NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 63 OF 66

2 John

In truth and love (v. 3)

13	c. A.D. 85–95	5	“Walk”
Verses, 1 Chapter	Written	“Truth” in vv. 1–4	(v. 6)

BACKGROUND

Truth and Love Together

NAME

2 John

The second of three letters linked with John; short enough for one sheet of papyrus.

AUTHOR

“The Elder”

The apostle John in his old age.

DATE

c. A.D. 85–95

About the same time as 1 John, from Ephesus.

READERS

The Elect Lady

“And her children” (v. 1), whom John loves “in the truth.”

WHO IS THE ELECT LADY?

Two Readings

A Church

- “Her children” are the members
- Greetings from an “elect sister” church (v. 13)
- The letter speaks to “you” as a group (vv. 8, 10)

A Christian Woman

- A real lady and her family
- Her sister’s children send greetings (v. 13)
- A home used for hospitality (v. 10)

SAME MESSAGE

2 John and 1 John

Love one another, from the beginning

2 John v. 5 · **1 John** 3:11

Love is keeping His commandments

2 John v. 6 · **1 John** 5:3

Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

2 John v. 7 · **1 John** 4:2–3

Deceivers and antichrist

2 John v. 7 · **1 John** 2:18–22

Having both the Father and the Son

2 John v. 9 · **1 John** 2:23

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts



Each bar shows that part’s share of the 13 verses.

I vv. 1–3 · 3 verses

Greeting

Truth and love.

II vv. 4–6 · 3 verses

Walk in Truth and Love

The commandment from the beginning.

III vv. 7–11 · 5 verses

Beware of Deceivers

Abide in the doctrine of Christ.

IV vv. 12–13 · 2 verses

Closing

That our joy may be full.

Greeting in Truth and Love

VERSES 1–3

Greeting in Truth and Love

v. 1

The Elder

“Unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth.”

v. 2

The Truth Abides

“For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.”

> *“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.”*
>
> 2 John 3 (KJV)

2 JOHN AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Walk in Truth; Beware of Deceivers

VERSES 4–6

Walk in Truth and Love

1 v. 4

Rejoicing

Children walking in truth

2 v. 5

From the Beginning

Love one another

3 v. 6

This Is Love

Walk after His commandments

VERSES 7–11

Beware of Deceivers

> *"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."*
>
> 2 John 7 (KJV)

v. 8

Look to Yourselves

"That we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

v. 9

Abide

"He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

v. 10

Do Not Welcome

"Receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed."

Travelling teachers relied on believers for lodging. Many read verse 10 as refusing support for false teaching, not ordinary kindness.

Face to Face

VERSES 12–13

Face to Face

"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" (v. 12).

"The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen" (v. 13).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Truth
Dwelleth in us for ever.
vv. 1–4

Love
Love one another.
v. 5

Obedience
This is love.
v. 6

Christ in the Flesh
The true Christ.
v. 7

Sound Doctrine
Abide in it.
v. 9

Wise Welcome
Do not aid deceivers.
vv. 10–11

KEY VERSE

"And this is love, that we walk after His commandments."

2 John 6 (KJV)