

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church. Or for more information, stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium**.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the seat back in front of you. Place your prayer request in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also send a prayer request using this form: [Prayer Request - Foothills Church](#). The staff and volunteers pray over these weekly.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- MomCo - [Foothills MomCo - Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- Small Groups - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- KidMin Volunteers needed – Contact Pastor Steve Botsford at steve@foothills.org
- MOMENTUM: Find out more here [Momentum | Foothills Christian Church](#)

WALK IN THE TRUTH

Guest Pastor Scott Lerwick

INTRODUCTION

One of the activities our family enjoys together is backpacking. Before we even begin to pack our bags, I buy a map and begin to study it -- I want to make sure we make it to our destination!

Last summer, my family went to Sawtooth National Recreation Area in South Central Idaho. We started out from Tin Cup trailhead. But this trailhead is the beginning of multiple destinations. If we turned right instead of left, we would end up far from where we intended to go.

Even on that trail, if we continued to the right, there would be multiple other trails that would take us even further away from where we wanted to be. Yet, in the midst of hiking, especially in the trees, we may not know how far away we are from where we wanted to be without some sort of guide, namely a map.

It is the map that tells me what trail to follow, where there might be good sources of water, and ultimately it shows me the way to my DESTINATION...Alice Lake at the base of the El Capitan in the Sawtooth Mountains. If I don't really believe the map and go on my gut feelings, I might not survive.

Why do I share this with you? Because the same is true in our spiritual lives, especially when we live in a non-Christian culture, which is why it is vital that we walk by the roadmap for life and faith -- the Bible.

The Apostle John spoke to this need for us to **“Walk in the Truth”** in his second letter. But before we dive into the text of 2nd John, let's look at some important facts

Background

- **The Date: around 85-95 A.D.**
- **The Audience**
 - Christians scattered around the Roman Empire, specifically Asia Minor (eastern Turkey today)
 - House churches were springing up throughout the Graeco-Roman world, which meant there was opportunity for varying theological positions to present themselves
 - John is addressing the issue of secessionists who believed Jesus was a great prophet, but not supreme Lord
- **The Main Point of his letter**
 - Keep strong in the true faith and maintain biblical priorities in light of those who bend it!

John exhorts his readers to first

- **Abide in the Truth**

2John 1:1-3 (NLT) *This letter is from John, the elder. I am writing to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in the **truth** — as does everyone else who knows the **truth** — because the **truth** lives in us and will be with us forever. Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ — the Son of the Father — will continue to be with us who live in **truth** and love.*

 - John is not writing to the church, but to a specific person
 - John uses the word “truth” four times in these three verses.
- **What is he referring to when he uses the term “truth?”**
 - In his context, truth is the gospel!

- **John 8:31-32** *“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”*
- **1 Timothy 2:3-4**, *“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- **John 14:6**, *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

What sets Christians apart from the rest of the world is this truth -- that Jesus is the only one who saves.

Warning: Whenever we take the truth of the gospel and change it, we enter into dangerous waters!

Let's define what is meant by “abide”

- It means to continue to be present
- This means the truth of the Gospel is constantly in and through us

Do we allow the truth of the Gospel to constantly be in us? Or maybe we should ask, Do we believe that the gospel changes lives? Do you believe the Gospel has changed your life? If so, do we actually live out the gospel in our daily lives?

- If we believe the Gospel is the power to save, as Paul says in Romans 1:16, then our lives should be different!

Romans 1:16 (NIV) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

- If our lives are not different, then maybe we have some soul searching to do!
- Maybe we need to spend some time abiding in the truth of the Gospel, but also in the truth of God's word!

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

I firmly believe there is something that happens in our souls when we spend time abiding in the truth of God's word, allowing it to penetrate not only our minds but our hearts. When we do, it keeps us on the right path, leading to the right destination.

It is not just having some intellectual ascent with the truth, we also need to

- **Walk in the Truth**

2 John 1:4-6 (NLT) How happy I was to meet some of your children and find them living according to the truth, just as the Father commanded. 5I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning. 6Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.

