

— 2 John —
Lesson #1 Introduction
Teacher's Guide

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?

The elder—verse 1

“Their place in the canon of New Testament books was disputed for a time, but it is significant that there was no question in the minds of those church fathers who lived closest to the time of John that these two epistles were written by the apostle. The second-century writers Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria entertained no other view.” [Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. 1983. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville: T. Nelson.]

2. To whom is it written?

The chosen lady and her children—verse 1

“The reference to the “elect lady and her children” (v. 1) should be understood in a normal, plain sense referring to a particular woman and her children rather than interpreted in a non-literal sense as a church and its membership. Similarly, the reference to “the children of your elect sister” (v. 13) should be understood as a reference to the nieces and/or nephews of the individual addressed in verse 1, rather than metaphorically to a sister church and its membership. In these verses, John conveys greetings to personal acquaintances that he has come to know through his ministry.” [MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. 1997. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub.]

“The recipients, a chosen lady and her children, were obviously standing. They were walking in truth, remaining faithful to the commandments they had received from the Father. John is deeply pleased to be able to commend them. But he takes nothing for granted. Realizing that standing is just one bad step removed from falling, he hesitates not at all to issue a reminder: love one another.” [Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. 1983. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville: T. Nelson.]

3. When was the book written?

Not really any internal evidence.

"Most likely John composed the letter at the same time or soon after 1 John, ca. A. D. 90–95, during his ministry at Ephesus in the latter part of his life." [MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. 1997. The MacArthur Study Bible. Electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub.]

"Judging by the content and circumstances of Second John, it was evidently contemporaneous with First John or was written slightly later. It was probably written about A.D. 90. All three of John's epistles may have been written in Ephesus (see "Date and Setting" in First John)." [Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. 1983. Talk Thru the Bible. Nashville: T. Nelson.]

4. Where was it written?
Again, not really any internal evidence.

Possibly from Ephesus (see John MacArthur note above).

"No independent data is available on which to base the date of the writing of 2 John. But the situation presupposed in this letter is similar to what evidently lies behind 1 John. This therefore makes possible a date approximately the same as that suggested for the larger epistle. On this assumption, 2 John may also belong in the period before the outbreak of the Jewish war against the Romans in Palestine, in A.D. 66. A date in the early 60s is thus the most probable guess." [Hodges, Zane C. 1985. "2 John." In The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, 2:905. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

5. What is the general tone of the author in the book?
Very much like we saw in 1 John...fatherly, pastoral, wanting to assure and build up the believers.

6. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?
It seems that John's purpose is to remind and warn in this letter. He reminds his friends that believers walk in His commandments. John warns his friends about false teachers whose influence could be disastrous.

"Second John stands in direct antithesis to the frequent cry for ecumenism and Christian unity among believers. Love and truth are inseparable in Christianity. Truth must always guide the exercise of love (cf. Eph. 4:15). Love must stand the test of truth. The main lesson of this book is that truth determines the bounds of love, and as a consequence, of unity. Therefore, truth must exist before love can unite, for truth generates love (1 Pet. 1:22). When someone compromises the truth, true Christian love and unity are destroyed. Only a shallow sentimentalism exists where the truth is not the foundation of unity." [MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. 1997. The MacArthur Study Bible. Electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub.]

7. What topics are included in this book?
Truth, walking in Christ's commandments, love for one another, false teachers and how to deal with them.

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

Truth, commands, love, walk, false teachers, teaching.

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message. Persevere in doing what is right, while being on guard against false teachers who don't teach or do what is right.

"The overall theme of 2 John closely parallels 1 John's theme of a "recall to the fundamentals of the faith" or "back to the basics of Christianity" (vv. 4-6). For John, the basics of Christianity are summarized by adherence to the truth (v. 4), love (v. 5), and obedience (v. 6)." [MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. 1997. The MacArthur Study Bible. Electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub.]

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

God is Father.

