

A Letter to a Lady - John 2

Catherine Taylor

Most of us in VV rarely, or never, get to see each other in person. We are uniquely able to understand the yearning for and value of the ways we can be with each other when miles and hours and continents separate us. I think it can help us understand both John and the person/people for whom he wrote this letter.

As usual, I'll start with some word definitions or cultural descriptions.

Lady - In Greek *kuria*: most often used to denote a woman of authority or leadership. "Scholars" have discussions about the possible options – because forbid that a definition could be simple.

1. A female person who was well known and respected, possibly even a colleague of John.
2. A metaphorical representation of the church.
3. A particular congregation labeled so to possibly protect them from Q

Children – In Greek *tekna*. It can mean a daughter, son, or even a young animal. In the New Testament is it often used to connote God's children or the spiritual children of the Christian community.

Elder – In Greek *presbuteros*. In the New Testament it can refer to leaders within the church or those who are older or senior.

God – In Greek *Theos* – The one true God

Jesus – The Greek – *Yahweh Saves*. As a reminder that I am sure you don't need. Yahweh is the covenant iteration of God who has made the astonishingly deep commitment to individuals and groups.

Christ – *messiah* in Hebrew and *anointed one* in Greek. It might be helpful to remember that in the Hebrew ceremonies people were anointed for specific purposes and almost always with blood and oil.

Questions for our Community

From the Introduction:

1. Why do you think the author started with that first sentence? It's packed.
2. What does the introduction say about the author's feelings about the community to whom it was written?
3. Why do you think *grace, mercy, and peace* were the gifts he described?
4. What is the message you think John wants to share when he uses the title God the Father?
5. What do you think is the message the author wants to share when he uses the title *Yahweh Saves the one Anointed for the Task*?
6. Why use the phrase *in truth and in love*?

From the Warnings and/or Directions:

1. Why would he start with the command to love one another?
2. Why would he mention that it was from the beginning?

I am going to read to you a section from 1 Corinthians 13 (The native American Bible) at this point.

3. Why would these qualities be particularly important at the time of this writing?
4. What do you think the focus on love has to do with accepting Yahweh Saves is the Messiah as coming in the flesh?

Note: The Greek prefix *ante* means to be stand in front of...in this case to put ones self before in importance; which as I think about it is important to realize the anti Christ can be anyone/ any of us who puts themselves before the love of God.

5. How do you think vs. 8 might be connected to Revelation 2:1-7
6. In verse 9, the word *remain* (*Menos*) is usually used to mean *reside*. How does that definition affect how you read the text?
7. In verse 8, what do you think is the *full reward*?
8. In verse 9 – what do you think it means to *receive the Father and the Son*?
9. In verses 10 and 11 what do you think it meant to *receive someone into your house*? The word is the same as in vs. 9. It's quite the parallel.

From the Conclusion

1. What do you think are the benefits of being able to speak face to face?
2. Why would that make his joy complete?
3. What about this letter touched you most or was important to you?

As always, I wish for you unexpected gentle blessings. See you soon.

Catherine

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