

2 JOHN

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This is the only epistle written to a lady. The word elect signifies that she is a Christian but who she is, we do not know. The elect are those who have accepted the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

The important matter in this letter is the subject of truth. That is where the emphasis lies.

Some opine that the elect lady and her children is a way of describing a local company of believers. Others refer to it as to what is allowed in a Christian home. The Christian lady is not to permit into her house anyone who does not uphold the doctrine of Christ. In our day, that would include Jehovah Witnesses, for example.

What do we do about loved family and friends who do not have the faith and truth? Do we ignore them or shut the door on them?

Surely not, although this teachings was held by the Taylor exclusive brethren years ago.

The children of the elect lady were walking in the truth but did that include all of them ? It could well be that not all of them were in the Christian faith.

The author of this letter is John, who describes himself as the elder; the style of writing here is as in his other letters. He writes of his love for this lady and that is the love of a Christian for another believer. It is not a romantic or secular love.

John commends her because she and her children are walking, that is to say living, in the truth as commanded by God. He bestows on her the grace, mercy and love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

John is not issuing the elect lady with a new commandment or doctrine but emphasising what has been known from the beginning which is that we love one another (John 13. 34). This love is displayed in keeping the commandments and doctrines of God since the Lord Jesus said, If ye love Me, keep My commandments (John 14.15).

What does it mean to love one another? It is love in action as in Acts 2. 44--45 and, of course, this love is for fellow believers. Although we cannot ever rise to the love of Christ, we should recall with gratitude that He loves us unconditionally (Romans 5. 8) and eternally (Romans 8.38-39) and it is a love of forgiveness (Ephesians 4.32).

There follows a warning about deceivers who infiltrate believers and refute that Christ came into the world as a man. Such false teaching is the work of a deceiver and an antichrist. He that is against Christ is an antichrist and not to be entertained in a Christian home.

3 John had a malicious man in the local assembly of believers called Diotrephes who wanted the pre-eminence and would not receive true believers. Sadly, there are people like this today wanting a name for themselves. Narcissism and pride is a problem.

We here about the famous evangelist and the preacher who has travelled the world preaching the Gospel who is both famous and successful.

The advice from John is to keep the faith so that it is not lost or compromised in any way.

There is a reward laid up for all faithful believers who endure and keep the faith and its truth.

Whoever sins and has not the doctrine of Christ and rejects any doctrine of Christ, does have God, but those who maintain the doctrine of Christ has both God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

You cannot be a Christian or be saved if you reject the humanity and deity of Christ or reject His teaching or commands. A Christian is one who has Christ dwelling in him and rejoices in the truth. We live in days when many who call themselves Christians have introduced new doctrines contrary to Revelation 22.18. All that we need to know is taught primarily by the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 2. 10 states that we are complete in Christ

No one who does not uphold the truth must not be allowed into your house or be sent away with good wishes such as 'God speed'. If that is done you are sharing in his evil ways. You must not bless false teachers. To some this may speak of exclusivism but it is the Word of God. It must also be remembered that sin pollutes. False teaching promotes self and undermines the truth.

John would like to write more but hopes to see the elect lady and her family soon face to face.

He also writes that the children of her sister sends greetings.

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