He is sovereign, kingly, commanding.

God is true and imparts truth to us.

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

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is incarnate (He came in the flesh, took on flesh, lived as a man).

Jesus teaches God's ways.

Jesus is God and is one with the Father.

12. List any attributes of the Holy Spirit you find in this book.

No reference to the Holy Spirit in this short letter.

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

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

The simplicity of the Christian life if we will only follow God's commands. When we follow the Lord, we will abide in the truth and not be caught off guard by false teachers.

14. 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?

Yes, I thought the opening verses about walking in the truth were really interesting. I can't wait to study them more!

Verse 8 is so encouraging and motivating and warning—all at the same time. Oh, may this be true of me! I want to be faithful to the very end!

— 2 John —
Lesson #2 Chapter 1 Overview
Teacher's Guide

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, yet all too often it can be overlooked or rushed through. Simply put, observation is the practice of noticing what God has placed in His Word. *At this stage* in our Bible study, I only want you to notice and then record what you observe in the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what the Scriptures mean or how they apply to your life—that will come later, I promise.

Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. Rich treasures are waiting for you!

I've included Chapter 1 (NASB) at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. SUMMARIZE. To begin, read through Chapter 1. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.¹
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-3).
John opens his letter to his friend, the lady, and her children. He focuses on the love and fellowship they enjoy because of the truth.
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-6).
John rejoices that some of the lady's children walk in the truth. To walk in the truth means that they walk according to God's commandments.
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 7-11).

¹The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

John explains how to protect themselves from deceivers, how to identify them, and how to respond to them.

d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 12-13).
John looks forward to visiting more in person.

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.

Just as in 1 John, John desires to encourage and build up the brethren so they are steadfast in the Lord. His main focus is to protect and equip his readers from false teachers.

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.

To All Who Know the Truth

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.

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.

God

Verse 3 grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father

Verse 3 and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father

Verse 4 we have received commandment to do from the Father

Verse 6 we walk according to His commandments

Verse 9 anyone who goes too far and does not abide in Christ's teaching, does not have God

Verse 9 the one who abides in the teaching, has both the Father and the Son

Jesus Christ

Verse 3 grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ

Verse 3 the Son of the Father

Verse 7 deceivers... who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.

Verse 9 anyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God

Verse 9 the one who abides has both the Father and the Son

Truth

Verse 1 to the chosen lady and her children whom I love in truth

Verse 1 and not only I, but all who know the truth

Verse 3 grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God and Jesus, in truth and love

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

Love

Verse 1 the elder to the chosen lady and her children whom I love in truth

Verse 3 grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God and Jesus, in truth and love

Verse 5 commandment we had from the beginning, that we love one another

Verse 6 and this is love, that we walk according to His commandments

Commandment

Verse 4 walking in truth... just as we have received commandment to do from the Father

Verse 5 I ask you—not as though I am writing you a new commandment

Verse 5 but the *one* [referring to the commandment already mentioned] we had from the beginning

Verse 6 this is love... that we walk according to His commandments

Verse 6 this is the commandments... that you should walk in it

Teaching

Verse 9 if anyone goes too far and does not abide in the teaching, he does not have God

Verse 9 the one who abides has both the Father and the Son

Verse 10 if anyone comes and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him

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Abides

Verse 2 the truth abides in us

Verse 9 anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ...

Verse 9 the one who abides in the teaching...

Write

Verse 5 I ask you, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment

Verse 12 I have many things to write to you...

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.

Verse 8 Watch yourselves

Verse 10 do not receive him

Verse 10 do not give him a greeting

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.

Verse 4 comparing “your children walking in the truth” with the rest of us who have received the same commandment to do so

Verse 6 comparing this is the same commandment (to love one another) with what you heard from the beginning

Verse 5 contrasting that he’s not writing a new commandment, but the same one we had from the beginning

Verse 8 contrasting their need to watch and not lose what has been established in you with receiving a full reward

Verse 12 contrasting writing with paper and ink with coming to speak face to face

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.)

