

مقدمة الرسالة

¹السَّيِّحُ إِلَى كِيرِيَّةَ الْمُخْتَارَةِ وَإِلَى أَوْلَادِهَا، الَّذِينَ أَنَا أُجِبُهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ، وَلَسْتُ أَنَا فَقَطْ بَلْ أَيْضًا جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ قَدْ عَرَفُوا الْحَقَّ، ²مِنْ أَجْلِ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي يَنْبُتُ فِيْنَا وَسَيَكُونُ مَعَنَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، ³تَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَسَلَامٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْآبِ وَمِنَ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، ابْنِ الْآبِ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ.

الحياة حسب وصية الآب

⁴قَرَحْتُ جِدًّا لَأَنِّي وَجَدْتُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِكَ بَعْضًا سَالِكِينَ فِي الْحَقِّ كَمَا أَخَذْنَا وَصِيَّةَ مِنَ الْآبِ. ⁵وَالآنَ أَطْلُبُ مِنْكَ، يَا كِيرِيَّةُ، لَا كَاتِبِي أَكْتُبُ إِلَيْكَ وَصِيَّةَ جَدِيدَةٍ بَلِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عِنْدَنَا مِنَ الْبَدْءِ، أَنْ يُحِبَّ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا. ⁶وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْمَحَبَّةُ، أَنْ تَسْلُكَ بِحَسَبِ وَصَايَاهُ، هَذِهِ هِيَ الْوَصِيَّةُ كَمَا سَمِعْتُمْ مِنِّي الْبَدْءِ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا فِيهَا. ⁷لَأَنَّهُ قَدْ دَخَلَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ مُضِلُّونَ كَثِيرُونَ لَا يَعْتَرِفُونَ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ أَتِيًّا فِي الْجَسَدِ، هَذَا هُوَ الْمُضِلُّ وَالضُّدُّ لِلْمَسِيحِ. ⁸انْطَرُوا إِلَيَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ، لِئَلَّا تُضَيَّعَ مَا عَمِلْتُمُوهُ بَلْ تَنَالُوا أَجْرًا تَامًّا. ⁹كُلُّ مَنْ تَعَدَّى وَلَمْ يَنْبُتْ فِي تَعْلِيمِ الْمَسِيحِ فَلَيْسَ لَهُ اللَّهُ، وَمَنْ يَنْبُتْ فِي تَعْلِيمِ الْمَسِيحِ فَهَذَا لَهُ الْآبُ وَالْإِبْنُ جَمِيعًا. ¹⁰إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَأْتِيكُمْ وَلَا يَجِيءُ بِهَذَا التَّعْلِيمِ فَلَا تَقْبَلُوهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ وَلَا تَقُولُوا لَهُ سَلَامٌ، ¹¹لَأَنَّ مَنْ يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْهِ يَشْتَرِكُ فِي أَعْمَالِهِ الشَّرِّيرَةِ.

توصيات أخيرة

¹²إِذْ كَانَ لِي كَثِيرٌ لَأَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكُمْ لَمْ أَرِدْ أَنْ يَكُونَ يَوْرَقٍ وَجَبْرٍ، لَأَنِّي أَرْجُو أَنْ أَتِيَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَتَكَلَّمُ قَمَا لِقَمٍ لَكُمْ يَكُونُ قَرَحًا كَامِلًا. ¹³يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ أَوْلَادُ أَخِيكَ 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.