



# *First Epistle of John*

## *2 John 1-4 - Salutation*

- Summary of *1 John 5:18-21 – Confidence and Certainties of Believers, Part 3*
  - *We, who have been born of God do not sin because/when/if we keep ourselves from the wicked one.*
  - *We know that we are of God who is true in His son Jesus Christ; and eternal life is in Him.*
  - *Alternatively, the world lies in wickedness.*
  - *We need to guard ourselves from idols (that come in many varieties).*
- ***2 John 1 - The Elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,***
  - Who is this *elder* – an older person and/or one who presided over the local church?
  - Who is this *elect lady (and her children)*?
    - Likely a Christian woman to whom this epistle of John is addressed.
      - » *2 John 1:5 - And now I plead with you, lady, .....*



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- Jamiesson-Fausset-Brown – Bengel takes the *Greek* as a proper name *Kyria*, answering to the *Hebrew* “Martha.”
- Vincent offers 3 possibilities:
  - That the letter was addressed to a certain Babylonian named *Electa*.
  - Or to a person named *Kyria*.
  - Or to *Electa Kyria*, a compound proper name.
- FB Meyer – ‘This is a model of old-world correspondence, written when the Apostle was the guest of the nephews of the lady addressed.’
- BTW, are these her own children by birth or those who have come to know the truth through her ministry?
- What is the predominant theme here?
  - *whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known (ginōskō – perfect tense) the truth*
    - Strong’s definition of *truth*– ‘As taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ, and respecting the duties of man, opposed alike to the superstitions of the Gentiles and the inventions of the Jews, and to the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers even among Christians’
- How important is *truth (alētheia)* to us as believers?



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- I believe *truth* is everything and without *truth* our faith is truly dead!
  - » *John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.***
  - » *John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses, **but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***
  - » *John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
  - » *John 8:32 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
  - » *John 14:17 - “the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*
  - » *John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by **Your truth**. Your word is truth.*
  - » *2 Tim 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***

– In fact, without **truth** nothing else occurs or really matters, e.g., *love, faith, hope, obedience.*

- *2 John 2 - because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:*

– *because the truth which abides* (present active) – speaks further to the importance of truth!



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- How should we interpret *the truth abiding in us and will be abiding in us forever?*
  - A sentiment which John frequently emphasizes.
    - » *1 John 1:6 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*
    - » *1 John 2:6 - He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*
    - » *1 John 4:9 - In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*
  - *2 John 3 - Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*
    - This salutation is very much like that of Paul.
    - Notice that all these gifts of God through Christ is a promissory note – *will be* is future tense.
      - Grace – undeserved and merciful kindness of God.
        - » *Eph 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*



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- Mercy – undeserved forgiveness of sin(s) towards the miserable and afflicted.
  - » *Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but according to his mercy he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
- Peace - the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ which is a result of *grace* and *mercy*.
  - » *Phil 4:7 - And the **peace of God, which passes all understanding**, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
- *from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father* – note the necessary teamwork here.
- *in truth and love*
  - Because of this emphasis in the first several verse it implies false teachings and addressed in *verses 7-11*.
- ***2 John 4 - I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.***
  - Notice *John rejoiced greatly about all these children* – relates to



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how important it is to *walk in truth* - the theme continues!

–When/where did John *find* out? (*perfect active indicative*).

- Unclear, but he intended to come to them.
  - » 2 John 12 - *Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.*
  - » 3 John 14 - *but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.*

–*walking in truth* – so very important!

- » 2 Cor 4:2 - *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

–*we have received a commandment from the Father.*

- What *commandment* and doesn't he state this again?
  - » 3 John 4 - *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
- NAS - *just as the Father commanded us.*
  - Presumably *to walk in truth!*
    - » 2 John 1:6 - *This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*