

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Lesson 14**The Elect Lady 2 John 1-13**

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Related reading:

Romans 5:5; 1 John 2:18,19; Colossians 2:9; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 4:1-3;
Romans 16:5

Do you have a hard time balancing love and discipline? It could be the love of a sport or other activity balanced with the discipline of doing daily chores. Or it could be the love for your child balanced with the necessity to discipline him or her. Or it could be love for others balanced with the discipline of truth.

During the century of the New Testament, travel was facilitated greatly by the Romans, who constructed a system of roads and maintained peace by the Roman legions. The church took advantage of this ability to travel by sending out missionaries, who were, in turn, well received. A potential danger to the church existed during those days, however, for false teachers were on the move as well. The church needed to be alerted to these propagators of error. The apostle John found it necessary to write letters of instruction, outlining what kind of guest speakers the Christians could welcome and what kind they should not. The believers needed a balance between love for those who came to speak and the discipline of truth.

The Two Shortest

The apostle John wrote the two shortest books of the New Testament, 2 John and 3 John. Each book contains fewer than 300 words and could have been written on a single sheet of paper.

We consider John the writer of these two books due mainly to the similarity of style between the two letters and the Gospel of John. While the books of the Bible are attributed to men, the real author is God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21).

The Elect Lady

The writer of second John referred to himself as "the elder", since he was known by his first readers as such (2 John 1). The title refers to an elder in a local church (1 Timothy 5:17). John was an apostle (Mark 3:14-17), a role that provided him with the authority to be an elder to a church. The writers of Scripture often used personifications. It is no surprise, therefore, that John would refer to a local congregation as "the elect lady" or to the church members as "her children." (Personification is giving personal attributes to an

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inanimate object.) Two factors from 2 John support this figurative designation, or personification, of the church to whom John wrote. First, John would not refer to his personal love for a lady and her children as a commandment that they had from the beginning (2 John 1, 5). Second, the instructions about the reception of itinerant teachers would apply to an assembly of believers rather than just to an individual.



Scripture memorization

II Jn 1:10

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

(KJV) Do you know what you believe ? Study the true doctrines of our faith so you can guard against the inroads of error.

Love and the Truth

John, along with all who loved the truth, loved the church to whom he wrote (2 John 1). The "truth" is the faith that has been delivered once and for all to believers (Jude 3). The truth binds all believers together in a common belief.

The truth also binds believers together in love (2 John 1). We experience God's love together. Our love for each other as Christians is motivated by the truth that we know and that indwells us (v. 2). The truth is more than what we know intellectually, for it permeates our hearts and minds. Love is rooted in the truth and is not mere sentimentalism. Truth and love must equally characterize us, for they are in complete harmony in God and should be so in our lives.

A Threefold Blessing

The apostle John desired three things to be granted to his readers from God the Father and The Lord Jesus Christ (2 John 3).

Walking in the Truth

John had great cause for rejoicing over the congregation of believers to whom he wrote (2 John 4). They were walking in the truth, which means that they were obeying the truth. They were doing precisely what God the Father had commanded all believers to do. John's commendation of them was a stimulus for them to continue to believe and obey God's Word. Believers really do not have an option from God to disobey His Word. God delivered His Word to us with the responsibility to faithfully respond in belief and obedience.

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The apostle encouraged his readers to continue to obey the commandment that they had had from the beginning of their Christian experience (2 John 4).

God the Father commands our mutual love (1 John 4:7), and the Holy Spirit enables us to fulfill the commandment by our obedience (vv. 11-13). If we have difficulty believing God's Word or loving another believer, for whatever reason, the Spirit of God can empower us for obedience. Christian love demonstrates the reality of our profession of faith. While a profession of faith can be pretended, it is extremely difficult to counterfeit true Christian love. We undertake obedience and love by a deliberate choice.

While God commands us to love each other (2 John 5), love is walking in obedience to His command (v. 6). There is a reciprocal relation between love and obedience. Each is understood in terms of the other. John was, therefore, reminding us that love means that we live in obedience to God's commandments, while God's command is that we walk in love. The living response to what God commands is our love.

Be Alert to Deceivers

John warned his readers that many deceivers had "entered the world" (gone abroad or traveled around) spreading doctrinal errors (2 John 7). They had left the church because of their perverted doctrines (1 John 2:18, 19); they were defectors from the truth and were apostates. Their mission had become to deceive the church and infest it with their doctrinal perversions.

John identified a specific heresy about the humanity of Christ (2 John 7). He had identified this error earlier in his first letter (1 John 4:1-3). The false teachers to whom he referred denied that Christ took on a human body. In other words, they believed that He only appeared to be human. This idea denies the fact that God's Son identified Himself with humanity through the Incarnation. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human (Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 10:5). These deceivers were one in spirit with the anti-Christ who will oppose God and exalt himself above God when he appears on the scene (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Don't Suffer Loss

The year 2000 was an Olympic year. The motto of the Olympics is, in English, "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." In the past some athletes have cheated to become swifter, higher, stronger, and though they won medals, those medals were later rescinded. They had a momentary reward the thrill of victory, the honor of receiving the prize, but they lost their full reward. We believers can lose our full reward, too, not by cheating but by letting down our guard.

