

2 JOHN

THE SECOND LETTER OF JOHN

1 P 5:13 From the Elder:^a my greetings to the Lady, the chosen one,^b and to her 1
3 Jn 1 children, she whom I love in the truth—and I am not the only one, for so do all 2
1 Jn 2:21 who have come to know the truth—•because of the truth that lives in us and will 3
Jn 14:17 be with us for ever. •In our life of truth and love, we shall have grace, mercy and 3
peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.

The law of love

Phm 7 It has given me great joy to find that your children have been living the life of 4
3 Jn 3 truth^c as we were commanded by the Father. •I am writing now, dear lady, not to 5
1 Jn 3:19+ give you any new commandment, but the one which we were given at the begin-
1 Jn 2:7-11 ning, and to plead: let us love one another.
1 Jn 5:3 To love is to live according to his commandments: this is the commandment 6
which you have heard since the beginning,^d to live a life of love.

The enemies of Christ

1 Jn 2:18 There are many deceivers about in the world, refusing to admit that Jesus 7
1 Jn 4:2-3 Christ has come in the flesh. They are the Deceiver; they are the Antichrist.
1 Jn 2:22 Watch yourselves, or all our work^e will be lost and not get the reward it deserves. 8
If anybody does not keep within the teaching of Christ^f but goes beyond it,^g he 9
1 Jn 2:23-24 cannot have God with him: only those who keep to what he taught can have the
Jude 4 Father and the Son with them. •If anyone comes to you bringing a different 10
doctrine, you must not receive him in your house or even give him a greeting.
To greet him would make you a partner in his wicked work. 11
3 Jn 13f There are several things I have to tell you, but I have thought it best not to 12
trust them to paper and ink. I hope instead to visit you and talk to you personally,
1 Jn 1:4 so that our joy^h may be complete.
Greetings to you from the children of your sister,ⁱ the chosen one. 13

a. The elders were the leaders in each community, cf. Tt 1:5+. Here the title refers to John the apostle, the outstanding leader of the communities of Asia Minor.

b. The 'Chosen Lady' or 'Sovereign Lady', figurative reference to one of the local churches under the jurisdiction of the Elder.

c. Lit. 'walk in the truth'.

d. Or 'you must obey that commandment as you

learnt it at the beginning'.

e. Var. (Vulg.) 'your work'.

f. Teaching either by, or about, Christ.

g. Teaching pure speculation as apostolic doctrine, cf. Tt 3:9; 1 Tm 2:16, etc.

h. Var. (Vulg.) 'your joy'.

i. The church (perhaps Ephesus) from which the letter is being written.

3 JOHN

THE THIRD LETTER OF JOHN

- 1 From the Elder: greetings to my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Jn 1+
2 My dear friend, I hope everything is going happily with you and that you are as
3 well physically as you are spiritually. •It was a great joy to me when some brothers 2 Jn 4
came and told of your faithfulness to the truth, and of your life in the truth.
4 It is always my greatest joy^a to hear that my children are living according to 1 Jn 3:19+
the truth.
5 My friend, you have done faithful work in looking after these brothers, even
6 though they were complete strangers to you.^b •They are a proof to the whole
Church of your charity and it would be a very good thing if you could help them
7 on their journey in a way that God would approve. •It was entirely for the sake
of the name^c that they set out, without depending on the pagans for anything; Mt 18:5p
Jn 8:24 1
8 it is our duty to welcome men of this sort and contribute our share to their work Mt 10:10,41
1 Tm 5:18
for the truth.

Beware of the example of Diotrephes

- 9 I have written a note^d for the members of the church, but Diotrephes, who
10 seems to enjoy being in charge of it, refuses to accept us.^e •So if I come, I shall
tell everyone how he has behaved, and about the wicked accusations he has been
circulating against us. As if that were not enough, he not only refuses to welcome
our brothers, but prevents the other people who would have liked to from doing
11 it, and expels them from the church. •My dear friend, never follow such a bad
example, but keep following the good one; anyone who does what is right is a 1 Jn 1:3+
7+
child of God, but the person who does what is wrong has never seen God.

Commendation of Demetrius

- 12 Demetrius^f has been approved by everyone, and indeed by the truth itself. 1 Jn 5:6
We too will vouch for him and you know that our testimony is true. Jn 19:35;
21:24

Epilogue

- 13 There were several things I had to tell you but I would rather not trust them 2 Jn 12
14 to pen and ink. •However, I hope to see you soon and talk to you personally.
15 Peace be with you; greetings from your friends; greet each of our friends by name.

a. 'Joy', var. (Vulg.) 'privilege'.

b. Probably missionaries sent by the apostle to the communities of Asia Minor.

c. The name of the Lord; i.e. the Good News or gospel which carries the name of Jesus Christ to the pagans.

d. Perhaps 2 Jn.

e. Lit. 'Diotrephes loving being (or anxious to be) their leader' is not receiving us'; by rejecting John's missionaries they reject John himself.

f. Either a leading member of that community or one of the missionaries recommended to Gaius.