None that I noted.

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

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sincerely and blamelessly until the day of Christ.” I think you will be so blessed by this part of your observation time!

Verse 12 I hope to come and speak to you face to face *so that* your joy may be made full

9. MARK. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.

See observation sheet.

10. MARK. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *Paul and Timothy are bond-servants* from 1:1.

Verse 7 deceiver and antichrist

Verse 12 paper, ink, with write

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].

God

Verse 2 God is the gracious giver of gifts. He is Father. He is true. He is love.

Verse 4 He is Father.

Verse 6 He is King who commands, sovereign, powerful, mighty, specific, holy.

Verse 9 He is knowable, accessible, must be known only through Jesus.

Verse 9 He is Father. He teaches us His ways.

Jesus Christ

Verse 3 He is the gracious giver of gifts. He is the Son of God. He is true. He is love.

Verse 7 He is fully man, incarnate, came in the flesh.

Verse 9 He is knowable, accessible, specific.

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.

I have been pondering the “chosen lady and her children.” Is John referring to a specific lady and her real-life children or is he speaking euphemistically? I am leaning toward taking literally—that she was a real person with real children, some of whom were walking in the truth.

I have enjoyed verses 1-3 and the talk about the truth and considering if there’s a difference between the renderings “in truth” and “in the truth.”

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.

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12 Though I have many things to **write** to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; ^{SS} but I hope to come to you and speak face to face ^{SS} [so that] your joy may be made full.

13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

God Δ
Jesus +
Holy Spirit Y
truth =
love ♥
commandment =
teaching =
write =
abides =

CC Command
Q time
TT transition terms
[] so that
→ ← comparison
↔ contrast
SS synonyms

— 2 John —
Lesson #3 Chapter 1:1-6

Teacher's Guide

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.

He calls himself "the elder." When he uses this term, he is identifying himself not only as an older man, but also as one of the leaders, who is true and whose teaching is true.

Philemon 9: 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

1 Peter 5:1: 1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

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?

He is writing to the chosen lady and her children. The lady he is writing to is chosen, saved, rescued. He loves them in the truth just as he loves all who are in the truth.

3. Define *chosen* [Strong's #1588 (ESV, NKJV, HCSB *elect*)].

One picked out and chosen. When John uses this term to describe the lady, he means that she is saved, elected, rescued, and redeemed by God.

- 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.

John 15:16: 16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. *John is saying that the "elect" lady has been chosen by God to bear fruit that would remain.*

John 15:19: 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. *John is saying that the "elect" lady is not of the world. She has been chosen out of the world.*

Colossians 3:12: 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. *John is saying that the "elect" lady has been chosen by God; she is holy and beloved.*

2 Timothy 2:10: 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. *John is saying that the "elect" lady will obtain the salvation of Jesus and with it—eternal glory.*

1 Peter 2:9: 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. *John is saying that the "elect" lady is a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession to proclaim His excellencies.*

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?

John loves them in the truth. The truth is what frames his love for them and unifies it.

John says they know the truth and are part of that greater group of believers who know the truth.

John is writing for the sake of the truth. The truth abides in us and will be with us forever.

Some of the chosen lady's children are walking in the truth as well.

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.

John 1:14: 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. *Jesus is full of grace and truth.*

John 1:17: 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. *Grace and truth come to fruition, fulfillment in Jesus.*

John 4:23-24: 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." *God loves it when He is worshiped in spirit and truth...in fact, if we are going to worship Him, it must be in spirit and truth.*

John 8:31-32: 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." *Only from Jesus, who teaches us His Word and ways, will we know the truth. When we know Jesus' truth through the Word, then we are made free.*

John 14:6: 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. *Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.*

1 John 1:8: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. *When we abide in truth, then we recognize our sin and our need for a Savior.*

1 John 2:4: 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. *It is when we come to know the Lord Jesus as Savior that truth is implanted in us. We are not like the evil one who has been a liar from the beginning!*

3 John 3: 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. *Believers walk in truth, live in it because of the Holy Spirit residing in us.*

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.

