



Step by Step

63. 2 John



Author // John

Original Recipients // The letter is written to "the elect lady and her children" (1:1). Scholars argue whether the language is literal (an actual woman and her family) or symbolic (a church). It seems most natural to understand it to have been written to a woman and her family regarding the church that meets in her home.

Date of Writing // Tradition holds that John wrote toward the close of the 1st century, circa 90 AD.

Type of Literature // Didactic

Major Themes // Truth and Love

Occasion for Writing // A small church in an undisclosed location is under attack by false teachers who do not believe the Bible nor it's teaching regarding the person and work of Christ. This false teaching, left unchecked, would undermine the faith of the people and stop the spread of the Gospel. John writes to address this issue.



Simple Summary // It is critical for the church in every age to recognize the standard of all religious and moral truth is found in the pages of the Bible. In John's day that truth was under severe attack and his readers needed to learn to stand firm. This little letter has a big message for us today as attack upon truth is rising.



Outline // A simple outline for 2 John:

1-3 // *Introduction*

4-11 // *Walking in, Protecting, and Abiding in the Truth*

12-13 // *Farewell*

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Key Verses

1:4 // I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

1:5 // 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: that we love one another.

1:8 // Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

1:10 // If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

Jesus in 2 John



Jesus is presented as the One through whom grace, mercy and truth flow. Not only does truth flow from Jesus, but He *is* the Truth. Jesus has come in the flesh and is coming again. This message must not be concealed.

