

## 2 John

Greetings from the Elder.\*

To the lady\* chosen by God and to her children:

I love all of you in the truth.\* Also, all those people who know the truth love you. <sup>2</sup>We love you because of the truth—the truth that lives in us. That truth will be with us forever.

<sup>3</sup>Grace (*kindness*), mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from his Son, Jesus Christ. We receive these blessings through truth and love.

<sup>4</sup>I was very happy to learn about some of your children. I am happy that they are following the way of truth, like the Father (*God*) commanded us. <sup>5</sup>And now, dear lady,\* I tell you: We should all love each other. This is not a new command. It is the same command we had from the beginning. <sup>6</sup>And loving means living the way he commanded us to live. And God's command is this: that you live a life of love. You heard this command from the beginning.

<sup>7</sup>Many false teachers are in the world now. These false teachers refuse to confess (*say*)

that Jesus Christ came to earth and became a man. A person who refuses to confess this fact is a false teacher and an enemy of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Be careful! Don't lose the reward that you have worked for. Be careful, so that you will receive all of your reward.

<sup>9</sup>A person must continue to follow only the teaching about Christ. If a person changes that teaching, then that person does not have God. But if a person continues following the teaching of Christ, then that person has both the Father (*God*) and the Son (*Christ*). <sup>10</sup>If a person comes to you, but does not bring this teaching, then don't accept him into your house. Don't welcome him. <sup>11</sup>If you accept him, then you are helping him with his evil work.

<sup>12</sup>I have much to say to you. But I don't want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to come visit you. Then we can be together and talk. That will make us very happy. <sup>13</sup>The children of your sister\* who was chosen by God send you their love.

**Elder** This is probably John the apostle. "Elder" means an older man. It can also mean a special leader in the church (like in Titus 1:5).

**lady** This might mean a woman. Or, in this letter, it might mean a church. If it is a church, then "her children" would be the people of the church.

**truth** The truth or "Good News" about Jesus Christ that joins all believers together.

**sister** Sister of the "lady" in verse 1. This might be another woman or another church.

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