



2 John

A 4 Week Inductive Bible Study

Scripture Paths Bible Studies
www.scripturepaths.com

By Lisa Hughes

Scripture Paths Bible Studies

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

- Welcome -

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig into the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

Scripture Paths Bible Studies are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

Helpful things to know about *Scripture Paths Bible Studies*:

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

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5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.

6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming for. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

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The Goal and Purpose of this Bible Study

John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and encourage others to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian, as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work,” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is employing those truths in your life.

As you study this book of the Bible, it is my prayer you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as *the* source of life and godliness, and that you will accept it, not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom and knowledge, overcome sin, and daily grow in godly conduct and love for Christ.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Lisa Hughes

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How to Use this Study

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting, nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further, I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. The easiest way to find the biblical definition is to use one of the many websites devoted to helping people study the Bible. Sites like www.blueletterbible.com and others like it, allow you to type in the Strong's number easily to find the word's definition. I do have a step by step guide for doing a word study the "old fashioned way," using books! If you plan to do your word definitions that way, then be sure to look for the guide I've put together to help you. *These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.*

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig into each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him. *And what could be better than that?*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.
The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.
Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.
Psalm 119:129-133

2 John Memory Verse

2 John 6

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 should walk in it.

3 John Memory Verse

3 John 11

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

— 2 John —
Lesson #1 Introduction

Read through the short book of 2 John two times before you begin answering the questions below.

Using only the text of 2 John, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to note the Scripture references to show where you found your answer from the Bible. *At this point in the lesson, you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible.* You will have an opportunity at the end of this lesson to come back and complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was the book written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What is the general tone of the author in the book?
6. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?
7. What topics are included in this book?

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8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.

10. What attributes of God do you see in this book?

11. What attributes of Christ do you find in this book?

Now you can go back and add to your answers above using your study Bible, a Bible dictionary or Bible commentary.

12. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of 2 John?

13. Did you discover a verse or two in the book that caught your attention? How did it encourage or convict you, or make you want to study and think about it more?

- c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 7-11).

 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-13).
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2. SUMMARIZE. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

 3. TITLE. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

 4. MARK and LIST. On the *2 John Bible Text* handout mark any *key words* you see in the chapter. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. It's easiest to start with these "God" words first. Next mark *words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times*. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

You can mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

- a. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in 2 John Chapter 1. Your Chapter 1 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below.

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Verse 3—from *God the Father*

Verse 3—the Son of the *Father*

Verse 4—received commandment to do from the *Father*

Fun study tip to try: Mark any key/repeated words that you notice appear all the way through the book, even if their use in individual chapters may not fit the “3 times or more” rule. This will allow you to trace major themes and an author’s thoughts throughout the book.

5. MARK and LIST. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter. Look for things the author is telling his readers to do or be. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
6. MARK and LIST. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
7. MARK. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
8. MARK and LIST. Mark any time *so that* is used. In putting together your list, look for what comes before the “so that” which will bring about or produce some kind of result. For example, in Philippians 1:10 “so that” appears, but in order to understand its significance you need to also look at verse 9. Your entry for Philippians 1:9-10 might say something like, “Paul prays that the Philippians’ love would abound in real knowledge and all discernment *so that* they would be able to approve the things that are excellent and live sincerely and blamelessly until the day of Christ.” I think you will be so blessed by this part of your observation time!
9. MARK. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
10. MARK. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *Paul and Timothy are bond-servants* from 1:1.

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11. LIST. List any *attributes* of *God*, *Christ*, or the *Holy Spirit* that you notice in this chapter. You'll start this list by going back up to your listed "God" words that you marked earlier in Question #4. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person.

For example, you might read John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" From this verse we see that God is *loving* [because He loved the world]; He is *giving* [because He gave His Son]; He is *eternal* [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].

12. LIST. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action.

For example, in 1 John 1:1 we find a list about the *Word of Life*. We discover 1) the Word of Life was from the beginning; 2) John heard the Word of Life; 3) John saw the Word of Life with his own eyes; 4) John looked at the Word of Life; 5) John touched the Word of life with his hands.

13. NOTE. Be sure to mark or write down any "nuggets" you observed that you thought were interesting, spurred on some thought, or made you want to study further.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in the chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life right now. Your task at this time is to simply look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter.

As you do this lesson, take time to worship and thank the Lord that He has preserved His Word for you to study. Admire and marvel at what He placed in this chapter for you to notice. There really isn't any other time in our studies where we simply look at, think on, and study God's Word for itself, so have fun with this lesson! And may the Lord be blessed by your labors!

2 John Chapter 1

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,

2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

3 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.

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

5 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.

6 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 should walk in it.

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.

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

9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

10 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;

11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

12 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 full.

13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

— 2 John —
Lesson #3 Chapter 1:1-6

Before you begin this lesson, prepare your heart by going to the Lord for help in understanding His Word and wisdom in applying it. May you be blessed as you dig into this passage!

1. John begins this personal little letter differently than he did for his gospel and his First John epistle. How does John identify himself in verse 1? Though John doesn't use his own name, what does the term he chose to identify himself tell us about him? See also Philemon 9; 1 Peter 5:1.

2. Similarly, though the specific names of the recipients aren't given, John does provide important clues about his friends. What do you learn in verse 1 about those to whom John is writing in this letter?

3. Define *chosen* [Strong's #1588 (ESV, NKJV, HCSB *elect*)].
 - a. Now look up the following verses to see what John is communicating about this "lady" in verse 1. See John 15:16, 19; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9.

4. John says he loves this lady and her children *in truth*. In our passage, it's helpful to know John uses "in truth" and "in the truth" interchangeably to indicate something important. From verses 1-4 what do you learn about truth and those who are in truth?

5. John talks a lot about the truth in his writings, so looking at all the verses isn't doable, but we can look at some of them. What do you learn from the following verses about the truth? See John 1:14, 17; 4:23-24; 8:31-32; 14:6; 1 John 1:8; 2:4; 3 John 3.

6. In what ways does truth unite and protect believers, especially when false teachers abound? See Romans 16:18; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 John 1:8; 2:20-27; 3:7-8; 2 John 7.

"The Puritans taught the wind of the Holy Spirit always blows in the direction of the Word of God. Why? Because the Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God. Therefore, to submit to the Word of God is to follow the Holy Spirit." ~Jack Hughes

7. In verse 1 John says he loves the chosen lady and her children in the truth, *and not only I, but also all who know the truth*. What is the connection between truth and love according to 1 John 3:10-11, 14-18; 4:7; 5:1-2?

8. In verse 2 John explains *why* he and "all those who know the truth" have a love for the brethren. What is the reason according to verse 2? How does this coincide with John 4:24?

"The indwelling of evangelical truth, which is here meant, signifies its deep radication [taking root], and powerful transforming efficacy, in the soul, so as to be productive of holiness, as John 17:17; than which nothing can be a greater inducement among Christians of mutual love."¹ ~Matthew Poole

9. Think for a moment about the heart-helping, soul-strengthening truths contained in verse 2. What do you notice in verse 2 that is of special help for all believers?

¹ Poole, Matthew. 1853. *Annotations upon the Holy Bible*. Vol. 3. New York: Robert Carter and Brothers.

- a. See also John 1:9, 17; 8:31-32; 14:16-17; 16:13-14; 1 John 5:20.

“This truth, John describes as “abiding in us.” Smith says, “not merely apprehended by the intellect but welcomed by the heart.” The word is *menō*, which is used often in the Gospels of one living as a guest in the home of another. Thus the truth is a welcome guest in the heart of the Christian. This truth, John says, “shall be with us forever.” Smith adds “as our guest and companion.” ~Kenneth Wuest²

