

2 John 3 | Loved in Truth
Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy
Sunday 26th April 2009

2 John 3: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

We often overlook the introduction as formalities. But 'every word of Scripture is God breathed'.
Airhostess take off.

Paul is writing this text to lay the foundation of the main point of what he is saying through the text. So what is the point of the book? **That we are a people of love.** Elaborate. How do we love our wives after years of unhappy marriage? How do we love our boss, or our dad who abused us?! **Are there exceptions to the command to love?**

And he starts off by reminding them of the truth about their situations and positions. Because **what we do flows out of who we are:** Abiding (John 15) and Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5)

Christianity is about what **has happened to you** not what you have to do. If you try to live like a Christian in order to be a Christian you will become what is wrong with the world.

Many of us want to love others. But the bible says that we love God because He first loved us, and that our love for other people is a fruit of us receiving God's love / response.
Imperatives!

It is therefore vitally important that we understand what the love is that we have received. The problem with many people is a lack of acceptance love. **Psychologists (say 'you are good').**

It results in insecurities, idolatries, pride, or self hate, it results in over working or laziness, anger or passivism. Are we really loved? **And if we were, how would we know?** This is what John sets out to answer, **because the answer literally has the power to change the world.**

1. Grace: What we do get. Unmerited favour / blessing.

Ephesians 1.3-10: The entire point is to demonstrate God's lavish goodness towards us

In Paul's letter all of them he starts and ends in grace. Grace to you, grace be with you.

1 John 3.1: 'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called..'

1 Cor 15.10: By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not in vain. This is the 5 letter word which you need to chew on and let it change your life. Is it by the grace of God that you are what you are?

2. Mercy: What we don't get:

Romans 4.8: **'blessed is the man against whom the Lord will never count his sins'**.

My speeding experience: 230km/h

We have breathe, we have children who listen to us and love us, we have food, health, life!
What we don't get is Hell, eternal punishment, alienation fro God. **'saved us and called us... not because of our own works but becaue of his own purpose and grace' 2 Tim 1.9**

3. Peace: Our present state / relationship with Him.

Romans 5.1: Based upon Jesus and the price that was paid. Seeing as nothing can be added, we just return, repent, draw near, say sorry, because our sins have been forgiven.

We often base our salvation in our own day.. moods, cutting people off in the road, lustful thoughts, but it's based in Jesus. And He is in Heaven. (John Bunyan).

'will be with us': He is speaking about their eternal nature to stay with us, because they are in Jesus, and Jesus aint going anywhere. (John Bunyan, Pg 20). **If we had to make our salvation, and earn His love, then we would have to keep it.**

'from God the Father and Jesus Christ'. This salvation is not possibly in any other way! It is only through God the Father and Jesus the Son. **You will never know you are loved ANY OTHER WAY!**

'God the Father': This is from God who planned and purposed this. It was His love that sent His Son. A good Father, a Father, someone who loves and cares for, provides for His family. This was the forward planning of the father, making a plan in advance, demonstrating, making a way for us. This is what good fathers do.

'Jesus Christ His Son': Who listened to His father, obeyed Him, willingly, and laid down His life. And it is from Jesus' work and that He humbly came to earth that we can know this. This love was at great cost.¹ John 3.16: ***'By this we know love, that Jesus laid down his life for us'***.

'in truth and love': And it is in **truth** (This is truly what happened, we can count on it, whether we feel like it or not) and **love** (it results in us feeling incredibly loved by God). But we have to meditate on truth until it hits our hearts.

Love is truth, not dependant upon us feeling it – but it can be an experiential reality, and it is!

What do we do when we don't *feel* saved or close to God! We stand on truth and wait until it affects our feelings (feel love). We think more about it. We ponder what it must have meant for God to watch his Son die. This can't leave us unaffected.

Today, you are loved. Can you feel it? May these words never ever be trivial to us ever again:
Romans 8.31-39: