

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

2 John 9-13

Abide in the Teaching

by Bob DeWaay

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Beware False “Progress”

2 John 9a (ESV)
Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. . . .

- “goes on ahead” is *proago* which means ‘go beyond established bounds of teaching’ (Louw/Nida) (or ‘innovates’)
- To “abide” (Gr. *meno*) is thematic in John
- “Teaching” can be translated “doctrine”

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To Abide Is to Have Salvation

2 John 9b (NASB)
...the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- To “have God” is to have a saving relationship with God by faith in Christ
- “The teaching” is found 3x in vss 9, 10
- Those who have a false doctrine of Christ are lost no matter how religious they are
- “Abides” means “to stay put”

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Do Not Welcome Heretics

2 John 10 (HCSB)

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive** him into your home, and don't say, "Welcome," to him.

- "The teaching" is 3x in two verses
- John uses a negated imperative for "not receive"
- "Welcome" is *kairo_* a Christian greeting
- This is a Christian gathering in a home

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No Joyful Fellowship With Heretics

2 John 11 (HCSB)

for the one who says, "Welcome," to him shares in his evil works.

- Welcome is again *kairo_* (rejoice)
- "Shares" is *koino_eo_* (fellowship)
- "Evil works" are those outside what it means to abide in the doctrine of Christ
- False teachers actively seek followers

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The Joy of True Fellowship

2 John 12 (HCSB)

Though I have many things to write to you, I don't want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to be with you and talk face to face so **that our joy may be complete.**

- The opportunity to gather with others who "abide" is a glorious blessing
- "Face to face" is the English equivalent of the literal Greek "mouth to mouth"

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John Greet on Behalf of the Flock

2 John 13 (LEB)

The children of your elect sister greet you.

- “Greet,” *aspozomai*, also means “salute”
- This again speaks of a local congregation “elect sister”
- This reinforces the idea that it is God’s doing that we are in His flock and we certainly must show Christian love to one another

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Implications and Applications

- Sometimes “progress” is a bad thing
- Do not turn the wolves loose on the flock
- Be hospitable AND discerning

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Reject False “Progress”

2 Timothy 3:13, 14 (LEB)

But evil people and **imposters will progress to the worse**, deceiving and being deceived. But you **continue** in the things which you have learned and are convinced of, because you know from whom you learned them,

- “Imposters” can be “enchanters”
- Continue” is *meno_* (abide)
- True progress is described in 1Tim. 4:15

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Guard the Flock

Acts 20:28, 29 (NASB)

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;”

- “Guard” is imperative in the Greek
- These are “elders” (vs 17) who must do this

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Be Hospitable and Discerning

1 Timothy 3:2 (NASB)

An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

- This is Ephesus and these elders were the ones told to guard the flock
- We must reject the false dilemma that supposes discernment is unkind and wrong

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