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## Lesson 14 - 2 John

The epistle or letter that has come to be known as 2 John begins by identifying the author simply as “The Elder”. As you read through the letter, you will find many similarities in vocabulary and style to the gospel of John. It is also believed that although many of the disciples and church leaders were called elders, John being the oldest remaining disciple was called “The Elder”. John was often referred to in his early years as a “Son of Thunder”, but he loved to refer to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. Truly, the emphasis of John’s gospel and his three letters was love. Tradition holds that John spent most of his later years in Ephesus where it is believed he wrote this second epistle around 90 A.D. How it must have saddened John to write the words of Christ in Revelation 2:1-4 to his old church, declaring that they had lost their first love.

### **Memory Verse:**

*“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.” 2 John 1:6*

Review this verse often throughout the week. Write it out a couple of times to help you commit it to memory. By week’s end, try to notice *how* and *where* you are able to it into practice. Note your results on the last page of your homework.

### **FIRST DAY – 2 JOHN 1:1-3**

Begin your study each day with a word of prayer.

Read all of 2 John.

1. To whom is this letter written?

There are two opinions as to who the elect lady and her children are. Figuratively, the elect lady may refer to a local church and her children may refer to members of that church. Literally, the elect lady may be an unnamed individual. A possible Greek translation of the phrase elect lady is the lady Electa. Electa was the name of a Christian friend of John's, a mother who was well known in her community, whose sister's children were probably residents of Ephesus.

However, the general consensus is that this letter was sent to a group of believers, described as elect to remind them (and all Christians) of the blessed calling of being chosen and set apart from the world for a holy purpose. Whether the letter was written to a specific church or to an individual, we know it was written to Christians and thus it would be profitable for us to glean from John's instructions and warnings.

2. What were some of John's purposes for writing this letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. The key word **truth** is used four times in this section. Record what John wrote about truth in verses 1-3.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Look up the following verses and record the insights you gained about Biblical truth:
  - John 1:17
  
  
  
  
  - John 8:32
  
  
  
  
  - John 14:6
  
  
  
  
  - Galatians 2:14
  
  
  
  
  - Ephesians 1:13
  
  
  
  
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:13

5. Verse 2 states: *“because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever”*. List some of the benefits of “truth which abides”:

- John 15:7
- 1 John 2:14
- 1 Peter 1:23

6. Personal: Answer one of the following....

How has the truth abiding in you caused you to love truth?

How has the Truth (Jesus) abiding in you caused you to love the Truth?

*The Cross is God's truth about us, and therefore it is the only power which can make us truthful. When we know the Cross, we are no longer afraid of the truth. - D. Bonhoeffer*

## **SECOND DAY – 2 JOHN 2:4-6**

Read verses 4-6 for review.

1. **Love** is a key word in this paragraph division. What is written about love?

2. Verses 4-6 reiterate John's statements in 1 John regarding love. What further truths does 1 John reveal about walking in the commandment to love?

- 1 John 2:5
- 1 John 2:10
- 1 John 2:15
- 1 John 3:14
- 1 John 3:16
- 1 John 4:7
- 1 John 4:19

3. How would walking in love be a deterrent to falling prey to deceivers?

### **THIRD DAY – 2 JOHN 1:7-11**

Read 2 John verses 7-11.

1. This paragraph division addresses the problem of deceivers. Record what John wrote about these deceivers.

2. According to verse 9, what makes the difference between a *deceiver* and one who *has both the Father and the Son*?
  - a. Describe “abiding in the doctrine of Christ”.
3. Personal: *Abiding in the doctrine of Christ* suggests there are boundaries set for us to live within. Does this seem confining to you or liberating? Why?
4. The philosophy of the world today is *tolerance*. Christians are accused of being narrow minded and judgmental. Read John’s instructions regarding deceivers in verses 10 and 11. Why do you think John taking such a strong stance is necessary?

#### **FOURTH DAY – 2 JOHN 1:12-13**

Read 2 John 12-13.

1. Describe John’s heart for the recipients of this letter using verses 1, 12, and 13.
  - a. How does his expression of love and concern reflect a life that walks what he has written?

2. Scan the epistle of 2 John. Using the key word *abide*, summarize the book of 2 John as it could be divided into two sections.

Verses 1-6: Abide in \_\_\_\_\_.

Verses 7-13: Do not abide with \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Personal: Look up the definition of the word *abide* and describe what it means to you personally to abide in truth and love.

4. How has the study of this book impressed you with the importance of who you abide with?

*The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction.*

*- Proverbs 19:23*

→ Memory Verse Review: Can you recite your memory verse? Have you been able to put it into practice this week?