

INTRODUCTION (vv. 1-3)

1. 2 John is the second _____ book in the Bible.
2. Author: "The elder" ... that's how he was known by his readers. The title refers to a senior officer in a local church (1 Tim. 5:17). John assumes authority over the people, although he is not a member of their church (v. 1), for he is an apostle (Matt. 10:1, 2).
3. Addressees: "To the chosen lady and her children" (v. 1)
 - A. "The chosen lady" refers to the church, while "her children" refers to the members of the congregation.
 - B. Others understand "the chosen lady" to be a godly woman (a mother) and her children.
4. Occasion and Purpose

"During the first two centuries the gospel was taken from place to place by traveling evangelists & teachers. Believers customarily took these missionaries into their homes & gave them provisions for their journey when they left. Since Gnostic teachers also relied on this practice, 2 John was written to urge discernment in supporting traveling teachers; otherwise, someone might unintentionally contribute to the propagation of heresy rather than truth." [NIV Study Bible]
5. In these four opening verses John reveals four features of living in the truth.
 - A. The truth _____ believers (v. 1)
 - B. The truth _____ believers (v. 2)
 - C. The truth _____ believers (v. 3)
 - D. The truth _____ believers (v. 4)
6. John has prepared the way for his exhortation and warning in the remainder of his letter. He's concerned about the inner life of the local fellowship (4-6) and the doctrinal danger from without (7-11).

CONCERN #1: The Inner Life of the Local Fellowship

The Message: Walk in Truth and Love (vv. 4-6)

"Truth" appears five times (1-4); "Love" appears five times (1-6)

1. Walk in truth (v. 4)
Truth unites, indwells, blesses, and controls/governs believers!
2. Walk in love (vv. 5, 6)
John has in mind Jesus' "new command" (John 13:34-35)
3. Both are _____ by the Father (vv. 4, 6)

CONCERN #2: The Doctrinal Danger from False Teachers (vv. 7-11).

Love doesn't imply a naïve, uncritical, undiscerning acceptance of anyone who claims to represent Jesus Christ. Our love must be controlled by truth & discernment. We must not "aide & abet" the enemy.

1. Their _____ (both now & then)
2. Their _____
"... have gone out into the world" (cp. 1 Jn. 2:19; Acts 20:30; 1 Tim. 4:1)
3. Their _____
4. Their _____
 - A. Going _____ (v. 8)
 - B. Going _____ (v. 9)
 - C. Going _____ (vv. 10, 11 ... "aiding and abetting")

LET'S SUMMARIZE WITH SOME PRINCIPLES:

1. Loving one another is a basic expression of Christianity
2. Embracing the truth is equally essential. The priority of the NT:
 - A. _____ of the Truth
 - B. _____ of the Truth
 - C. _____ of the Truth
3. When error is detected, love must be kept within its boundaries.