10. What do believers receive according to verse 3? For how long?
- a. Who gives these things?
- b. What is the “gift wrap” of this blessing—that is, in what way do believers receive those special gifts from the Lord according to verse 3?
11. Take some time to think about the special blessing believers receive from the Lord from verse 3, read the two quotes that follow, then comment on the blessing you receive from those truths.
- a. “Grace is God doing for us what we do not deserve, mercy is His not doing to us what we do deserve, and peace is God giving us what we need based upon His grace and mercy. The word order is significant. God’s grace is always prior. Mercy and peace flow from it.”³ ~Daniel Akin

² Wuest, Kenneth S. 1997. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Vol. 14. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

³ Akin, Daniel L. 2001. *1, 2, 3 John*. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- b. “*Grace*” covers the sins of men; “*mercy*,” their miseries. *Grace* must first do away with man’s guilt before his misery can be relieved by *mercy*. Therefore *grace* stands before *mercy*. *Peace* is the result of both, and therefore stands third in order.”⁴ ~Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown
12. How does biblical truth and love protect us from mushy-headed, worldly-minded thinking about God’s grace, mercy, and peace (verse 3)?
13. What do you learn about this lady’s children in 2 John 4?
14. According to verse 4, why should we expect this kind of response from all those who are God’s children? See also 1 John 1:5-10; 2:3-6.
15. What are some practical ways to walk in truth? Here are *a few* verses to get you started: Psalm 119:33-35, 105; Jeremiah 6:16; John 8:31-32; 14:15; 2 Corinthians 7:1.
16. What does John urge his friend, the lady, to do in verse 5?
17. My! John seems to be making a big deal about old and new commandments! When was the command to love the brethren instituted? See John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17.

⁴ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. 1997. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Vol. 2. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

18. Why is it so important to John that we obey this command? Look again at John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; and then at 1 John 3:23; 4:21.
19. How is love described in verse 6? Often, we are confused about what love and obedience for God should look like in our lives, how does this description simplify life for us?
- a. The next time we find ourselves praying, “Lord, I just want you to know how much I love You,” what do we need to remember according to verse 6?

 - b. Anytime you want the Lord to know how much you love Him; you can apply Ephesians 5:1-2. What do you learn from those verses and how are they similar in thought to 2 John 6?

“Keeping of the commandments of God is an evidence of love to God; this shows that love is not in word and tongue, in profession only, but in deed and in truth; and that such persons have a sense of the love of God upon their souls, under the influence of which they act.”⁵ ~John Gill

⁵ Gill, John. 1809. *An Exposition of the New Testament*. Vol. 3. The Baptist Commentary Series. London: Mathews and Leigh.

— 2 John —
Lesson #4 Chapter 1:7-13

As we look at John's final thoughts to his friends, ask the Lord to help you study His Word without distraction and with a heart eager to discover what He has preserved for you to know about Him!

1. John begins verse 7 with "for" (except in the NIV and HCSB), which links his new thoughts to what he just said in the previous verses about walking in the truth and in love. What is the *connection* between John's new subject in verse 7 and his previous subject in verses 1-6?
2. What do you learn about *deceivers* from verse 7? Review the following Scriptures and summarize what else John taught about deceivers. See 1 John 2:19, 26; 3:7-8; 4:1; 2 John 7-8.
3. Where are the false teachers headed according to verse 7? How does their *destination* reveal their spiritual state (verse 7)?
4. John also points out that the thing deceivers fail to acknowledge *also* reveals their true spiritual state. What don't they acknowledge (ESV; NKJV; HCSB *confess*) according to verse 7?
5. Why is it so important to trust that Jesus came in the flesh? See Colossians 2:8-10; Hebrews 2:14-15, 17; 10:4-5, 10, 19-20; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 4:1-6.

