

مقدمة الرسالة

السَّيِّحُ إِلَى كِيرِيَّةَ الْمُخْتَارَةِ وَإِلَى أَوْلَادِهَا، الَّذِينَ أَنَا أُجِبُهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ، وَلَسْتُ أَنَا فَقَطْ بَلْ أَيْضًا جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ قَدْ عَرَفُوا الْحَقَّ،² مِنْ أَجْلِ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي يَنْبُتُ فِيْنَا وَسَيَكُونُ مَعَنَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ،³ تَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَسَلَامٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْآبِ وَمِنَ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، ابْنِ الْآبِ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ.

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قَرَحْتُ جِدًّا لِأَنِّي وَجَدْتُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِكَ بَعْضًا سَالِكِينَ فِي الْحَقِّ كَمَا أَحَدْنَا وَصِيَّةَ مِنَ الْآبِ.⁵ وَالآنَ أَطْلُبُ مِنْكَ، يَا كِيرِيَّةُ، لَا كَاتِبِي أَكْتُبُ إِلَيْكَ وَصِيَّةَ جَدِيدَةً بَلِ الَّتِي كَاتَبْتُ عِنْدَنَا مِنَ الْبَدْءِ، أَنْ يُحِبَّ بَعْضًا بَعْضًا.⁶ وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْمَحَبَّةُ، أَنْ تَسْلُكَ بِحَسَبِ وَصَايَاهُ، هَذِهِ هِيَ الْوَصِيَّةُ كَمَا سَمِعْتُمْ مِنِّي الْبَدْءِ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا فِيهَا.⁷ لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ دَخَلَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ مُضِلُّونَ كَثِيرُونَ لَا يَعْتَرِفُونَ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ آتِيًّا فِي الْجَسَدِ، هَذَا هُوَ الْمُضِلُّ وَالصَّدُّ لِلْمَسِيحِ.⁸ انْطَرُوا إِلَيَّ أَنْفُسِكُمْ، لِئَلَّا تُضَيَّعَ مَا عَمِلْتَاهُ بَلْ تَتَأَلَّ أَجْرًا تَامًّا.⁹ كُلُّ مَنْ تَعَدَّى وَلَمْ يَنْبُتْ فِي تَعْلِيمِ الْمَسِيحِ فَلَيْسَ لَهُ اللَّهُ، وَمَنْ يَنْبُتْ فِي تَعْلِيمِ الْمَسِيحِ فَهَذَا لَهُ الْآبُ وَالْإِبْنُ جَمِيعًا.¹⁰ إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَأْتِيكُمْ وَلَا يَجِيءُ بِهَذَا التَّعْلِيمِ فَلَا تَقْبَلُوهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ وَلَا تَقُولُوا لَهُ سَلَامًا،¹¹ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْهِ يَشْرِكُ فِي أَعْمَالِهِ الشَّرِّيرَةِ.

توصيات أخيرة

إِذْ كَانَ لِي كَثِيرٌ لَأَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكُمْ لَمْ أَرِدْ أَنْ يَكُونَ يَوْرَقِي وَجَبْرِي، لِأَنِّي أَرْجُو أَنْ آتِي إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَتَكَلَّمُ مَعَكُمْ لِقَمٍ لِكَيْ يَكُونَ قَرَحًا كَامِلًا.¹³ يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ أَوْلَادُ أُخِيكَ الْمُخْتَارَةِ، آمِينَ.

¹The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;²For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.³Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.⁴I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.⁵And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.⁶And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.⁷For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.⁸Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.⁹Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.¹²Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.¹³The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.