

SECOND JOHN

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INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Seems to be the shortest book in the Bible.
2. But in the Greek contains a few more words than 3rd John.

B. AUTHOR:

1. Were some doubts in the early church as to the authenticity of these brief epistles.
2. Most of the external evidence rest on the writings of early church. Clement, Origen and Dionysius. Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp who was acquainted with John.

C. DATE:

1. Near the end of the 1st century.

D. PURPOSE:

1. "On The Truth" its place in our life.

E. WRITTEN TO "THE ELECT LADY AND HER CHILDREN"

1. Possible Cyria, the Greek word for lady, that appears no where else in N.T.
 2. Others contend that "the elect lady" refers to the church.
 3. If so, who were her children and who would be "the elect sister" v. 13
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DIVINE TRUTH

A. IN ITS RELATION TO BELIEVERS (1:6).

1. We are to love "in truth".. Not in the truth.
2. But love of each other without pretense.
3. How often God speaks in His Word of the love we are to have one for another.!

B. "GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE SHALL BE WITH US" (v. 3).

1. This beautiful salutation, common to New Testament writers.
2. It Expresses:
 - a. First, Grace God's favor and good will, the fountain of all good things.
 - b. Mercy is its outpourings.
 - c. And Peace, its joyous effect.

C. "I FOUND CERTAIN OF THY CHILDREN WALKING IN THE TRUTH"

1. "Walking" carries the idea of living (See the "walks" of the Ephesians).
 2. "In the truth" would be according to the truth of God's word. (V. 3).
 3. The thought is habitual action, progress toward a goal.
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The Test Of The Truth

A. THE NEED:

1. *"For many deceivers are gone forth into the world, even they that confess not that Jesus Christ cometh in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the anti-christ."* (V. 7).
2. The denial of Christ.

B. They denied the fundamental fact of the gospel....the Incarnation.

1. As we note those of the world, John encourages us....
2. *"Look to yourselves, that ye lose not the things which we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward."* (v. 8).
3. Constant and careful self-inspection and ceaseless vigilance against enticements to evil are a vital necessity.

C. *"WHOSOEVER GOETH ONWARD AND ABIDETH NOT IN THE TEACHINGS OF Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son."* (v. 9)

1. Today there is a loose and lax attitude toward the inspiration and authority of the scriptures.
 2. To go beyond the limits of the teaching of Christ.
 3. Any departure from the truth.
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Defense Of The Truth

A. *"If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting:* (v. 10)

1. Do not permit Christian hospitality to afford an opportunity for any false teacher to pervert the faith of the brethren.
2. Do not support ..do nothing that would support or encourage teaching that is not true.

B. *"For he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works"* (v. 11).

1. Sin should be treated as a contagious disease.
 2. We are to avoid even the appearance of evil.
 3. **READ VERSES 12 AND 13.**
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