“The negative with the present-tense participle portrays their practice of openly avoiding a direct denial of the incarnation, but they were subtle enough to counterfeit that basic apostolic teaching through the teaching they brought. *What a professed Christian teacher deliberately refuses to acknowledge in dealing with doctrinal matters may be just as revealing as what he openly rejects.* The refusal of these false teachers to acknowledge that Jesus Christ “is come in the flesh” was in fact a repudiation of that concept. In 1 John 4:2 John’s use of the perfect tense, “that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” (NASB), sets forth the fact of the incarnation as an abiding historical reality. Here his use of the present tense indicates that these heretics deny the possibility of the incarnation. In either case the basic error of the heretics was their refusal to accept the permanent union of the divine and the human natures in Jesus Christ.” ~D. Edmond Hiebert¹

“By the birth of Christ, God also glorified the severity of His justice. His Son must rather take flesh and die than His mercy remain unsatisfied. The justice of God was more fully satisfied in Christ than if it had seized upon the offenders themselves. Man is finite, and cannot bear the utmost severity of divine wrath.”
~Ezekiel Hopkins²

6. In what ways do the deceivers deceive us? See Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:3-6; Titus 1:10-11, 16; 1 John 1:8; 2:22; 3:7-8.

7. What final indictment is leveled at those who do not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh? See the end of verse 7. Review and list what we’ve learned about antichrists from John in 1 John 2:18-24; 4:1-6.

8. What command is given in verse 8? The verb tense in the command indicates this is something we are *always* to be doing. What danger is presented as a reason for obeying this command (verse 8)? What motivation for obeying this command is given at the end of verse 8?

¹ Hiebert, D. Edmond. 1991. *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press.

² John Flavel, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), 364-365.

9. John's concern highlights how all believers must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching. What do you learn about this important aspect of the Christian life from Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; 1 Timothy 6:20-21; Hebrews 10:35; 2 Peter 3:14-18; Jude 3-4; Revelation 3:11.
10. The Christian life is a life of growth, momentum, and progress in the faith. One of the means God uses to transform us into His image are faithful preachers, teachers, and godly mentors who impart the truths of God's Word to us to help us grow in grace. In verse 8, we are warned to continually watch ourselves that we won't be swayed by false teaching to the point that we lose what has been accomplished or built into us.
- John, Paul, and the author of Hebrews all admonish believers on this subject as a way of motivating and encouraging them to be faithful to the end. Look up the following Scriptures and record anything you find interesting about finishing well, the way it was accomplished, how the authors viewed their labors, or anything else. See 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Galatians 4:8-11; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (for the context of these statements read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10); Hebrews 3:6, 14, 10:35-39 (for the context of these statements read Hebrews 10:32-34).
11. We must also consider our response to those who so faithfully pour into us—*for our good and often at cost to themselves*. How are you responding to the modeling and teaching given to you? How can you bless and encourage those who have labored to instill and model God's Word to you?

"Smith explains: 'We have worked together: see that you do not forfeit the reward of your labor. Get a full wage. Be not like workmen who toward the close of the day fall off, doing their work badly or losing time, and get less than a day's pay. . . . We have been fellow-workers thus far, and I mean to be faithful to the last: see that you also be so.' He adds, 'Their danger lay in taking up with false teaching and losing the comfort of the gospel in its simplicity and fulness.' *Translation* [of verse 8]. Ever be keeping a watchful eye upon yourselves in order that you do not lose the things we accomplished, but that you receive a full reward." ~Kenneth Wuest³

³ Wuest, Kenneth S. 1997. *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Vol. 14. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

12. We don't often talk about rewards, though the writers of Scripture aren't embarrassed to do so. What do you learn about rewards and what leads to losing them from 1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 4:5; 15:58; Galatians 6:4, 7-9; Colossians 3:23-24; Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 22:12.

13. In verse 9 John describes how people can get to the place where they lose their reward. What do you learn from verse 9 about that process?

14. How do the following words from Puritan pastor, Thomas Lye, help us live out the warning given in verse 9? Thomas Lye said, "Where God does not find a mouth to speak, you must not find an ear to hear, nor a heart to believe."⁴

15. John 8:31, 1 John 2:22-24, and 5:1-4 also address the issues found in 2 John 9. What added information or confirming truths do you find in those texts?

16. John points out that the false teachers "go too far" in their teaching, adding to, subtracting from, or departing completely from the Scriptures. What counsel is given in the Word of God for dealing with those who "go too far" in their teaching? First, see 2 John 10-11, then look at 1 Timothy 6:3-5, then for the solution refer to 1 Timothy 6:11-14; after that you can go to 2 Timothy 1:13-15; 3:13-17; 4:3-5; Hebrews 3:12-13; 3 John 9-11; Jude 17-23.

