

The Teachings of 2 John

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The Teachings of 2 John

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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!

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 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 1

2 John 1:1: "The 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;"

- The book of 2 John was written by the apostle John, who referred to himself as "the elder" (probably because he wrote it near the end of his life when he was quite old).
- 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 means that the church he was writing to may have been undergoing persecution, and John didn't want to risk naming them.
- It's not a sin to hide during times of persecution, or to deliberately be cryptic in order to protect others.
- John loved the church in the truth.
- John deeply valued the truth and based his love for others in it.
- All those who know the truth will love the church.
- John refers to the church as a lady, which is a reference to the fact the church is the bride of Christ.
- John calls the church "the elect", which is a reference to our election of God. The Lord has chosen us!
- John makes a reference to predestination in the very first verse of this book.
- If a person doesn't love the church then they haven't known the truth and don't know God.

2 John 1:2: "For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever."

- The truth (of the gospel, and the Holy Spirit himself) dwells inside all genuine believers.
- The Lord will be with all genuine believers forever.
- Since no genuine believer can fall away and be lost, all genuine believers will always have the truth.
- Those who appear to have had the truth but then fell away never actually had it at all.
- The fact that the truth will be with us forever is a reference to "one saved always saved". If the truth is with us forever then we can't lose it, which means all genuine believers are safe and can never lose their salvation.

2 John 1:3: "Grace 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."

- The apostle John prayed that the church would have grace, mercy, and peace.
- John wanted the church to experience peace, not pain and persecution.
- Grace, mercy, and peace are gifts that come from God the Father and God the Son.
- Jesus is our Lord. We must submit to Him and obey His commands.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ). He is the lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.
- Jesus is the divine Son of God.

- Truth and love must go hand in hand.
- 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 1:4: "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."

- John believed that it's a cause for great rejoicing when the church walks in the truth.
- John wanted the church to walk in the truth, not in pragmatism or compromise or a love for this world.
- God the Father has commanded His church to walk in the truth.
- The truth must be of paramount importance to the church.
- It's not enough to just hear the truth. We must walk in it as well.
- The truth must change how we live our lives.
- The truth must be something that we greatly value.
- We should rejoice when others walk in the truth, and we should strive to teach others the truth and show them how to walk in it,
- The truth should be a priority to the church.

2 John 1:5: "And 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."

- John commanded the people in the church to love one another.
- The commandment to love one another is not something new. It was there from the very beginning.
- The church must be characterized by both truth and love.
- John refers to the church as a lady (for it is the bride of Christ).

2 John 1:6: "And 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."

- The definition of love is to walk in the commandments of God.
- The commandments of God are the embodiment of love. They show us what true love is and how it works.
- The commandment to love one another was given to us in the very beginning.
- It's not enough to know the commandments. We must walk in them as well.
- Walking in the commandments of God isn't optional.
- All believers must love one another, and that love must be demonstrated through obedience to God's commandments.
- Those who don't obey God's commandments don't have love and aren't displaying love.
- Love is obedience to God.

2 John 1:7: "For 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."

- The world is full of deceivers.
- Those who deny what the Bible teaches about Jesus are deceivers.
- Those who deny the deity of Jesus are deceivers.
- Those who deny the humanity of Jesus are deceivers.
- Those who deny that Jesus is the Messiah are deceivers.
- Those who deny what the Bible teaches about Jesus are antichrists (in that they're opposed to the Christ).
- The church must be on guard against the many people in this world who try to deceive others about the nature of Jesus.
- The apostle John believed that the doctrine about the person of Jesus was of supreme importance. Those who got it wrong were called deceivers and antichrists.

2 John 1:8: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

- John didn't believe it was possible for a genuine Christian to fall away and lose his salvation, but he did believe we could lose out on rewards.
- John believed that we should strive to earn Heavenly rewards.
- John believed that Heavenly rewards were worth having and worth striving for.
- John believed it was a tragedy when Heavenly rewards

were lost.

- John believed that being deceived by false doctrine could cost people their Heavenly rewards.
- John commanded people to be careful so they weren't deceived by false doctrine.
- John believed that some people would lose Heavenly rewards.
- John didn't believe it was materialistic or unspiritual to be motivated by Heavenly rewards.

2 John 1:9: "Whosoever 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."

- John believed that doctrine and truth were extremely important.
- Those who reject the Bible's doctrines about Christ (His person, His work, His death and resurrection) don't have God and aren't saved.
- Those who reject what the Bible teaches about Jesus are unsaved transgressors.
- Those who have faith in Jesus and abide in Him have both Jesus and His Father.
- Those who have God the Son have God the Father. Those who reject God the Son don't have God the Father either.
- The only way to God the Father is through His Son.

2 John 1:10: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God

speed:"

- The church must reject all those who reject the Bible's teachings about Jesus.
- 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 partner with those who reject some aspect of what the Bible teaches about Jesus then the church becomes guilty of sin, for it is helping antichrists.
- Those who deceive others about the nature of Christ are committing evil deeds, and those who aid them in any way become partakers in those evil deeds.
- It's not kindness when the church forms alliances with non-Christian groups. Instead it's a terrible sin in the sight of God.

2 John 1:11: "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

- The Lord holds us accountable for our words (such as bidding those who are anti-Christ "godspeak").
- The church must not be a partaker of evil by giving aid to those who are leading people away from Christ.
- The church must take a firm stand against all those who deny the Biblical doctrines about Christ.

2 John 1:12: "Having 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."

- The apostle John had many things to tell the church, but he preferred to do it in person instead of by letter.
- John wrote his letters with paper and ink.
- John wanted to visit the church so that he could speak to them face to face.
- John believed that personal visits to the churches were a cause for great joy.

2 John 1:13: "The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen."

- John sent greetings to the church from "thy elect sister", which may have been a reference to a different sister church or even perhaps the Jews.
- John closed his letter with "amen" (let it be).
- John opened his letter with a reference to election (predestination) and he closed it with one as well.
- John believed that sending greetings in letters was a meaningful thing to do.
- John was clear about the doctrine he was teaching, but he was cryptic about the identities of the individuals involved, most likely to protect them in times of persecution. This wasn't seen as being fearful or lacking courage.
- There's nothing wrong with keeping things short.