

2 John

2 John 1:1c-3

2 John

1-4, Greeting

1-2, The Correspondents

- 1a, The Writer
- 1b, The Recipient
- 1c-2, Their Relation

3, The Blessing

4, The Thanksgiving

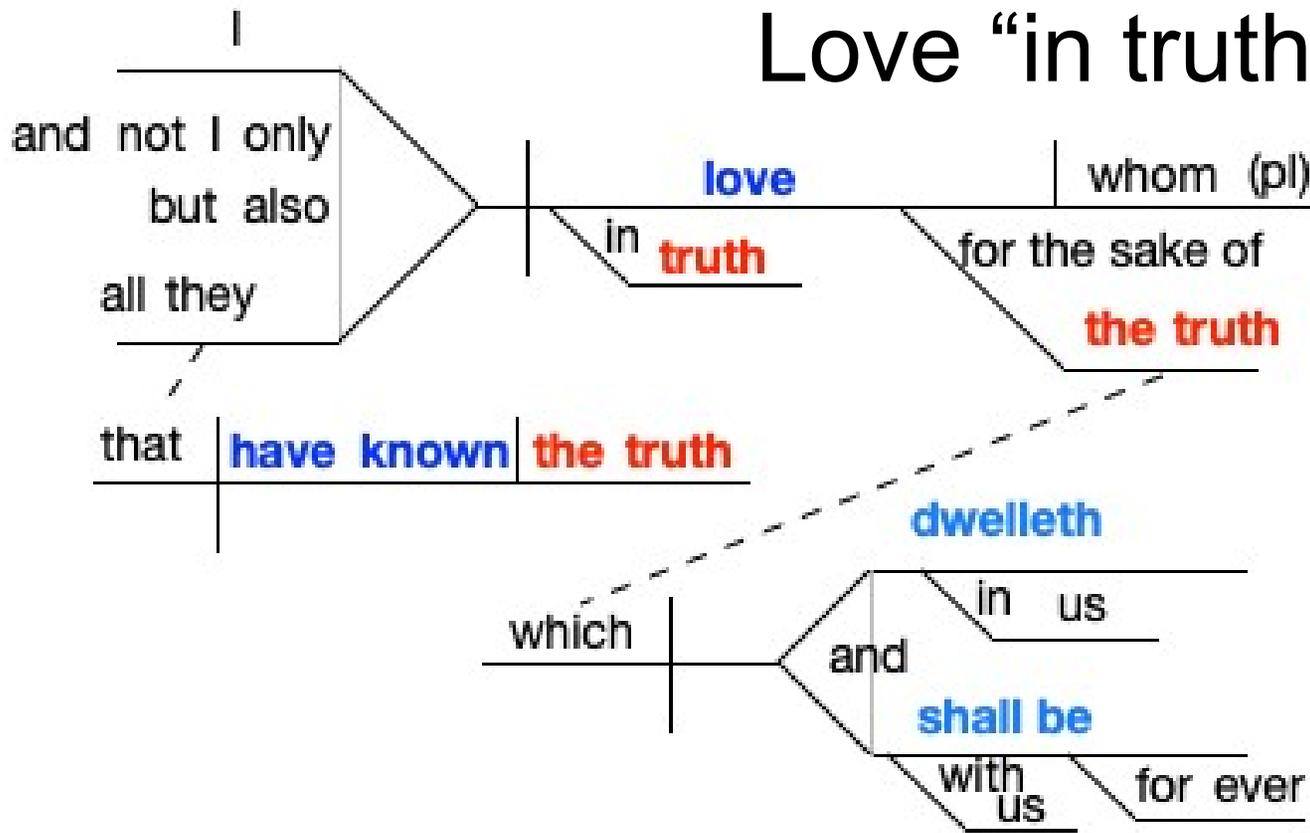
5-11, Body

- 5-7, Exposition
- 8-11, Exhortation
 - 8-9, Examine Yourselves
 - 10-11, Examine Visitors

12-13, Closing

- What are the four clauses of vv. 1c-2, and how are they connected to each other?
- What two things does “the truth” do in v. 2?
- How do the gospels identify these actions with the Lord Jesus?
- How does John’s blessing differ from those in Paul’s epistles?
- What is important about the mood of the verb in the blessing in v. 3?
- What is John emphasizing by declaring the blessing to “us,” not just to “you”?
- What is the meaning of each of the three words “grace, mercy, peace”?
- Why are they always listed in this order?
- What roles does each member of the trinity play in bringing us this triple blessing?

Love “in truth”



What is “the truth”?

John 14:6 **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life.

“dwellleth [abideth] in us” → Jhn 15:4 **Abide** in me, and **I in you**.

“shall be in us for ever” → Mat 28:20 lo, **I am with you** always, **even unto the end of the world**.

A Parallel in Paul ...

