The Epistle of 2 John

By Daniel Deininger

UCG MT Online Bible Study - November 6, 2024

The Epistle of Second John was written by the apostle John late in the first century, commentaries citing approximately 80-95 A.D. By this time false teachings were starting to come into the Church and John is exhorting the brethren to hold fast to the truth. Paul has also encouraged the brethren in similar manner before John, but John is witnessing false teachings making inroads probably much more than Paul did. Ie Paul saw it coming, John saw it changing the Church. In Revelation John warns the Church to repent of the false ideas that had come in.

> Paul:
> 1 Thessalonians 5:21 KJV - Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
> 2 Timothy 1:13 KJV - Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
> Hebrews 3:6 KJV - But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.
> Hebrews 4:14 KJV - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession.
> Hebrews 10:23 KJV - Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;)
>
> John:
> Revelation 2:25 KJV - But that which ye have [already] hold fast till I come.
> Revelation 3:3 KJV - Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

So in these epistles John is warning the Church to hold on to the TRUTH and to keep the commandments. He is warning to beware of false ideas that were coming in. He was trying to warn of a tide of false ideas.

Application for us at the end time?

Now approximately 1950 years later, mainstream Christianity has incorporated many ideas that were NOT part of the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. The “church” became apostate of the truth… and added teachings (false teachings) and removed other teachings (that were TRUE). Now when God opens our eyes to the truth we need to repent of following and practicing the false, evil, sinful, things that Satan introduced. We need to get back to the truth and commandments that Jesus and the apostles taught. And once we get back to the truth, we need to hold on to it.

> Acts 3:19 KJV - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Revelation 2:5 KJV - Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV - And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?
2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV - And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among [them]. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."
2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV - Therefore **"Come out from among them** And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."
2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV - "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Acts 2:40 NKJV - And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
Acts 2:41 NKJV - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added [to them].
Acts 2:42 NKJV - And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Revelation 18:4 NKJV - And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues**.
2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV - "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

So we, too, need to hear the warning of John to hold fast to the truth, to the commandments of Jesus Christ, and not follow the false teachings that have been introduced. The Epistle of Second John is very applicable today. We need to seek and love the truth as found in the Word of Truth - God's word.

I hope you enjoy this study and it provides motivation to hold on to the TRUTH coupled with the LOVE of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

JOHN'S INTRODUCTION:

2 John 1:1 NKJV - 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,
2 John 1:2 NKJV - because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
2 John 1:3 NKJV - Grace, mercy, [and] peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

The elder = John, the last apostle still alive at this time. A title of respect.

The elect lady? Is it actually a lady, possibly who had a church meeting at her home? Or it is referring to a congregation of the Church?

Isaiah 52:2 NKJV - Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!

Galatians 4:26 NKJV - but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

2 Corinthians 11:2 NKJV - For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ.

Ephesians 5:31 NKJV - "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."
Ephesians 5:32 NKJV - This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Revelation 21:9 NKJV - Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

The word “truth” used four times in the first three verses. (Five times in the first 4 verses.) Why?

Truth = G225 = ἀλήθεια alḗtheia, al-ay'-thi-a; from G227; truth:—true, × truly, truth, verity. **The KJV translates Strong's G225 in the following manner:** truth (107x), truly (with G1909) (1x), true (1x), verity (1x).

From the Outline of Biblical Usage:

I. objectively
   A. what is true in any matter under consideration
      1. truly, in truth, according to truth
      2. of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly

   B. what is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man, moral and religious truth
      1. in the greatest latitude
      2. the true notions of God which are open to human reason without his supernatural intervention

   C. the truth as taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ, and respecting the duties of man, opposing alike to the superstitions of the Gentiles and the inventions of the Jews, and the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers even among Christians

II. subjectively

   A. truth as a personal excellence
      1. that candour of mind which is free from affection, pretence, simulation, falsehood, deceit

John seems to be very concerned about the truth. Possibly because when he wrote the truth was being trampled or in danger of being corrupted. He uses this same Greek word often is his writings:

- The Gospel of John = 25x
- First Epistle = 9x
- Second Epistle = 5x
- Third Epistle = 6x

Warren Wiersbe in his commentary says:
Basically it (the word truth) means “reality” as opposed to mere appearance, the ultimate that is the basis for all we see around us. Jesus Christ is the “the truth” [John 14:6 NKJV - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth,** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.] And God’s word is “truth” [John 17:17 NKJV - "Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**] God has revealed truth in the person of His Son and in the pages of His Word. He has given us the “Spirit of Truth” to teach us and to enable us to know the truth.

> John 14:16 NKJV - "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--
> John 14:17 NKJV - "**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 16:13 NKJV - "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
>
> John 6:63 NKJV - "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life.

WE NEED TO WALK IN LOVE <u>AND</u> TRUTH

*2 John 1:4 NKJV - I <u>rejoiced greatly</u> that I have found [some] of your children **walking in truth**, as we received commandment from the Father.*
*2 John 1:5 NKJV - And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: t**hat we love one another**.*
2 John 1:6 NKJV - <u>This is love, that we walk according to His commandments</u>. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.
We need to walk both in the TRUTH and LOVE.

> 3 John 1:3 NKJV - For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth [that is] in you, just as you <u>walk in the truth</u>.
> 3 John 1:4 NKJV - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children <u>walk in truth</u>.
> 3 John 1:8 NKJV - We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow <u>workers for the truth</u>.

Why is John emphasizing this? We need BOTH. You couldn’t emphasize one to the exclusion of the other.

John was concerned about false teachers coming through the area. The people would show hospitality, but John was telling them they had to hold onto the truth, and not allow their hospitality to be taken advantage of and the truth cast aside.

THE WARNING

*2 John 1:7 NLT - I say this **because many deceivers have gone out into the world**. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a **deceiver and an antichrist**.*
2 John 1:8 NLT - Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

> 2 Corinthians 13:8 NLT - For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth.
>
> Hebrews 2:1 NLT - So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.
>
> Hebrews 10:36 NLT - Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

2 John 1:9 NLT - Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.

> 2 John 1:9 AMP - Anyone who runs on ahead and does not remain in the doctrine of Christ [that is, one who is not content with what He taught], does not have God; but the one who continues to remain in the teaching [of Christ does have God], he has both the Father and the Son.
>
> 2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV - I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
> 2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV - Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
> 2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
>
> Amplified: v 3 For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine *and* accurate instruction [that challenges them with God's truth]; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires *and* to support the errors they hold,
> V 4 and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths *and* man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable].

> 2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV - and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

*2 John 1:10 NLT - **If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement.***

> 2 John 1:10 AMP - If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching [but diminishes or adds to the doctrine of Christ], do not receive or welcome him into your house, and do not give him a greeting or any encouragement;

> Revelation 22:18 NKJV - For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;
> Revelation 22:19 NKJV - and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.

2 John 1:11 NLT - Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.

Wiersbe: The apostle is admonishing us not to receive or encourage false teachers who represent antichristian groups, people who have left the church and are now trying to seduce others away from the truth. You can be sure apostates use every opportunity they can to secure the endorsement of true Christians.

Today we also need to be careful about who we listen to online.

THE CONCLUSION

2 John 1:12 NKJV - 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.

> 1 John 1:3 NKJV - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
> 1 John 1:4 NKJV - And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Wiersbe: The doctrine of Jesus Christ is a test of truth, a basis for friendship, and a bond for mutual cooperation.

2 John 1:13 NKJV - The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.