



STUDY GUIDE

2 John

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It is only when we believe G-dly doctrine (i.e. The revelation that G-d has given to us in His Word) that we are going to be able to demonstrate the love of G-d to others. This is one of the reasons why the enemy (the antichrist) is against, and attacks, truth. Another thing that the enemy attacks is the divinity of Yeshua (Jesus Christ) – that He truly is G-d among us. If we deny that Yeshua is G-d then we are not children of G-d and nor are we Yeshua's disciples.

The spirit of the antichrist has been at work for the past 2000 years. However, the final end-time antichrist is going to rise as a global world leader and be revealed in the last days. This final world empire is going to be blasphemous in nature and full of deceit and falsehood. It is going to attack truth – primarily the identity of Yeshua as Messiah. Those who do not believe the truth concerning Messiah Yeshua are not going to be saved, nor used by G-d for His glorious purposes.

Verse 1: *“The elder: To the elected lady, and to her children, whom I love in truth. And not only I alone but also all the ones who have known the truth.”*

The elder: The author of this book (most scholars believe it is John) refers to himself as ‘the elder’.

Elected: This means (she has been) chosen by G-d.

Lady: If the masculine form of this word had been used (here it is written in the feminine, hence translated ‘lady’) it would be a word showing great respect (e.g. ‘sir’). In the masculine it is a title given to one who is a ruler or a master over someone else.

There is great debate among the commentators as to who this lady is. It could be referring to a lady who was alive at the time John wrote this letter, or it could be speaking about the church – written to a body of believers or called out ones.

Her children: The ones who belong to this family or institution (the church).

Love: Agape love i.e. sacrificial love. A sacrificial love is a love that involves giving. It is a love that is willing to suffer for the betterment of others.

Known the truth: This is written in the perfect tense. This means that they came to know about the truth in the past, they are still committed to the truth now and they will continue to know it and be committed to it in the future (recognising it, acknowledging it, and implementing it in their lives).

Verse 2: *“On account of the truth which remains in us and with us forever.”*

Forever: We are going to forever live according to the same truth that we accepted in the past and live in even now. Kingdom truth is perfect and does not need to ever change.

Verse 3: *“It will be with you, and manifest itself through grace, mercy and peace from G-d the Father and from the L-rd Messiah Yeshua, the Son of the Father, in truth and in love.”*

It: Truth. Truth is the foundation which grace, mercy, and peace rest on.

Grace...mercy...peace: They are related to one another. When we receive G-d’s grace it causes us to be merciful to others. Being merciful to others brings about healing and restoration in their lives (i.e. peace. Peace is related to the will of G-d).

Father: A father is one who provides. G-d provides us with truth. Truth leads to us being a recipient of His grace and displaying His mercy. Being merciful to others establishes peace.

L-rd Messiah Yeshua: The Father has provided for us by means of Yeshua.

In truth and in love: We receive the love of G-d by receiving the truth of G-d. G-d manifested His love to us through Yeshua’s work. Yeshua’s work on the cross releases G-d’s saving grace into the lives of those who call on His name. His mercy restores us and leads us to be at peace with Him. When we are in the truth of G-d we will demonstrate the love of G-d to others.

Verse 4: *“I have rejoiced exceedingly because I have found out that your children are walking in the truth, just as we have received a commandment from the Father.”*

I have found out: A statement of discovery

Children: The elder is speaking about believers.

Walking in the truth: The evidence that they are walking in truth is seen by their love for others (2 John 1:5-6).

Verse 5: *“And now I ask you, lady, not a new commandment am I writing but one that we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.”*

Lady: John is speaking to either a specific woman or to the body of believers – the church.

Not a new commandment: This is a commandment G-d always intended for humanity to keep (from ‘the beginning’)

From the beginning: According to tradition the same John who wrote the gospel of John also wrote the epistles of 1, 2 and 3 John. The reason why they state such a tradition is because of the language, the writing style (vocabulary, e.g. ‘in the beginning’), and many of the subjects used in the gospel of John as well as in the three epistles are unique to these four books. The doctrines emphasized in the gospel of John also manifest themselves in the three epistles.

Love one another: Although we are saved by grace alone, through faith, we are also called to demonstrate the love of G-d to others. We are not saved by manifesting this love, but once we are saved this love is evidence or fruit of salvation. The truth of G-d manifests itself by us loving one another. When we are not walking in truth the outcome will be conflict. Only when we embrace Biblical truth (the doctrines of Scripture) are we going to understand what it means to love one another and that we have a responsibility to behave in that way.