- **We are commanded to walk in the truth. This should not be new information for us as Jesus tells us this as well...**

John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

- **John even speaks of it in his first letter...**

1 John 2:3-6, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

- **Walking in the truth means that we are actually doing what Jesus has commanded us to do**

- **It is in obedience that our knowledge of the truth of the Gospel meets the feet of those who need the gospel!**

- **As we walk, it is not in pride or arrogance, but in humility and love**

- Paul writes in **Colossians 3:14**, "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
- As we walk in **truth**, we also have to walk in **love** which is us reflecting the life that Jesus lived!

Why is it important that we Abide and Walk in the Truth?

- When we do, we have awareness when someone says something is not quite right
- We sense that we have just left the trail leading to where we should be going...

When something is not right, we need to

- **Fiercely guard the Truth**

2 John 1:7-11 (NLT) I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward. 9Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son. 10If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement. 11Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.

- **John says there are deceivers, even among the church**

- He calls them antichrists, those who oppose the word!
- These often come in the form of clever and novel teachings!

- Their goal is not to progress in their understanding of the faith but to process beyond it!
- **Two exhortations**
 - Do not be deceived yourselves
 - Do not encourage the deceivers
- **“Novelty is always deceptively attractive and false doctrine can thrive where it is promoted as progressive, advanced thinking.” — David Jackman, The Message of John’s Letters, p. 183**

If you are not walking and abiding in the truth, then you won’t know when the claimed truth is not truth at all!

As a pastor for 20 years, I have seen firsthand this attractive and novel thinking that leads pastors and elders astray. I can think of several situations where Pastors have bought into some “attractive” and “comfortable” theology, which unfortunately has caused great heartache for the church!

- I have seen a pastor destroy churches (Garibaldi)
- I have seen a pastor drink some progressive Kool-Aid and, self-admittedly, identify something was wrong but couldn’t figure it out until several weeks later
- I have even seen an eldership in one of the churches I once served fall prey

This is not some fairytale that John is speaking of; it is something that is still alive and you will likely encounter it in church leadership at some point!

John wraps up his letter rather abruptly.

- **His Final Greeting**
2John 1:12-13 I have much more to say to you, but I don’t want to do it with paper and ink. For I hope to visit you soon and talk with you face to face. Then our joy will be complete. 13Greetings from the children of your sister, chosen by God.
- **Like any good pastor, he would rather spend time exhorting and encouraging them face to face**
- **John needed to exhort the church to walk in the truth of God’s word**

Today we need this same exhortation and encouragement

- Abide in the Truth
- Walk in the Truth
- Fiercely Guard the Truth

CONCLUSION

- I urge you not to get distracted by clever theological positions that bend the truth of God’s word!
- Be committed to walking the path that God calls us to be on, not some shortcut, not some sightseeing tour
- If something feels off, research why...dig into the Truth, and then live by that truth, even if it means others may reject you

- Our hope is that others will choose to join us on this path, for it is only this path, through Jesus, that leads to eternal life
 - When we abide in the truth, we can walk in the truth and thus we can reflect the truth to a culture that desperately needs it!
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Walk in the Truth OUTLINE

2 John 1:1-13

I. _____ in the Truth

(2 John 1:1-3; John 8:31-32; 1 Timothy 2:3-4, John 14:6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)

II. _____ in the Truth

(2 John 1:4-6; John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6; Colossians 3:14)

III. _____ the Truth

(2 John 1:7-11)

IV. John's Final Greeting

(2 John 1:12-13)

Sermon-Based Study Questions

1. What stood out to you from the sermon? What questions did it bring up in your mind?
2. READ 2 John 1:1-3. What are some ways that you "abide" in the truth of God's Word (the Bible)?
3. READ 2 John 1:4-6. It's one thing to know what God's Word says; it's another thing to walk it out. How has walking in the truth of God's Word been challenging for you? In what ways have you grown?
4. Scott discussed the importance of walking in the truth with humility and grace. How do you handle this tension of speaking/living out the truth, but also extending grace and mercy to those around you?
5. READ 2 John 1:7-11. Scott said, "If you are not walking and abiding in the truth, then you won't know when a claimed truth is not a truth at all." How have you seen this play out either in your own life, or the lives of those around you (please be discreet in talking about others)?
6. Taking a stand on the truth of God's Word sometimes comes at a great cost. To the extent that you are comfortable sharing, how has standing on God's word affected your relationships with those around you?
7. Spend some time praying for each other to continue to abide, walk, and guard the truth of God's Word in your life!