To the Elect Lady and Her Children

(2 John)

Because of the glory that the church possesses, its members must walk in the truth; because of the danger the church faces, its members must be wary of falsehood.

1. **The Church Is the Bride of Christ**

“The elect lady” refers to a particular, visible congregation of the one, universal, invisible church, the one bride of Christ, and “her children” refers to its members. The greeting reminds the church that:

* They have been chosen—freely and unconditionally by God for marriage to His Son.
* They are covenanted to Christ—betrothed to Christ through the payment of a bride price, which was His atoning death on the cross.
* The day of consummation is coming—Christ will return for His bride and take her into the wedding feast.

Until the day of consummation, the task of the bride is to prepare herself for the wedding by clothing herself in righteousness (Rv 19:8).

1. **The Church Is the Abode of Truth**

The truth abides in the church. Therefore, any lasting or meaningful church fellowship must be a fellowship in the truth. The truth of Christ must be the center of church communion and the condition of church fellowship.

1. **The Church Has True Children**

Some of her children were walking in the truth; others were not. The true children of God are those who walk in the truth and love one another.

1. **The Church Has Illegitimate Offspring**

Illegitimate children have the church for a mother, but do not have God as Father. They are baptized in water, but not baptized in the Spirit. Consequently, they deny the truth and depart from the church, and will not inherit the reward of the everlasting kingdom. What must we do to ensure that we are true children?

* Walk in the truth—make the truth of Christ our hope and the church of Christ our home.
* Watch ourselves that we do not depart from truth of Christ or the church of Christ.