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By Dan Maines

2 John

2 John 1

The elder, to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth.

† John writes as "the elder," showing his pastoral authority.

† The "chosen lady and her children" likely refers to a local church and its members.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 1) also addressed the whole

church in familial terms, showing this was common language.

2 John 2-3

Because of the truth which remains in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

† John anchors his blessing in eternal truth.

† Grace, mercy, and peace are covenant gifts that flow through Christ.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Trallians 3) also emphasized truth and love as the mark of the church.

2 John 4

I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we received commandment to do from the Father.

† John rejoices when believers walk faithfully in the truth.

† Faithfulness to the Father's commandment proves genuine discipleship.

† Josephus (Antiquities 4.6.12) noted how obedience to God's commands defined Israel's covenant standing, which John now applies to the church.

2 John 5-6

Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you are to walk in it.

† The command to love is central, old yet always new.

† Love is defined by obedience to God's commands, not by feelings alone.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 49) declared that love fulfills the

law and unites the church.

2 John 7

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

† The danger was active in John's day: false teachers denied Christ's incarnation.

† Denying the flesh of Christ was the mark of antichrist.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Smyrnaeans 5) directly opposed these heresies, affirming Christ's real flesh.

2 John 8

Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

† Believers must remain vigilant, not forfeiting the reward through deception.

† Faithfulness secures the full inheritance.

2 John 9

Anyone who goes too far and does not remain in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who remains in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

† Progress beyond Christ's teaching is apostasy, not advancement.

† True knowledge of God is bound to Christ's teaching.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.24.1) condemned those who claimed hidden teachings beyond the apostles.

2 John 10-11

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

- † Hospitality must not extend to false teachers.
- † To support them is to share in their error.
- † The Didache (ch. 11) instructed churches not to welcome false prophets, paralleling John's command.

2 John 12-13

Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made complete. The children of your chosen sister greet you.

- † John longs for face-to-face fellowship, not just written words.
- † The chosen sister likely refers to another church, showing inter-church fellowship.
- † Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.23) recorded how churches exchanged greetings and letters, echoing John's practice.

How it applies to us today

- † 2 John warns us to love in truth, guarding against deception.
- † The antichrists of John's time denied Christ in the flesh, but the church must hold firmly to apostolic teaching.
- † Supporting false teachers makes us participants in their evil, so vigilance remains vital today.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † Josephus, Antiquities 4.6.12 - obedience defined covenant standing
- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 1 - church addressed in family terms
- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 49 - love fulfilling the law
- † Ignatius, Letter to the Trallians 3 - truth and love in the church
- † Ignatius, Letter to the Smyrnaeans 5 - Christ's true flesh affirmed
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.24.1 - false teachers with hidden

doctrines condemned

† The Didache 11 - warning against welcoming false prophets

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.23 - churches exchanging greetings

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