

2 John



Study Outline

Background: Luke 9:51-56 recounts a story where John and his brother James are rebuked by Jesus after suggesting they destroy an entire Samaritan village with fire because they refused to allow Jesus to travel through their city. More in likely this is why Jesus referred to these brothers as "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). Though John would be later called the "Apostle of love," it seems prior to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he possessed a quick temper and a small capacity for love. The very subject matter of his first letter reveals an incredible transformation which occurred in this man's heart.

John's second letter is addressed to "the elect lady." Though it seems like John is writing to an individual (vs. 1, 4-5, 13 are in the singular tense) it's clear he's also addressing a group of people (vs. 6, 8, 10, 12 are in the plural tense). To remedy this issue, one can conclude John is addressing a home church (this was common in the first century). He addresses both the host as well as the church.

Main Point: In following up on the subject matter of his first letter, John not only reiterates his command to "love one another," but he exhorts believers to "walk in truth." Biblical love should always be anchored to Biblical truth. Love and truth are an essential partnership. Love without truth is open to abuse and mistreatment. Truth without love can be relegated down to nothing but an intellectual exercise. More than a feeling or the end result, love manifests itself when the believer obeys God's truth as laid out in God's Word.

This marriage of love and truth, not only provides the basis by which the believer can experience God's grace, mercy, and peace, but this union also safeguards the believer against those who'd want to take advantage. John encourages this fellowship of believers to reject those who'd desire to preach a false Jesus. It is only the absolute and eternal truth of Jesus Christ that provides believers the commonality by which brotherly love can exist and flourish.

OUTLINE FOR 2ND JOHN

THE REALITY OF TRUTH

2 JOHN 1	TRUTH PROVIDES A COMMON GROUND
2 JOHN 2	TRUTH ABSOLUTELY LASTS FOREVER
2 JOHN 3	TRUTH IS THE BASIS FOR GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

THE REASON FOR TRUTH

2 JOHN 4	WALKING IN THE TRUTH
2 JOHN 5	LOVING ONE ANOTHER
2 JOHN 6	OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE OF LOVE

THE RESULT OF TRUTH

2 JOHN 7-9	BEWARE OF THOSE WHO'D DISTORT THE TRUTH
2 JOHN 10-11	REJECT THOSE WHO'D DECEIVE
2 JOHN 12-13	THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP



Day 1: Common Ground....

2 John 1 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Think about your friendships. What kind of things often provide the common ground by which these relationships exist? (2). When relationships are founded on temporal, earthly things what ends up being the result? (3). John encourages our relationships to be founded upon what? Why is this important?

Day 2: Eternal Truth....

2 John 2 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In regards to the first devotion why is the eternal nature of God's truth important when it comes to your relationships? (2). What is truth and why has our society denied absolutes in the pursuit of a relative approach? (3). Why can we make a definitive claim that something is true or false / right or wrong?

Day 3: Walking in Truth....

2 John 4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). If truth describes something I discover, learn, and know, then what does the apostle mean when he encourages me to "walk in truth?" (2). What is the danger of walking in truth without love? What kind of people end up taking this approach? (3). Examine your life. Are you walking in truth anchored to love?

Day 4: Loving One Another....

2 John 5 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What is the danger when a person pursues love without keeping a firm grasp on the truth? (2). How can you practically apply this principle to the various situations you face every day? (3). With God's truth in mind, why is it important you love your brothers and sisters in the Lord?

Day 5: Keeping Gods Commandments....

2 John 6 // THINKING POINTS: (1). According to John what is love and how is it manifested through your life? (2). When you think of love what are the common misconceptions that exist in our societies views on the subject? (3). With these truths in mind take an inventory over the "love relationships" in your life. Are you really loving that person?

Day 6: Keeping Love in Context....

2 John 7-13 // THINKING POINT: (1). Our society demands people maintain an open mind when it comes to people who behave differently. What is the flaw in this thought process and how does truth come into effect? (2). What kind of people did John encourage this church not to have fellowship with? (3). What types of relationships brought the apostle John great joy? Why was this the case?

DEVOTIONS

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