Romans 16:18: 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. *False teachers seek to deceive so believers must have a grid for discerning truth or a means of knowing what is true so they won't fall prey to their false speech.*

1 Corinthians 6:9: 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals. *Knowing the truth protects us from false teaching that says that you can be a Christian and not have a changed life.*

1 John 1:8: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. *The best rubric for determining truth is to see if someone admits they are a sinner or not. They won't admit that, then we don't want to listen to them because they aren't saved.*

1 John 2:20-27: 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. **22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. **25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. **26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. **27** As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. *With the Holy Spirit abiding in us, we know the truth and would never deny that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah). The truth of God's Word protects us from those trying to deceive us.*

1 John 3:7-8: 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. *We are to make sure we are not deceived which means we need to be active in growing in wisdom and truth and discernment.*

2 John 7: 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. *Truth is simple. Those who do not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh are deceivers.*

"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?

1 John 3:10-11: 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. **11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. *Truth and love show up together. It is one of the obvious ways we can discern true spiritual life and growth.*

1 John 3:14-18: 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. *Love in action reveals that we have passed out of death into life.*

1 John 4:7: 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. *The truth tells us that everyone who loves the brethren also knows God.*

1 John 5:1-2: 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. *Again, observing love for the brethren and a desire to obey the Lord reveals true spiritual life and growth.*

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?

Why? Because the truth abides in all believers. **John 4:24** says, “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” This means that because truth abides in all believers, then we now have the ability to worship the Lord in a way that is pleasing to Him and will give Him glory.

“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?

The truth abides in us and will be with us forever. There is never a time when it can be lost or wrestled out of us.

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

John 1:9: 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. *The light of Jesus Christ is true. That truth enlightens us, leads us, guides us, protects us.*

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

John 1:17: 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. *Truth is fully realized, seen, evidenced, completed in Jesus.*

John 8:31-32: 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." *Jesus' brethren know the truth, because He is true—and it is this that makes us free.*

John 14:16-17: 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; **17** that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. There is no lie in Him. He will always lead us in the ways that are true.*

John 16:13-14: 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **14** "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. *The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth guides us into all truth. That truth is always aligned with the Word and commandments of God. The Holy Spirit reveals what is true so that it is not hidden from us. God wants us to walk in the truth.*

1 John 5:20: 20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. *Jesus leads us to the One who is true, the Father. We abide in Christ who is true in the same way that the Father is true. Jesus is the true God and in Him is eternal life.*

"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? Believers receive *grace, mercy, and peace*. For how long? The text doesn't say specifically. It doesn't give an end date to it either. It just says that these things will be with the believers. Period. Seems like John is indicating that they will be with us forever.

a. Who gives these things?

God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.

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?

Grace, mercy, and peace come gift wrapped in truth and love.

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.

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

- 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
Oh, what a precious gift from the Lord. I always need God's grace. I always need His mercy. And oh, how I long for His peace! And yet, He gives that too!
- 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
It's so interesting how both commentators noticed the order of these words and how God specifically applies them in our hearts in that order. The Lord knows what we need first, what we need next, and how to complete our healing and rescue.

I keep thinking how God's peace is "not like the world gives (John 14:27; 16:33)" but is perfectly suited to truly bring comfort and refreshment to our souls.

12. How does biblical truth and love protect us from mushy-headed, worldly-minded thinking about God's grace, mercy, and peace (verse 3)?

Grace given that is not rooted in truth is a toleration of sin, instead of a godly covering over of our sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. The same is true for mercy. Worldly mercy is based on an emotional response, whereas biblical mercy comes from God's understanding that if He didn't show us mercy, we would be without hope. Peace that is based upon the world's definition doesn't get to the core of our being, but God's peace will. Only in Him do we find a peace that changes us, that heals us, that refreshes and bolsters our souls.

