

Easy-to-Read Version

Language: English

Provided by: Bible League International

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PDF generated on 2017-07-07 from source files dated 2017-07-07.

9417f999-1fb5-525b-a123-d5d84a7f35e1

ISBN: 978-1-5313-1294-7

2 John

The short book of 2 John is a letter that a church elder wrote to “the lady”. This “lady” could refer to an important woman in the church. Or the lady could be a symbol for the church itself. In this case, her “children” would be the people of the church.

The elder writes to protect this lady and her children from a dangerous teaching. Some false teachers were saying that Jesus was not the Christ (God’s Chosen King). They said he could not have been a man on earth. And this might have caused the believers to doubt the truth that they had learned. The true teaching says that Jesus is the Christ that God sent to earth. So the elder tells the believers not to welcome such false teachers into the house where they meet.

In the book of 2 John, the elder...

Greets the lady and her children (1-4)

Teaches that believers should love each other because they know the truth (5-11)

Plans to visit these believers in the future (12-13)

1 Greetings from the Elder.*
To the lady[†] chosen by God and to her children.

I truly love all of you. And I am not the only one. All those who know the truth[‡] love you in the same way. ²We love you

because of the truth—the truth that lives in us. That truth will be with us forever.

³Grace, mercy and peace will be with us from God the Father and from his Son, Jesus Christ, as we live in truth and love.

⁴I was very happy to learn about some of your children. I am happy that they are following the way of truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵And now, dear lady, I tell you: we should all love each other. This is not a new command. It is the same command we had from the beginning. ⁶And loving means living the way he commanded us to live. And God’s command is this: that you live a life of love. You heard this command from the beginning.

⁷Many false teachers are in the world now. They refuse to say that Jesus Christ came to earth and became a man. Anyone who refuses to accept this fact is a false teacher and the enemy of Christ. ⁸Be careful! Don’t lose the reward we[¶] have worked for. Make sure you receive that reward in full.

⁹Everyone must continue to follow only the teaching about Christ. Whoever changes that teaching does not have God. But whoever continues to follow the teaching about Christ has both the Father and his Son. ¹⁰Don’t accept those who come to you but do not bring this teaching. Don’t invite them into your house. Don’t welcome them in any way. ¹¹If you do, you are helping them with their evil work.

¹²I have much to say to you. But I don’t want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come and visit you. Then we

***1:1 Elder** This is probably John the apostle. “Elder” means an older man or a special leader in the church (as in Titus 1:5).

†**1:1 lady** This might mean a woman. Or, in this letter, it might mean a church. If it is a church, then “her children” would be the people of the church. Also in verse 5.

‡**1:1 truth** The truth or “Good News” about Jesus Christ that joins all believers together.

¶**1:8 we** Some Greek copies have “you”.

can be together and talk. That will make us very happy. ¹³The children of your sister[§] who was chosen by God send you their love.

^{§1:13} *sister* Sister of the “lady” in verse 1. This might be another woman or another church.