

## THE FULL REWARD

WILLIS 6/21/09

2JN 8-11

This being Father's Day I want to address a subject Marc touched on a few weeks back that most often does its greatest work of damage in the family. **Familiarity and the offspring it sires is a thief that regularly robs us of our full reward.**

- Read Familiarity Story

### 2Jn8-11

For several weeks now I have been unable to get away from the warning of this passage. John's warning to "watch ourselves" is one that took on mammoth proportions just a few weeks back as we stood at the Bema Seat in Corinth and realized there is no visible Church in Corinth.

- In light of our recent emphasis on digging again some of these "Biblical wells," we went in hope of finding some residual form of truth still alive today that could be experienced again.
- Much to my surprise we did find a literal well as we stood at the Bema Seat, unfortunately its only occupant was an extremely deadly snake not a life giving truth.
- **To forsake truth is a very deadly decision. Wells that are not seen as entrustments to steward get overcome by enemies.**

John reveals all truth is given as a trust to steward. It is a stewardship that is tied to our full reward. It was Joshua who said, "Choose you this day whom you will serve but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Josh 24:15)

- Very inspiring words but **whatever happened to Joshua's house?**

Writing to the Corinthians Paul said in ch2, "My message was not in persuasive words of wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power..." But **whatever happened to that demonstration not to mention what ever happened to the Corinthian Church?**

- While we are on the subject, whatever happened to any of the Churches mentioned in the Bible? Other than Rome they do not exist other than perhaps a remnant.
- **Do Churches just come with a very short life span or is something being missed in how we steward truth in this life and as a result in how we will receive our full reward in the life to come?**

Typically we speak of familiarity in relationship to people. But the burden I carry today is not a familiarity with people as much as it is a familiarity with truth. Drawing from the warning in our Biblical text and the loss in our historical record, **my concern is, have we grown familiar with truth?**

The Apostle John gives some sound advice as to how we safe guard from the loss of truth.

1. **Watch yourselves: v.8** the first principle of stewarding truth is personal accountability. **Truth is not something you lose as much as it is something you give away.** So the warning is stay on guard. **Stewardship requires immediacy and intentionality and familiarity is the thief of both.**
  - Somewhere along the line Corinth lost their personal accountability. Somewhere Paul's letters became teachings rather than personal directions.
  - **The first thing familiarity comes for is disassociation, it disassociates you from personal accountability to what you hear.** This is why John says, "Be careful that you don't lose what we have accomplished."
  - **The result of disassociation from personal accountability is 1. Delusion** Jm1:22 "hearers of the Word only deluding themselves..." **2. Generalization** truth becomes conceptual not directional.
  
2. **Don't go too far: v.9 "too far" parabaino: to willfully step out of line or willfully step aside.** Parabaino speaks of those who because of weariness, offense, persecution or difficulty step aside from the advancement of truth.
  - John's warning was from personal loss. Truth advances with or without us, so John warns that we don't willfully step aside from what we have received.
  - **The aim of familiarity is to devalue the truth and escalate the cost of weariness, persecution, offense or difficulty...so we trade away our entrustment and lose our place in history.**
  - It's too hard to train up a child in the way they should go, so we become familiar with the command and step aside. It's too hard to stay morally pure so we become familiar with consecration and step aside into the common.
  
3. **Abide in the teaching: v.9** Abiding speaks of a continuous and repeated action of which hearing is only the first stage. **Upon hearing we must continually and repeatedly remain in the teaching through review, application and reproduction.**
  - Abide: dwell, remain: Truth is a generational stewardship that requires the synergy of the generations. Problem is **familiarity is the thief of synergy.**
  - Synergy is the combined action of generations working joined but familiarity is the thief of action. Consequently when familiarity is present you get a promise of future succession but not the demonstration of present synergy.

- So John says “abide.” Keep yourself accountable to continuous and repeated action
- 4. That you may receive a full reward: v.8** Truth carries with it the immediate reward of fruitfulness and the eternal reward of treasures in heaven. Corinth I’m sure experienced the immediate reward of their stewardship.
- I wonder however what might be their eternal reward. Contrast Corinth with Abel who Heb 11 says, “Though dead he still speaks.” Every time Abel speaks his stewardship pays a dividend.

**I believe God is coming today with a renewed offer for a full reward.** It is the reward that comes when a people stand united to reject familiarity and steward truth as if their life depended on it.

What if CCK rose up and put an end to this power of familiarity? What if the synergy of the generations took place and generation after generation kept these wells alive until Jesus returned?

What if you and I and our children’s children really did watch ourselves so when we stand before the Lord we will have given away nothing so we might a full reward?