

From 2 John: Revealed Truth on the Frontline  
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From 2 John. A PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCE: REVEALED TRUTH IS ALWAYS ON THE FRONTLINE.  
PART 1: MEANING BEYOND THE TIME HORIZON v.1-3.

#1. The apostle was greatly concerned about *the protection and defense of revealed truth*. He wrote "for the sake of the truth" v.2.

#2. In the heat, stress and duress of daily circumstance, there must be no sacrifice of "the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever" v.2.

#3. John forcefully contended that revealed truth is not subjective, rather it is eternal in origin. "The truth" is unitary, having originated from beyond the time horizon of men.

#4. Characteristically, then, the revealed truth challenges a great many temporal assumptions. It presents a clear and steady contrast between the mind of God and the human mind.

#5. Revealed truth is directly indexed to the Almighty. And "all who know the truth" (v.1) are directly associated *with enumerated supernatural factors*. "Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love" v.3. Such non-temporal factors never fail. Believers can fail, but not those non-human factors.

#6. The apostle confirms that God is a personality. Only persons speak in propositional terms. And he confirms the incarnation.

#7. The truth is a revealed language manifold; not contingent upon time, materiality, human experience, history nor human reason. Those distinguished propositions convey meaning into the time dimension.

#8. The world does not look with favor upon revealed meaning. "...all who know the truth" (v.1) are thereby carried to the frontline of struggle between two worlds.

#9. We represent the eternal, invisible, no-contingent reality. Generalization: We are what we represent, in thought, speech and behavior. Temporal rules are displaced.

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PART 2: SPIRITUAL CHANGE OUTRANKS "PROGRESS" v.4.

#1. "I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father" v.4.

#2. To walk in truth is to push revealed truth, by force of will, into situations, circumstances, events and states of being. This does not happen inadvertently. And that personal action changes the nature of the circumstance.

#3. "Walking in truth" is the only real source of change in the world. To walk in truth is done in spite of historical conditions and actors. Not because of them.

#4. Revealed truth, and walking in it, are not indifferent to historical circumstances; but they do carry the believer beyond them. It is a "received commandment". Being the case, walking in truth is not elective; nor is it negotiable. "Some" but not all believers were obedient just so. Such faith, active in the world, takes courage, being built upon a revealed perspective of life.

#5. Life is no longer understood upon the foundation of common sense experience. The "...received commandment to do (so) from the Father", outranks human predictions, human wisdom, personal fear and the potential of unknown consequences.

#6. The "some" who walked in truth demonstrated that revealed truth overrules self-interest.

#7. Once revealed truth is pushed into circumstance by faith, then, second-guessing or self-recrimination has no place. The believer knows that he/she has absolutely done the right thing. Therefore, "Let us not take the counsel of our fears" (attributed to Stonewall Jackson.)

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PART 3: THE ETERNAL SUMMARY v.5, 6.

#1. The commandment to love does not just linger over behavior. That requirement was there "from the beginning" v.5. The power of love, in the wider and spiritual sense, changes the nature of immediate circumstance. A non-natural element is introduced into the situation.

#2. Any "commandment" (v.5) is given to have direct effect upon conscience and personal reasoning. "...that we love one another" (v.5) is the commandment that elevates a brother/sister in Christ to a factor or reality of great importance. Since the brother is important to God, then, the brother is important to me.

#3. The church is the aggregate of believers, therefore, bearing responsibility for others on the foundation of *commanded principle*. Darwinism does not approve of such principles.

#4. Commanded principles result in a common mind; the banishment of selfishness, self-focus, while the willingness to suffer for and sacrifice for one another remains. No believer, no church has the right to diminish the force of the commandment.

#5. The eternal summary of all the commandments is catalogued as "love" v.6. Personal motives are developed by obedience. Nothing is private before the Lord.

#6. How shall we live? We set love of the Word of God above personal desire, wants, interests and unaided human reason.

#7. Love of eternal, revealed truth means behavior. A kind of behavior holding no hesitancy in trusting God. That puts us on the frontline.

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PART 4: ANTICHRIST PERSONIFICATION v.7.

#1. John identifies the "antichrist" as a person, any person, a mind, an historical actor whose purpose it is to deceive believers and despoil their confidence in revealed truth.

#2. "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist" v.7.

#3. This he/she traffics in lies. The strategy of the antichrist is *to abut* (set in place a boundary) around revealed truth.

#4. The idea is containment, to limit the reach of the Word and to put into question its integrity. Antichrists "do not acknowledge" the incarnation. They propose that the universe is a closed system. There is nothing and no one else out there to intervene in time. The antichrist abuts revealed truth with the contrarian ideas of empiricism, rationalism and naturalism. There is no God who intervenes in history. Biblical ideas are ruled out of order.

#5. The power of God to redeem any circumstance, every circumstance is dismissed by the antichrist. Our material/historical conditions are reckoned to be closed to divine influence.

#6. This is a pronounced deception held by many in the contemporary churches.

#7. The antichrists and their influential ideas have but one goal: To induce (deceive) a Christian to withdraw his/her consciousness from the direct influence of revealed truth.

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PART 5: NO SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE v.8-11.

#1. The apostle affirms that revealed truth puts an ample obligation upon human will. "Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full

reward" v.8. Human personal will, then, is directly related to spiritual "accomplishments", or not. Human will giveth and it taketh away.

#2. "Anyone who goes too far" (v.9) has left behind confidence in the pronounced truths of the revelation.

#3. The revealed content of Scripture is fundamental; there is no truth without it. But revealed truth must be complemented by a spiritual iron will. This spiritualized iron will "abides in the teaching" (v.9) and accordingly, "he has both the Father and the Son".

#4. Unbelievers often critique the "fanciful" content of the Bible as being beyond believability. John, however, locates unbelief, more than likely, in the will. This explains the motives of the antichrist.

#5. Believers cannot afford any spirit of compromise. "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching" (v .10) it represents a breach of revealed truth and a failure of will. The spirit of compromise has that precise structure.

#6. But the iron will, fostered by revealed truth, does not permit any participation "in his evil deeds" v.11.

#7. Facing, as we do, the troublesome circumstances of this life and of whatever magnitude, let us stand to them with this developed quantity, the iron will of obedience!