13. What do you learn about this lady's children in 2 John 4?

Some of her children were walking in the truth. John had also heard about these things. John comments that her children were doing the very thing we've all been commanded to do by our Father. He wants us all to walk in the truth.

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.

1 John 1:5-10: 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us

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

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.

our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. *If we say we belong to the Lord and that God is our Father, then we are going to live and do the things that He wants us to do. We will be like HIM!*

1 John 2:3-6: 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. *John just comes out and says it—if we know God as our Father, then we will, of course, keep His commandments! If we don't walk in His ways or keep His commandments, then our profession becomes a lie, and the love of God is not perfected in us.*

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.

Psalm 119:33-35: 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end. **34** Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart. **35** Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. *If I want to walk in the truth, then I must ask the Lord for help that I can keep it, understand it, and delight in it.*

Psalm 119:105: 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. *If I want to walk in the truth, then I must understand that the Word is the means to do this. Only the Word that is a lamp and a light to my path will keep me walking in the truth.*

Jeremiah 6:16: 16 Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' *If I want to walk in the truth, then I need to ask for the ancient paths, the old ways, the ways of God—only this way is the good way for me to walk. When I still to the old paths, then I will find rest for my soul.*

John 8:31-32: 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." *If I want to walk in the truth, then I continue in God's Word—I will adhere to it, live in it, abide in it, then I will know it and become free.*

John 14:15: 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. *If I want to walk in the truth, then I will keep God's commandments because I love Him.*

2 Corinthians 7:1: 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *If I want to walk in the truth, then I will confess and repent of sin, defilement, fleshly desires and instead pursue holiness.*

16. What does John urge his friend, the lady, to do in verse 5?
John urges her to remember the commandment to love the brethren.

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.

John 13:34-35: 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:12: 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 15:17: 17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

Jesus taught His disciples that we love one another.

"Here John seems to be referring to the origin of the Christian faith itself embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. On the night of his betrayal, he admonished the disciples saying, "A new commandment I give: Love one another" (John 13:34)." [Akin, Daniel L. 2001. 1, 2, 3 John. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.]

"The commandment "Love one another" is certainly not new in time, because even Old Testament Jews were instructed to love their neighbors (Lev. 19:18, 34) and the strangers within their gates (Deut. 10:19). But with the coming of God's Son to earth, this commandment is new in emphasis and in example. Jesus Christ gave new emphasis to brotherly love, and He exemplified it in His own life. It is also new in experience, for we have the Holy Spirit of God living within, enabling us to obey. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love" (Gal. 5:22; cf. Rom. 5:5)." [Wiersbe, Warren W. 1996. The Bible Exposition Commentary. Vol. 2. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

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.

John 13:34-35: 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:12: 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 15:17: 17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 3:23: 23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 4:21: 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

It's important that we obey this command because Jesus gave it. He desires that we follow Him in this way. Jesus specifically tells us to love one another. Talk about a constraint upon us to make sure we are obeying Him in this. He loved us and He wants us to love one another in the same way. How gnarly and amazing is that?!

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?

Love, in verse 6, is described by walking according to His commandments. This definition of love does indeed simplify things for us. It just tells us flat out how to be pleasing to the Lord—"Do this...". How kind is that?!

- 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?

The Lord will know how much we love Him when we obey Him. My obedience reveals the depth of my love for Him. Yet, it's also true that my desire to obey far outstrips my actual obedience, but the Lord is so kind that He also reads my heart's desires while helping me to also put His commands into practice in my life.

- 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?

Ephesians 5:1-2: 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

2 John 6: 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.

Ephesians teaches us that when we are imitators of God, we will indeed walk in love—just like Jesus! John is saying that we show love to God when we keep His commandments. Keeping and walking are used interchangeably. They are saying the same thing.

"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
Teacher's Guide

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?