Eph 4:20 But ye have not so **learned Christ**;
21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as **the truth is in Jesus**:

... and in 1 John

1 John 3:18 My little children, **let us** not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and **in truth**. 19 And **hereby we know that we are of the truth**, and shall assure our hearts before him.

Lee L. Kantenwein, *Diagrammatical Analysis*. 1979: BMH Books, Winona Lake, IN

A Unique Blessing: “Grace **will be** with us”

“**will be**”

Mood or Mode: the speaker’s perception of the reality of the action of the verb

The Greek moods applied to “Grace <to be> with you”:

Mood	Meaning	Translation	NT Epistles
(verbless)	unspecified	Grace to you	Paul; Rev 1:4
Indicative	Statement of fact	Grace is/was/will be with you	2 John 1:3
Imperative	Command	Let there be grace with you (cf. Gen 1:3 Let there be light ...)	
Subjunctive	Uncertain	If grace should be with you ...	
Optative	Desire	I desire that grace will be with you	1 Pet 1:2; 2 Pet 1:2

“**with us**”

The unity of those who are “in truth” (v. 1)

The Triple Blessing: Grace and Mercy

Grace (χάρις *charis* G5483): Favor given where wrath is deserved

Undeserved ...

Rom 4:4 Now to him that **worketh** is the reward not reckoned of **grace**, but of debt.

Rom 11:6 And if by **grace**, then is it no more of **works**: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of **works**, then is it no more **grace**: otherwise work is no more work.

In place of wrath ...

Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where **sin** abounded, **grace** did much more abound:

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in **sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by **grace** ye are saved;)

Example: Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

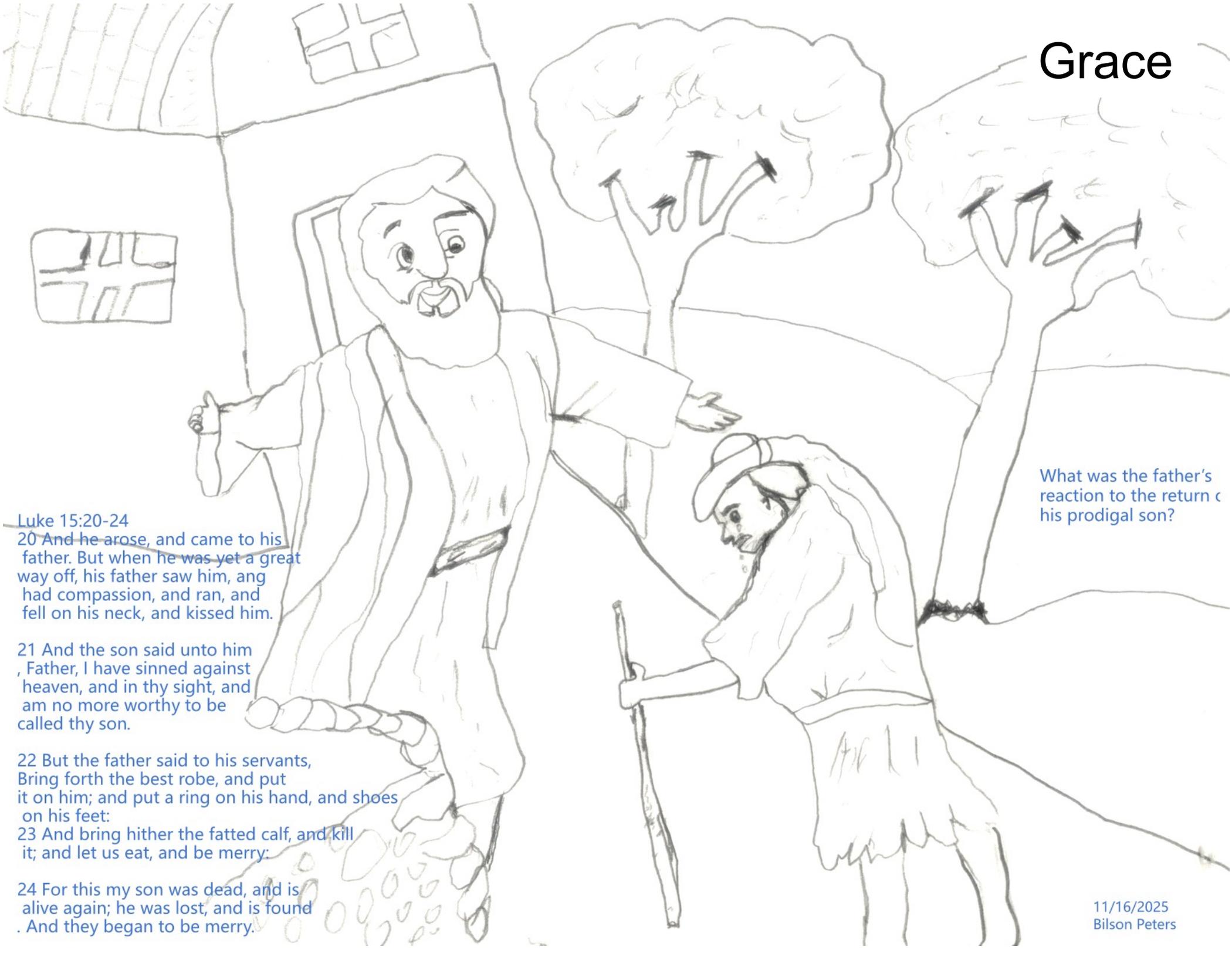
Mercy (ἔλεος *eleos* G1656): relieve misery

