

2 JOHN

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 elder” is the apostle John, who lived into his nineties. John uses this title to emphasize his advanced age, and his spiritual authority over the congregations in Asia Minor. The elect lady, whoever she is, is someone that believes in the Lord. The word "elect" tells us that. The children are not spoken of as elect. The natural understanding, in context, is that this refers to a particular woman and her children, who were well known to John. It appears that John knew this lady and her family personally. This seems to be a woman of good testimony as it speaks of others loving her, who loved the Lord.

The basis of Christian hospitality is the truth. John stresses the need for truth by repeating the term “truth” 5 times in the opening 4 verses. Truth refers to the basics or fundamentals of the faith that John has discussed in 1 John. .

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

John was known as the apostle of love. Love is the theme in all his writings. John is speaking a blessing from the Father and the Lord Jesus on this lady and her family and he has the authority to do this. She was undoubtedly of great value to the church, even though her name is not mentioned. Stephen, also, was not very well known in the Bible, but was one of the first martyrs. It is not necessary for someone to be named in the Bible to be of great value to God and the church.

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.

John does not start with the usual opening but, instead, reassures his readers of the support and love of both the Father and the Son.

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Notice that this family was not a Christian in name only, but were walking the Christian life every day. The fact that they were living their Christianity greatly pleased John. Probably, this was a family that John had influenced. We are all commanded of God to live upright lives. In fact, if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. There is that statement again.

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.

This is the same commandment given by the Lord Jesus. Love God first and love your neighbor as yourself.

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.

Notice this once again. The love of God is shown by keeping his commandments and loving the brethren.

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 false teachers are described as those who have gone beyond apostolic teaching. In other words, they have added their own ideas to the word of God. We have this today in our crop of bible changers. It is God's desire that everyone receives salvation and complete sanctification. A full reward will be awarded to the saint who exercises discretion in his, or her, life and ministry. And yes, all of us have a ministry.

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

This is one of the many verses that support the idea that you can lose your rewards by backsliding. This also has another application and that is; do not let the false teachers take away the things we have labored for.

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.

This is speaking of cults. Here is an example in the Extreme Oath of the Jesuits: "I will have no opinion or will of my own, or any mental reservation whatever, even as a corpse, but will unhesitatingly obey each and every command that I may receive from my superiors in the Militia of the Pope". There is no place for the Lord Jesus Christ anywhere in that oath.

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

This doctrine of Jesus Christ includes the virgin birth, sinless life and sinless death, bodily resurrection, eternal deity, the blood atonement, and that He is the only true Saviour of the world. That's what you believe if you are saved. The things we hear are recorded in our brain. We should not listen to a false message at all. If you listen, you will remember some of the things they say. The best policy is to not let them in your house. To wish them well would be blessing them and their false message. Just get rid of them as quickly as possible. Well, there goes messing with the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormons, a thing I enjoy.

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Can you see how this can apply in our lives? We are not to have fellowship with those teaching false doctrine. How far are we to take this? I can not say for sure. Obviously it would apply to those like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Scientologist. How about those in what some might call the grey area? How about Catholics who teach keeping seven sacraments for salvation? How about the Church of Christ who teach that baptism saves? You will each have to make up your own mind about these in the grey area.

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 word “paper” refers to a papyrus sheet. One of which could contain the whole letter of 2 John. The ink used refers to a mixture of water, charcoal and gum resin that was used to write on the papyrus. This is just saying that he will not write more, but will come to see her when he can. This lady is someone John enjoyed being around. Perhaps, she and her family are part of John's spiritual family.

13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

It is significant that it is the children and not the elect sister who send this greeting. The best I can do with this is to suggest that John may be staying at another church in the vicinity and the “children” are that small congregation.