⁴ Thomas Lye, in his final sermon before he was ejected from his pulpit in 1662, along with 2000 other ministers of the gospel, who for conscience' sake rejected the Church of England's Act of Uniformity, which required unstinting and wholehearted use of the newly minted Book of Common Prayer. Iain Murray, *Sermons of the Great Ejection* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1962, reprinted 2020), 129.

17. How is the counsel different for dealing with a false teacher versus an uninformed or untrained teacher? Compare the verses from the question above to what we see in Acts 18:24-26; Colossians 2:6-8; 1 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 1:9-11; 2:1, 15.
18. Knowing what we know about false teachers, how is it a protection for you and your family when you do not receive or show hospitality to a known false teacher? See 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14; 1 Timothy 5:22; Titus 1:10-11. What should you do if you extend hospitality to someone *and then* discover they are false teachers? See verses 10-11.

“John’s stern prohibition must be seen in the light of the occasion he had in mind. It states the needed Christian reaction when confronted with the efforts of one furthering soul-destroying heresy. It does not restrict the practice of hospitality and Christian love when no heretical proselyting intentions are involved. . . . In a day when there is a diminishing sense of the danger of open heresy, the tendency is to tolerate known heresy for the sake of unity.” ~D. Edmond Hiebert⁵

“Robertson says: ‘It is to be borne in mind that the churches often met in private homes (Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15), and if these travelling deceivers were allowed to spread their doctrines in these homes and then sent on with endorsement as Apollos was from Ephesus and Corinth (Acts 18:27), there was no way of escaping responsibility for the harm wrought by these propagandists of evil. It is not a case of mere hospitality to strangers.’” ~Kenneth Wuest⁶

19. How does John close his letter to his dear friends in verses 12-13? What do you notice about the nature of true Christian fellowship from those verses?
20. What are some ways you can develop a love for and enjoyment in the people of God according to what we’ve learned from John? See 1 John 1:3-4, 7; 2:10; 3:2-3, 10, 14-16, 17-18; 4:21.

⁵ Hiebert, D. Edmond. 1991. *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press.

⁶ Wuest, Kenneth S. 1997. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Vol. 14. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

21. How would you sum up what you've learned from 2 John?

“A Saviour not quite God is a bridge broken at the farther end.” ~Bishop Moule⁷

“On all these accounts he urges his friends to keep close to Christ by keeping close to the truth. For us today the same message is appropriate and necessary. We can only abide in the Incarnate Word in proportion as we keep close to the written Word of God. Thus we shall keep close to God and to all that is good.” ~Thomas Griffith⁸

“Excavations at the ancient city of Pompeii have revealed many historical insights and some stirring examples of faithfulness. When Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the city, many people were buried in the ruins. Some were found in cellars, as if they had gone there for safety. Some were found in the upper rooms of buildings, probably for the same reason. One Roman sentinel was found standing at the city gate where he had been placed by the captain, with his hand still grasping his weapon. There, while the earth shook beneath him—there while the floods of ashes and cinders covered him—he had stood at his post. There, after a thousand years, his faithfulness was revealed.

That is how faithful we are to be to Jesus and his truth. We are not to be deceived by those who would sway us from the truth. We are to stand firm, strong, and resolute. When Jesus comes, or when we go to meet him, we are to be found at our post with our weapons in our hands, believing the truth and living the truth.” ~Holman New Testament Commentary⁹

⁷ Thomas, W. H. Griffith. n.d. *The Apostle John: Studies in His Life and Writings*. London; Glasgow; Edinburgh: Pickering & Inglis.

⁸ Thomas, W. H. Griffith. n.d. *The Apostle John: Studies in His Life and Writings*. London; Glasgow; Edinburgh: Pickering & Inglis.

⁹ Walls, David, and Max Anders. 1999. *I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*. Vol. 11. Holman New Testament Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.