



Bible Study

2 John

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The apostle John wrote a Gospel, 3 letters and the book of Revelation. The second letter of John is written to a church for which we have no name but the themes are similar to other writings of John.

John 'The Elder'

John was an apostle and a very powerful writer but he refers to himself in this letter as being 'the elder'. John's heart was to be a father figure to other churches, to oversee and guide God's people in a humble way.

To 'The Chosen Lady'

It is not clear who John is writing to. It is possibly a lady with a family but it is also very likely that he is referring to a church and that the children are the members. John loves this church and rejoices in the truth of God which is manifest among them.

Opening Greeting

References to grace, mercy and peace are three outstanding gifts that God the Father and God the Son bring to us. We are so grateful for God's grace, because we should expect judgement from a Holy God but He has shown us mercy, by allowing Christ to take the punishment we deserve, and the riches we have in Christ are impossible to measure! We have much because of the grace and mercy of God and the peace of God can be present in our hearts, even when our circumstances are full of troubles.

Walking in the Truth

John rejoices to see God's people walking in the truth. He is concerned about heresy and false teaching, particularly about the person of Christ, so people who honour Jesus for who he really is will always be very special to John and, of course, to God. Jesus gave us the commandment to love one another and this is John's exhortation to the believers. When we walk in obedience to Jesus' commands, there is something very distinctive about us!

Beware of False Teaching

John is aware of false teaching and deception and he describes such behaviour as 'antichrist'. He exhorts God's people to be patient and to run the Christian race in step with God. God's people were well known for their hospitality but John warns this church not to receive people who do not honour Jesus in their teaching. This would have been a big step for the believers, who would naturally have been inclined to welcome everybody.

Closing Remarks

John knows the value of writing to them but he rejoices in the hope that he will see them face to face. He also brings greetings from another church to encourage them.

Points to Consider:

1. Truth was important to John. How important is truth to us in our ministry?
2. John describes those who love one another, as people who walk in obedience. How obedient are we to the commands of Jesus and does our love come from our selfish desires or from our obedient hearts?
3. How do we know when a person is 'the deceiver and the antichrist', as described in this letter?
4. How alert are we towards those who could bring false teaching into our church and lives?
5. How highly do you regard face to face fellowship?