**Scripture** | 2 John 1:4-12 | **How to encourage and warn**

This passage does a great job on incorporating both encouragement and warning. John starts by encouraging the receiver of the letter for raising her kids according to the gospel. How raising them in love allowed them and empowered them to walk in the Truth. John then explains how what he is going to warn is not a new thing, but something Jesus taught throughout His ministry. The command is to love. John then goes into a warning about false prophets and teachers that are deceiving people, turning them away from their faith. And finally, instead of leaving it to this, he says that he would like to visit face to face, I believe this telling us that some conversations cannot be through text, but have to be face to face.

**Observation(s)**

John greets with blessings

John goes into encouraging and thanking the receiver for the way they raised the kids

John then encourages them to continue to participate in showing Love

John then warns against false prophets using dramatic language and examples to get points across

Does not just “end” it, rather says he wants to continue the conversation in person.

**Application**

There is power in blessings

There is power in thanking people for what they did

There is power in encouraging people to continue doing something

There is power in warning especially using strong language

Some conversations should not be over in writing but rather face to face to be the most beneficial

**Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray that I would continue to bless those around me, that I would not be so focused on myself, but would recognize the people around me and how I can verbally or physically bless them! I pray that I would always thank people, that I would not be so self-focused. I pray that you would open my eyes to see the deeds of those around me, and to properly encourage them! I pray that any warnings I give and I receive, if they are true, would be taken seriously.

In Your Holy Amazing Name,

Amen.

Thanks!  
Koleman Parsley