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The doctrinal error of false teachers is subtle and alluring (2 John 8). If we Christians relax our vigilance and compromise our doctrinal belief, we will suffer a loss. John told us to look out for ourselves, lest we lose a "full reward." The word "reward" refers to the wages of a working man. God will reward believers for their faithfulness, and He will reward it all (1 Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 22:12). However, the fullness of the reward is threatened by the subversive teaching of false teachers (2 John 8). God desires that we receive the full reward and not lose some of it due to unfaithfulness and compromise. It appears we will cast our crowns of reward at the feet of Christ in Heaven in recognition that He deserves the glory (Revelation 4:9- 11). The concern here is about the loss of future reward, **not the loss of personal salvation.**

Overstepping the Boundaries

The apostle issued a second warning. It is a warning for those who go too far and step over the doctrinal boundaries of the faith (2 John 9). The word "transgresseth" means "to overstep." John moved beyond the issue of the loss of a full reward. He directed his warning to those who turn aside from the true doctrine of Christ. These people defect from the faith. Their departure from the truth is evidence that they did not have a relationship with God. They did not know God the Father and The Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, did not have eternal life (John 17:3). Their profession of faith was devoid of truth and was, consequently, meaningless. All of these facts characterize false teachers and those who wholeheartedly embrace their views.

Those who continue in the true doctrine of Christ have both the Father and the Son (2 John 9). It is impossible to have a relationship with God the Father without having a relationship with the Son at the same time. The Son is both the revelation of the Father (John 1:18) and the way to the Father (14:6). Only when we receive the Son through faith, do we also receive the Father. True faith is not believing in the Father alone, but believing in the Father and in the Son.

Whom to Welcome

John anticipated the soon arrival of false teachers at the church (2 John 10). Their destructive propaganda posed a dangerous problem to the church. John made it very clear that the church was not to officially receive those men as teachers of God's truth, nor was it to send those men on their way with God's blessing. To bless them would be an affront to God, for those teachers denied the truth about Jesus Christ.

The word "house" in verse 10 refers primarily to the local church. Local assemblies met in private homes prior to the time that church buildings were

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erected (Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15). The local church today is not to receive any false teachers, for receiving them would show approval for their error and devious ways (2 John 10). Neither is the church to send them on their way with the blessing of "God speed" (2 John 11). Such a benediction would express a desire for success in their deceptive activity.

John's strong admonition applies only to those who proclaim doctrinal error (2 John 10, 11). He was not dealing with interpretive disagreements among God's people. Instead he was exhorting churches to keep religious deceivers at a distance.

Visiting Soon

The brevity of John's letter is not an indication that he had written all that he wanted to communicate. He had more to say, but he desired to speak to his "children" face-to-face (2 John 12). He anticipated visiting them soon.

John shared with his readers in God's salvation. Our salvation is provided graciously through God's Son, Who is truly God and truly man. John's future discussions with this congregation would take place in the bonds of their fellowship with the Father and the Son. This cannot help but produce a greater understanding of the truth and the fullness of joy in knowing God.

Final Greeting

John sent a final greeting from his church (2 John 13). "The children" refers to the members of "thy elect sister," or John's home church. The members of his church understood the challenge before the congregation to whom he wrote. They wished for the recipients of John's letter everything that John desired for them. This final greeting was a witness to the network of Christian assemblies that agreed doctrinally and shared mutually in the truth and in love.

Time for Action

Give yourself a spiritual checkup.

- Are you disobeying God's Word in some areas of your life? If so, give attention to these things by asking God to help you to obey. Ask someone to let you be accountable to him or her about your progress in obeying the Lord in these areas. , Be thankful daily that you have a personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Do a Bible study on the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ. Be able to explain and to share with someone else how Jesus was truly human and truly God.

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The Elect Lady 2 John 1-13**Lesson 14**

Name _____

Note: The student taking these lessons must have been part of the Bible Study for at least a year and has read all of the literature sent to him/her by mail, in order to answer these questions correctly. Many of the questions in this lesson are not from the lesson,

1. What personification did John use in Revelation 21:9 and 22:17 and Paul described in Ephesians 5:22 and 23?
2. What did John desire for believers? (See verse 3.) Define each of the terms.
 - a. Grace
 - b. Mercy
 - c. Peace
3. What is the commandment (2 John 4)?
4. Why was it better for John to address his audience face-to-face?
5. List 5 religions that are teaching false doctrine and explain what is the false doctrine that they teach?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
6. What reaction do these false teachers tend to use to receive more of a following?

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7. Why is the faith movement so popular in the 21st Century?
8. Is there a correlation between the faith movement and Rev. 13:13 ?
If yes, explain.....
9. What is the relationship between truth and love?
10. How are love and obedience reciprocally related?
11. What did the deceivers deny about Christ?
12. What should believers be concerned about losing?
13. Why should the believers not receive a false teachers into their home or Church home?
14. What is your doctrine? What do you believe in? Explain in detail, giving scripture references as back-up to prove your point.
 - The Bible
 - Who is GOD
 - Who is JESUS CHRIST
 - can you lose salvation
 - baptism
 - Salvation comes by
 - both judgments
 - Our government
 - Priesthood of believers
 - The church as a business



Scripture memorization (write these on the back page)
2 John 1:10; Romans 5:5; Colossians 2:9; I John 4:7 (must be in KJV)

any questions?