

Title: Rooted in Christ's Truth *from the series Fruit by the Bushel*

Scripture: II John 1-12

Speaker: David Lawson

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II John 1-12: *"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."*

### **Introduction to "Rooted in Christ's Truth"**

We live in an age that celebrates cultural diversity. Culture is deep-rooted, intriguing, and appealing to our sense of heritage; and many people are tempted to place culture, whether it be their own heritage or simply another culture that interests them, above truth. Sometimes our interest in culture goes no further than a typical study or enjoying ethnic foods. However, some go more in depth with language, fashion, and social traditions. At its most dangerous, extreme interest in culture can lead us to the embracing of religious teachings and practices that are contrary to the truth of God's Word.

Our relationship to God's truth affects every other relationship, not only in this life, but in eternal life as well. In this life, what we do with the truth today affects every aspect of our everyday lives and relationships. Our relationship to the truth affects us today if we reject the truth of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as a substitute for our sin; we will suffer for eternity in a place that the Bible calls hell. Jesus knew the ramifications of this because we see evidence in John 17. This is what is known as the intercessory prayer.

1. John 17:20 says *"neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"* We can hear Jesus pray for our faithfulness, or effectiveness in walking with the Lord, and our relationship to His truth.
2. John 17:17 *"sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* In this verse, Jesus prayed to the Heavenly Father. He knew his disciples would only grow (become sanctified) if they were firmly planted in the truth of the Word of God. It is the truth that John speaks of in II John as he writes to someone he refers to as *"the elect lady and her children."*

This lesson will focus on the letter John wrote and how we can become rooted (or more rooted) in truth. Here's some background information about the letter:

- Second John is written by the Apostle John, who refers to himself as *the elder*
- John warns against false teachers that were abounding – especially in the region known as Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)

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- Among the false teachers were Gnostics (taught the material world was evil, knowledge was supreme, and you can believe there is a god, but he cannot be known personally). Many of them denied the deity of Jesus Christ.
- There are two views related to the *elect lady and her children*. Some believe the word *lady* is personifying a local church and that the phrase *her children* refers to the members in the church. Others believe the word *lady* refers to a particular woman in Asia Minor, perhaps a lady who opened her home as the location for a church. Our study in this lesson focuses on the second view.

Rootedness in Christ means we are not only connected to Christ, but also to his people. We relate to other Christians with respect to the truth that we hold in common, and that truth is the basis for the epistle of II John.