

2 John

Living the Truth

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Purpose

- To communicate the value of the truth:
 - Knowing it (v. 1)
 - Having it (v. 2)
 - Experiencing grace, mercy and peace in it (v. 3)
 - The joy it brings when others live in it (v. 4)
 - The means by which we love one another (vv. 5-6)
 - Enables us to recognize deceivers (v. 7)
 - Guarding ourselves with it brings a full reward (v. 8)
 - Without it we do not have God, with it we have God (v. 9)
 - Prevents us from participating in evil works (vv. 10-11)

Recipients

- Some believe it was written to an individual and her children
 - If ἐκλεκτῆ κυρία (*eklektē kyria*) is her personal name, then it would be one these possibilities: “the chosen Kyria (or Cyria)” or “the lady Electa”
 - Clement of Alexandria believed Electa was the lady's personal name and linking it with 1 Pet. 5:13 “concluded that she and her children were Babylonians and therefore, in view of the political situation at the time, Parthians (*Adumbrations* iv. 437). Hence the spurious title 'To the Parthians' was affixed to 2 John and then to the three Johannine letters as a group and so to I John” (Bruce, 145)

Recipients

- Some believe it was written to an individual and her children
 - Notice the similarity of speaking in person (literally, “mouth to mouth”) between 2 Jn. 1:12 and 3 Jn. 1:13-14 (written to the individual named Gaius)
 - “The children of your chosen sister” (1:13) would then be a reference to the nieces and nephews of the female recipient
 - Both the recipient and her sister are described as “chosen” (a reference to being Christians)

Recipients

- Others believe it was written to a specific congregation using the language of personification: “chosen lady and her children”
 - “chosen lady and her children” is taken as a collective whole with no redundancy
 - Some perceive this view as invalid due to perceived redundancy: “chosen lady” (the congregation) and “her children” (the members of the congregation) resulting in the awkward concept of “the congregation and the members of the congregation”

Recipients

- John does address a group in this letter
 - “Chosen lady and her children” (v. 1)
 - Notice the plural (vv. 6, 8, 10, 12)
- It appears likely that John writes to a godly woman and her children and that their house was used as a place of assembly by believers
 - If so, it is reasonable that John has both the family and the congregation in mind
 - Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philem. 2
 - John warns this godly lady not to permit any false teacher to come into her house or into the assembly (vv. 10-11)

Form of the Letter

- “The second and third Epistles of John present us with the closest approximations in the New Testament to the conventional letter-form of the contemporary Graeco-Roman world” (Bruce, 134)
- Expected form of a first century letter paralleled to the letter of 2 John:
 - Greeting/Salutation (vv. 1-3)
 - Body (vv. 4-11)
 - Conclusion (vv. 12-13)

Outline

(Wiersbe's suggested outline)

Theme: Loving and living the truth

Key verse: 2 Jn. 1:4

- I. Introduction (vv. 1-3)
- II. Practicing the Truth (vv. 4-6)
- III. Protecting the Truth (vv. 7-11)
- IV. Conclusion (vv. 12-13)

Key Words & Phrases

- **Commandment(s)**, ἐντολή, *entolē* (4 times)
 - “command, commandment, regulation, an order that has authority”
 - 1:4-5, 6 (2)
- **Truth**, ἀλήθεια, *alētheia* (5 times)
 - “truth, truthfulness; corresponding to reality”
 - 1:1 (2), 2-4
- **Walk**, περιπατέω, *peripateō* (3 times)
 - “to walk (around); to live, conduct one's life”
 - 1:4, 6 (2)

Key Words & Phrases

- **Father**, πατήρ, *patēr* (3 times)
 - “father, a male parent or ancestor; by extension: an honorific title, leader, archetype”
 - 1:3-4, 9
- **Children**, τέκνον, *teknon* (3 times)
 - 1:1, 4, 13
- **Teaching/doctrine**, διδαχή, *didachē* (3 times)
 - “(the activity or content of) teaching, instruction”
 - 1:9 (2), 10

Key Words & Phrases

- **Abide**, μένω, *menō* (3 times)
 - “to stay, remain, live, dwell, abide; to be in a state that begins and continues, yet may or may not end or stop”
 - 1:2, 9 (2)
- **Love** (all forms: 4 times)
 - ἀγαπάω, *agapaō* (2 times)
 - 1:1, 5
 - ἀγάπη, *agapē* (2 times)
 - 1:3, 6

Parallels with John & 1 John

- Verse 1: Jn. 8:32
- Verse 2: Jn. 14:16-17
- Verse 4: Jn. 10:18
- Verse 5: 1 Jn. 2:7
- Verse 6: 1 Jn. 5:3
- Verse 7: 1 Jn. 2:18-19
- Verse 8: Jn. 4:36
- Verse 9: Jn. 8:31; 1 Jn. 2:23
- Verse 12: Jn. 15:11; 16:24; 1 Jn. 1:4

Memory Verse Review ***(Hebrews—1 John)***

- Heb. 3:12—“Beware, brothers...”
- Jas. 1:22—“But be...”
- 1 Pet. 4:16—“But if anyone...”
- 2 Pet. 3:18—“But grow...”
- 1 Jn. 1:7—“But if we...”

Memory Verse for 2 John

1:9

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son”
(NKJV)