

Insights From 2 John

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Insights From 2 John

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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2 John

- This book is addressed to "the elect lady and her children", which is a cryptic reference to the church. The fact that John doesn't name the church makes me wonder if that church was undergoing severe persecution at the time and John didn't want to risk naming them (2 John 1:1).
- John refers to the church as a lady, which is a reference to the fact the church is the bride of Christ (2 John 1:1).
- John makes a reference to predestination in the very first verse of this book, when he refers to the "elect lady and her children". (2 John 1:1).
- The fact that the truth dwells within us and will be with us forever is a reference to "one saved always saved". If the truth is within us forever then that means we can't lose it, which means all genuine believers are safe and can never lose their salvation (2 John 1:2).
- The apostle John wanted the grace, mercy, and peace of the church to be grounded on truth and love, not in sin or pragmatism or compromise (2 John 1:3).
- John commanded the people in the church to love one another. The commandment to love one another isn't something new; it was there from the very beginning. (2 John 1:5).
- The definition of love is to walk in God's commandments. This is because His commandments are the embodiment of love! They show us what true love is and how it works (2 John 1:6).
- The apostle John believed that the doctrines about the person of Jesus (such as teachings about His deity and His

humanity) were of supreme importance. Those who denied them in some way were called deceivers and antichrists (2 John 1:7).

- John didn't believe it was possible for a genuine Christian to fall away and lose his salvation. However, he did believe we can lose out on rewards in Heaven. He believed those rewards were worth having and striving for, and it was a tragedy when they were lost. It seems that being deceived by false doctrine can cost people rewards (2 John 1:8).
- Those who reject what the Bible teaches about Christ (such as His person, His work, His death, or His resurrection) are not saved (2 John 1:9).
- John taught that the church must never partner with those who reject any of the doctrines of Jesus. The church must not receive them or help them in any way. If the church does cross this line and partner with them, the church becomes guilty of sin because it's helping antichrists. This means it's *not* an act of kindness when the church forms alliances with non-Christian groups. Instead it's a terrible sin in the sight of God (2 John 1:10).
- The Lord holds us accountable for our words (such as bidding those who are anti-Christ "godspeed") (2 John 1:10).