**2 and 3 John: Truth matters**

**MAIN: Be careful who you partner with in ministry**

**We should be careful to support those who spread truth and reject those who spread error.**

**I. Don’t partner with those who spread error – 2 John**

**Are you walking with God or running ahead of Him?**

**2 John 1-3 – Truth matters**

* **“The elect lady” probably = local church in her home**
* **“Truth” mentioned 5 times in four verses; Can’t love outside of the truth**
* **This continues John’s discussion of fellowship**

**2 John 4-6 – Three key foci - Truth, obedience, and love**

* **Not all believers walk in truth**
* **The focus here is children walking with their Father in truth (4, 6, 9)**
* **We love others by obeying the truth**

**2 John 7-11 – Turning aside from truth means turning aside from God**

* **These are the antichrists John mentioned in 1 John who lie (“no lie is of the truth”) and deny that Jesus is the Christ (2:22).**
* **Returns to a theme in 1 John “Jesus as Christ coming in the flesh”**
* **When truth is lost, rewards are lost.**
* **“Transgresses” = Most translations (52 of 63) have something like “runs ahead” (NIV) “goes too far” (NASB), lit. = “turns aside.”**
* **The false teachers could cause them to “turn aside” from truth as the false teachers have. Clearly, Christians can believe false doctrine.**
* **“Does not have God” –** 
  + **Context: John is dealing with rewards, not eternal life (v. 8)**
  + **Doesn’t say you don’t have eternal life; eternal life is eternal**
  + **John has already taught that all who believe have it (1 Jn. 5:13)**
  + **John is simply continuing with the figure he has started at the beginning of 2 John; walking with God**
  + **Those who turn aside are like children who run away from their parents; the children don’t “have” their parents**
* **The issue is abiding, or continuing in, the doctrine they once held.**
* **A Christian who falls into false teaching leaves God behind, “turns aside” from fellowship with the Father. He is out of touch with God.**
* **When we leave truth, we do so without God, we are not walking with Him.**
* **Many believers fall into false teaching (Peter - Gal. 2:11-21; Hymenaeus and Philetus 2 Tim. 1:16-18; The church at Galatia 3:1-4; 4:9-11, 21; 5:7-8)**
* **He who has the Son has the life (1 Jn. 5:12).**
* **The Abider fellowships with both the Father and the Son.**
* **In no way should we encourage those who are spreading error, possibly helping people to NOT believe.**
* **When we do, we are partners with them in sin**

**2 John 12-13 – Some things are best handled in person**

**II. Partner with those who spread the truth – 3 John**

**We should partner with those who spread the truth (Phil. 1:5-7)**

**3 John 2-4 – Wanting what is best for our “children”**

* **God wants things to go well for Gaius and to be in good health**
* **Our health matters to God**
* **John wanted his temporal well-being to match his spiritual well-being.**

**3 John 5-8 – Generosity is valued by God**

* **Once again, we see John’s high priority on truth; 3Xs in 2 verses**
* **It is important to make sure we are fellow-workers with the truth.**
* **We walk with God when we walk in truth and can’t walk with God properly if we walk in error – John 17:17**

**3 John 9-12 – Imitate what is good**

* **Diotrephes not only sinned, but led others into it.**
* **Be careful who you impact and how you impact them.**
* **Imagine being known as one who opposed the Apostle John**
* **As in 1 John, the phrase “of God” is a reference to fellowship, to being “linked up” with God**
* **Those who do evil don’t see God for who He is. Sin never arises from a clear vision of God - 1 John 3:6**

**3 John 13-14 - Farewell**

* **Once again, some things are best dealt with in person.**
* **“By name” One of my worst traits, but a great project for growth**