Luk 10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luk 10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He that **shewed mercy** on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Bengel: "Grace removes guilt; Mercy removes misery"

Grace



What was the father's reaction to the return of his prodigal son?

Luke 15:20-24

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Mercy



Peace (εἰρήνη *eirēnē* G1515): Absence of enmity

Twofold Separation:

Jew vs. Gentile:

Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

Man vs. God:

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Solution to Both:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

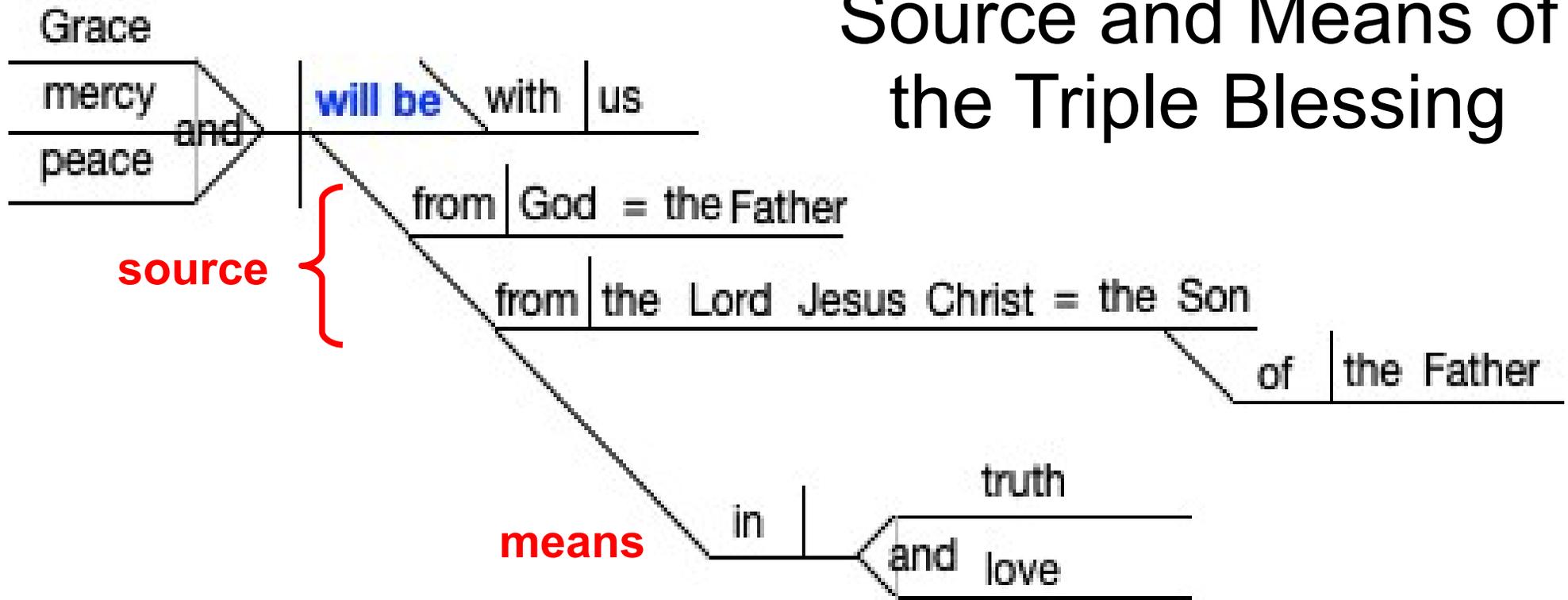
Solution of Jew vs. Gentile:

14 For he is our **peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the **enmity**, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making **peace**;

Solution of Man vs. God:

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the **enmity** thereby: 17 And came and preached **peace** to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Source and Means of the Triple Blessing



Source: Father & Son (cf. Rom 1:7, 1Co 1:3, 1Ti 1:2, 2Ti 1:2, Tit 1:4)

1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son** to be the Saviour of the world. (cf. 1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16-17; Gal 4:4)

Means: the Holy Spirit

Jhn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all **truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 5:6 the **Spirit is truth**.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the **Spirit is love** ...