek to rob the Church of its joy and reward.

Vss. 10-11 lets us know to be mindful not to entertain or support antichrists!

B. Beware and know where you stand. vs. 8

True believers must be mindful of what we are building on and with. One day we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, as we read in II Corinthians 5:10, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

IV. An Apostolic Comfort. II John 12-13

John comforts the receivers of his letter by informing them that he is on the way and will fellowship with them in person. It reminds me of Jesus’ promise to us, His “elect lady” and “bride,” the Church in I Thessalonians 4:16-18, *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

CLOSING

Thank God for the **Commendation, Command, Caution** and **Comfort** given to His Church!



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Looking Ahead:

May 3, 2015

III John

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.