



## WALK AFTER HIS COMMANDMENTS

### SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *II John 3-13*

#### GOSPEL TRUTH:

God's mercy and love are evident in the commandments He has given us; His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (*Matthew 11:30*). His divine guidance leads us to salvation, unspeakable joy, and eternal life (*Exodus 20:6; I John 5:3*). His laws are a gift, designed to draw us closer to Him and deliver us from eternal destruction (*Psalms 19:7; Ephesians 2:8-10; II Thessalonians 1:8-9*). However, it is an individual choice not only to hear God's Word but to actively implement it in our daily lives to escape the consequences of sin (*James 1:22*).

#### GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

***But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 3:14-15).***

#### THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. This is love: that we establish our foundation of faith in God's Word and maintain strict obedience "*in the doctrine of Christ.*" His grace, mercy and peace will abound in us as we endure life's tests and trials (*Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 2:1; II John 3, 6-8*).
2. Listening to the Holy Ghost (Jesus) gives us divine guidance, wisdom, and clarity in our lives (*Proverbs 9:9-10; John 16:13; Romans 12:1-2; II John 6*).
3. Be Spiritually anchored in the Gospel! Through constant prayer and unwavering faith, Jesus will strengthen us to resist the wiles of the devil (*Matthew 24:15; Ephesians 6:11; James 4:7; II John 7*).

4. Interaction with unbelievers is inevitable but necessary for sharing the Gospel. However, we must be vigilant in ensuring that our Spiritual convictions are not compromised to that which is contradictory to Christ's doctrine (*Mark 16:15; John 6:67-69; Acts 4:12; Galatians 5:16; II John 11*).

#### BACKGROUND SETTING:

As an exhortation to strengthen a believer's faith against false teachings, the Apostle John's letter underscored truth, love, and steadfast obedience to God's commandments. He saw a rise of false doctrines that contradicted the fundamental truth that they "have heard from the beginning" and were denying that Jesus is the Christ, that He was God manifested in the flesh, and that Jesus is the Holy Ghost! These individuals are scripturally labeled as ". . . a deceiver and an antichrist" (*II John 7*). They oppose Jesus Christ as being God Himself. Therefore, John urged the brethren, whom he loved, to remain firm in the truth (*II John 1-2, 6-8*).

#### LESSON SUMMARY:

Rooted in love, the scriptural text "unto the elect lady and her children" and "the children of thy elect sister" are respectful terms of endearment, emphasizing Christian obedience and brotherly love amongst the Body of Christ. As His sons and daughters, we are united by the Holy Spirit as one Body, rich in faith, and heirs to His kingdom given by promise (*I Corinthians 12:12-13; II Corinthians 6:18; James 2:5*). Our Spiritual bond requires us to love one another just as Christ loves us. To walk in faith, obedience, and humility; to stand firm and exercise His Righteousness and true Holiness (*Ephesians 4:24*), believing, as a new creature in Christ, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me*" (*Philippians 4:13*). Keep the faith!

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