

The Walk
2 John 4-7
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to remind us of the importance of obeying God.

Intro:

1. Some have trouble accepting the necessity of obedience.
2. Sometimes those who teach the truth on obedience are labeled legalists.
 - a. A “legalist” is one who keeps law for law’s sake.
 - b. Obedience is obeying the law of God for the Lord’s sake.

I. Truth directs “The Walk” (**2 John 4**)

- A. John rejoiced when he found those walking in Truth
 1. If, according to some, truth is vague, abstract, and cannot be known, how could John have identified these who were walking in Truth?
 2. Paul wrote about those who could not come to a knowledge of the truth (**2 Tim 3:7**)
 3. John knew the truth and knew people were walking in it.
 3. John’s greatest joy was to know that people like Gaius walked in the truth (**3 John 3-4**)
- B. God **commands** us to walk in the truth.
 1. God as the Father commands we walk in truth.
 2. God the Father knows what is best for His children.
 3. God’s truth is a revelation of His love for His people.
- C. The truth of God reveals the narrow way with the strait gate (**Mt 7:13-14**)
 1. One must not leave the commanded course of life (**Ps 1:1-3**)
 2. To go astray from God’s revealed truth (**Jn 17:17**) in doctrine or in life is disobedience.
- D. God has reveal the truth about:
 1. Man’s salvation from sin and this truth must be known. (**1 Tim 2:4**)
 2. Worship, which must be followed if one is a “true worshipper”. (**Jn 4:23-24**)
 3. Living a godly life (2 Tim 3:1-7; **3:16-17**).

II. Love motivates “The Walk” (**2 John 6**)

1. Jesus spoke about love & commandment keeping
 - a. (Jn 14:15)
 - b. John had made the keeping of the Lord’s commandments a test for knowing God (1 Jn 2:4)
 - c. John had written that obedience is the proof of love (1 Jn 5:3)
 - d. Obedience is an expression of love .
 - e. **If we can get people to love God then they will obey Him.**
 1. **We have every reason to love God (1 Jn 4:19)**
 2. **God’s love was/is shown (1 Jn 4:10; Jn 3:16)**
 3. **Paul said that God had commended His love to man (Rom 5:6-10)**
 4. **One who refuses to obey God needs to learn to love God and then he will want to obey the Lord (1 Jn 5:3)**

- f. **Those who really love the Lord will:**
 - 1. **Obey His commands to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)**
 - 2. **Love their brethren (2 Jn 5; 1 Jn 2:7-11)**

III. Those who lead people from “The Walk” (2 John 7)

- A. The “for” is the explanation for the previous emphasis on:
 - 1. **Keeping God’s command by walking in the truth (2 Jn 4)**
 - 2. **Walking after truth because we love God (2 Jn 6)**
- B. There are deceivers!
 - 1. Jesus warned of false prophets (**Mt 7:15**)
 - 2. John had written already about false prophets (**1 Jn 4:1**)
- C. These false teachers were:
 - 1. **Denying and opposing Christ (they were “antichrists”).**
 - 2. **They were deceiving men.**
- D. Men must love God and keep obeying Him or they will open themselves up to deception and destruction (**2 Thess 2:10-12**).

Conc:

- 1. **God commands His children to walk in truth.**
- 2. **When God’s children love Him they want to walk in Truth.**
- 3. **Those who love God and His truth will not be lead way by false teachers.**

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.