Verse 6: *“This is the love: that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, in order that in it you shall walk.”*

The love: Putting the definite article ‘the’ before ‘love’ makes this love a very unique and special kind of love. This is the kind of love that is defined by G-d and not by the world.

Walk according to His commandments: We understand love through the commandments of G-d. The law of Moses teaches us how to love, but it does not give us the capacity to love. The law teaches us what our responsibility toward G-d is, as well as what our responsibility towards others is. However, it is only through salvation and the Holy Spirit entering into a believer’s life that we are given power to love.

From the beginning: This is the second time that he has emphasized ‘the beginning’. It was G-d's love that caused Him to create the world. His love caused Him to put Adam in the garden of Eden where he had everything he needed.

Walk: Walking speaks of a lifestyle, a behaviour. We are not saved by our behaviour, but our behaviour is never-the-less important to G-d and it carries with it eternal consequences and rewards (Romans 2:6, Revelation 22:12). Although works do not save us, they are a testimony of our salvation to others.

Verse 7: *“Many deceivers have entered into the world who do not confess Messiah Yeshua as having come in the flesh. This one is a deceiver and an antichrist.”*

Deceivers: This deceit is going to grow stronger in the last days.

Do not confess Messiah Yeshua as having come in the flesh: Deceivers deny the incarnation of Messiah. There was never a time when Yeshua, the Son of G-d, did not exist. Like His Father, He is eternal, divine and worthy of worship. However, He took on human flesh and entered into this world. His birth was His revealing. He is fully G-d and fully man.

An antichrist: The antichrist is going to attack the identity of Messiah. He will attack the divinity of Yeshua.

Verse 8: *“You watch yourselves, in order that we will not perish what we have worked out, but that we will receive the full reward.”*

You watch yourselves: All believers need to watch themselves. This has the potential to impact everyone.

Will not perish what we have worked out: Meaning that if we do watch ourselves we will not lose or see destruction (suffer loss) in the things that we have worked on, what we have done.

Verse 9: *“Everyone who deviates and does not remain in the teaching of Messiah such a one does not have G-d. The one remaining in the teaching of Messiah, this one, also the Father and the Son has.”*

Deviates: Moves away from.

The teaching of Messiah: What Messiah taught and what the Word of G-d reveals about Him. There is an emphasis in this second epistle about believing the right teaching concerning Messiah.

The Father and the Son has: If we do not remain in the doctrine of Messiah (What the Bible reveals about Him) then we cannot have a relationship or be in covenant with G-d the Father. More and more we see the doctrines of Messiah being challenged (e.g. religious pluralism – i.e. many people say that Yeshua is not uniquely G-d's Son but that Muhammad, Buddha etc are also sons of G-d) The Antichrist is going to be part of this thinking initially. Many also say that Yeshua is not the only saviour – they claim that all roads lead to G-d. When we deny the uniqueness of the gospel message (the only message for salvation) then we have no relationship with either the Father or the Son.

Verse 10: *“If someone comes to you and this doctrine he does not bring, do not receive Him into the house and do not rejoice with him.”*

Doctrine: Teaching

Do not receive Him into the house: Do not allow him to enter into your home in order to have fellowship with him.

Verse 11: *“For the one who with him rejoices participates with his evil deeds.”*

Some commentators see this rejoicing as an idiom for worship - we worship G-d with joyfulness. Those who bring false doctrine cannot worship G-d. We must not allow them to worship with us, as they are a danger and a threat to us. Before they are brought into a fellowship of worship, they need to embrace the truth.

Verse 12: *“Having many things to write to you, but I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I hope to come to you and mouth to mouth to speak, in order that our joy should be fulfilled.”*

Mouth to mouth to speak: In English we say, “face to face”, but in Greek they say it like this.

Our joy should be fulfilled: As we know more of the doctrines of the Scripture we are going to become more joyful. Joy produces strength. It empowers us (Nehemiah 8:10)

Verse 13: *“The children of your elected sister greet you. Amen.”*

The children of your elected sister: The ones who are of the body of Messiah, the local assembly (church) where John is writing from.

Greet: This concept of greeting is truly desiring good things, G-dly and righteous things, for others.

Do we want to be a righteous, G-dly influence on others? It is only when we embrace the doctrines of the Bible, the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that we can be exactly that.