

2 John

2 John Outline

- A Letter To A Lady And Her Children (1-3)
- Walking In Truth And Love (4-6)
- Warning Against Receiving False Teachers (7-11)
- Concluding remarks (12-13)

2 John 1-3

- **1** The elder, to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth; **2** for the truth's sake, which remains in us, and it will be with us forever: **3** Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

2 John 1-3 Notes

- elder (*presbuteros*) - probably refers to age rather than office
- chosen (*eklektos*) – elect, chosen
- lady (*Kuria*) – a Christian lady, or lady. Used only 2 John verses 1 & 5.
 - Taken literally, it would be a lady, possibly having the name of *Kuria*.
 - Taken figuratively, it would be a local congregation of the church.
 - 2 John 13 - The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.
 - “not I only, but also all those who know the truth” seems to indicate a fellowship of congregations.
- **2** for the truth's sake, which remains in us, and it will be with us forever:
 - truth's sake (*dia ho alētheia*) – Literally, “through the truth”. “Because of the truth” is used in (ESV, NIV, NKJV).
 - remains (*menō*) - abide, continue, dwell.
 - forever (*eis aiōn*) – literally, unto continuing duration, hence: forever.
 - The truth does not change!

- 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
 - Not so much a prayer (as usually found elsewhere), but a prediction.
 - Three marvelous blessings from above.
 - Truth and love are also from above, and the promises of grace, mercy, and peace are for those who walk in truth and love.

2 John 4-6

- 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. 5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

2 John 4-6 - Notes

- 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, ...
 - Probably by a report or visit to John, since it appears from v. 12 that John was still planning to visit.
 - The word “some” appears in ASV, ESV, NASB, NIV, NKJV, usually in *italics*. It is not in Greek manuscripts.
 - The implication is that not all were so found.
 - John does rejoice in those who are loyal, but there is a warning coming up in v. 7-9.
 - Walking in truth – recall 1 John 5:1-5: parts of the whole. Walking in truth sums up all the parts.
 - 1 John 3:23 This is his commandment, that we should **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and **love** one another, even as he commanded.
 - 1 John 4:21 This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother.
 - 1 John 5:3 - For this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His

commandments are not grievous.

- grievous (*barus*) – heavy, burdensome.
- Psalm 119:35 - Direct me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them.
- **5** Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.
 - beg (*erōtaō*) - ask, beseech, intreat, plead, pray.
 - John 13:34-35 - **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **6** This is love, that we *should* walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you *should* walk in it.
 - John emphasized 3 things in 1 John – Faith, Obedience, and Love. The same emphasis is found in 2 John (and 3 John).
 - The proof of love (and of faith) is obedience – keeping his commandments!
 - Only a few texts insert *should*.
 - Walking according to his commandments is not optional.

2 John 7-9

- **7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who don't confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist. **8** Watch yourselves, that we don't lose the things which we have accomplished, but that we receive a full reward. **9** Whoever transgresses and doesn't remain in the teaching of Christ, doesn't have God. He who remains in the teaching, the same has both the Father and the Son.

2 John 7-9 - Notes

- **7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who don't confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist.
 - Remember 1 John 2:18-22; 4:1-6.

- 2 Peter 2:1-3 – Peter found it necessary to warn of false prophets as well.
- have gone out - same sense as 1 John 2:19 – they went out from us (left the church).
- 8 Watch yourselves, that we don't lose the things which we have accomplished, but that we receive a full reward.
 - watch (*blepō*) – the verb “to see”. Look at.
 - Because there are active deceivers, watch yourselves so that you do not fall prey to their deception.
 - Some take the plural as evidence of addressing a congregation instead of an individual lady.
 - “We” would be properly understood as the apostles, who worked in teaching the gospel.
 - 1 John 4:6 - We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn't listen to us. ...
 - Gal. 4:11 - I am afraid for you, that I might have wasted my labor for you.
 - 1 Thess. 3:5 -For this cause I also, when I couldn't stand it any longer, sent that I might know your faith, for fear that by any means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor would have been in vain.
 - 1 John 2:24 - Therefore, as for you, let that remain in you which you heard from the beginning. ...
 - 1 Thess. 2:19 - For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Isn't it even you, before our Lord Jesus at his coming?
 - It is not just the apostles that either Paul or John is concerned about.
 - 1 John 1:4 - And we write these things to you, that our joy may be fulfilled.
- 9 Whoever transgresses and doesn't remain in the teaching of Christ, doesn't have God. He who remains in the teaching, the same has both the Father and the Son.
 - transgresses - other translations are more literal
 - “goes too far” (NASB)

- “runs ahead” (NIV)
 - “goes on ahead” (ESV)
- 1 John 2:24 - Therefore, as for you, let that remain in you which you heard from the beginning. If that which you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son, and in the Father.
 - John 17:20 - Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word,
 - 1 Cor. 4:6 - Now these things, brothers, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to think beyond the things which are written, that none of you be puffed up against one another.
 - Regardless of the translation, the imperative is to remain with the teachings of the apostles and not run off into some false teaching.

2 John 10-11

- 10 If anyone comes to you, and doesn't bring this teaching, don't receive him into *your* house, and don't welcome him, 11 for he who welcomes him participates in his evil deeds.

2 John 10-11 - Notes

- 10 If anyone comes to you, and doesn't bring this teaching, don't receive him into *your* house, and don't welcome him,
 - Travelling preachers and teachers customarily would be welcomed in and stay in the house of a local members.
 - “*Your*” is not in the original, so “the house” is more literal.
 - It must be known in advance or must be determined that the person does not bring the teachings of Christ.
 - The church also met in houses (Rom. 16:5, 19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:2)
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 – ... God's house, which is the assembly (church) ... (very specific house here)
 - It could be construed as “don't receive him into the church”.

- 2 John 7 warned about “deceivers”.
- 1 John 4:1-6 gave similar warning:
 - Three tests (valid then and now):
 - 4:1 - of God
 - 4:2 - confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
 - 4:6 – listens to testimony of apostles
- welcome (*chairō*) - be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy.
- Jude 4 - For there are certain men crept in unawares, ... ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 11 for he who welcomes him participates in his evil deeds.
 - aiding and abetting a doctrinal renegade
 - 1 Tim. 4:1-2 1 But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron;

2 John 12-13

- 12 Having many things to write to you, I don't want to do so with paper and ink, but I hope to come to you, and to speak face to face, that our joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.

2 John 12-13 - Notes

- 12 Having many things to write to you, I don't want to do so with paper and ink, but I hope to come to you, and to speak face to face, that our joy may be made full.
 - It is a short letter, but John hopes to visit with them face to face.
 - our (*hēmōn*) – only the NASB translates as “your joy”.
 - Recall 1 John 1:4 - If they are in fellowship with God and each other, then

John will rejoice, and they will have joy in being in such fellowship.

- 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you. Amen.
 - Whether the addressee is an individual lady or a congregation of believers, the big things in the letter are the instruction regarding "abiding in the doctrine of Christ," not "going onward," and the proper response to known enemies of the faith.

2 John - Review Questions

- What reason(s) would you give for understanding that “the elect lady and her children” refers to an individual lady and her children?
- What reason(s) would you give for understanding that “the elect lady and her children” refers to a local congregation of the church?
- Why does John refer to himself as the elder? (1)
- What is meant by “truth”? (1-2)
- What is meant by “runs ahead”? (9)
- What is meant by “the teaching of Christ”? (9)
- What does John say about supporting the cause of a false teacher? (10-11)
- What are three important points in this letter?