In verses 1-6, John opens by rejoicing that all believers *walk in the truth* and know *the truth*. He then encourages the chosen lady about her children who are *walking in the truth*. He reminds her to love the brethren because it was one of Jesus' commandments that He gave right from the beginning of His ministry that we should *walk* in it. From there he switches to talk about those who do not *walk in the truth*—the deceivers, the false teachers.

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.

In verse 7, we learn that the deceivers are many. They have gone out. They have gone out into the world. They do not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh. John equates deceivers with the antichrist.

1 John 2:19: 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. *Here we learn the deceivers went out from us (the brethren), which shows they weren't really of the faith and truth to begin with. If they had, then they would have remained.*

1 John 2:26: 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. *Here we learn the deceivers try to deceive.*

1 John 3:7-8: 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. *Here we learn the deceivers don't practice righteousness. They practice sin which shows they the devil for their father.*

1 John 4:1: 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. *Here we learn the deceivers are many. They are false. They have gone out into the world. And believers must test what they hear to determine who is from God and who is not.*

2 John 7-8: 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. *Here we learn the deceivers are again many. They have gone out of the fellowship of believers and into the world. They do not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh. We are to watch ourselves so are not deceived by them.*

3. Where are the false teachers headed according to verse 7? How does their *destination* reveal their spiritual state (verse 7)?

They leave the fellowship of believers and go back to the world. The world is no place for a believer. There is no holiness, no Jesus, no fellowship of the saints. To live in the world and resort to the world reveals that they are of their father, the devil and not of the Lord.

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?

They don't acknowledge that Jesus came in the flesh! Oh goodness, if He hadn't become a man, we would still be in our sins!

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.

Colossians 2:8-10: 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, **10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then we deny exactly what Paul is teaching here—the fully God, Jesus, dwells in bodily form—and it is in this way that we are saved.*

Hebrews 2:14-15: 14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then He couldn't have been our sacrifice. We dwell in flesh and blood and so must our sacrifice.*

Hebrews 2:17: 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. *The same comment as above.*

Hebrews 10:4-5: 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. **5** Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then there would be no sacrifice for my sins!*

Hebrews 10:10: 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then there would be no sanctification of my body.*

Hebrews 10:19-20: 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then we would have no confidence to enter into the Lord's presence because we would be guilty and under wrath.*

1 Peter 2:24: 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then I would have no ability to live in righteousness or die to my sins. I would not be healed of my sin.*

1 Peter 3:18: 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then I wouldn't have my sins abolished, wouldn't be brought to the Lord, wouldn't be alive in spirit.*

1 John 4:1-6: 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **4** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. **5** They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. **6** We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. *If Jesus didn't come in the flesh, then I would have no ability to overcome the world, sin, and temptation.*

Oh blessed, Jesus, thank you for humbling Yourself and taking on flesh, conquering sin and death, so I could be saved and know the Lord. Thank you!

“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.

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.

Romans 16:17-18: 17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. **18** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. *The deceivers deceive by causing upset and hindrances by teaching contrary to the truth. They use smooth and flattering speech to deceive.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10: 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. *The deceivers deceive teaching that the kingdom can be peopled with unrepentant sinners. The kingdom is only full of repentant sinners.*

2 Corinthians 11:3: 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. *The deceivers deceive leading astray from the simple gospel of faith in Jesus alone for salvation.*

Ephesians 5:3-6: 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; **4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. *The deceivers deceive by empty words that teach that we can continue in sin and still gain heaven. What heresy!*

Titus 1:10-11: 10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. *The deceivers deceive upsetting, false things—and they do it for gaining wealth and reputation.*

Titus 1:16: 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. *The deceivers deceive by saying they know the Lord, but their deeds deny Him.*

1 John 1:8: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. *The deceivers deceive by saying we have no sin. What a lie!*

1 John 2:22: 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. *The deceivers deceive by saying that Jesus is not the Christ.*

1 John 3:7-8: 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. *The deceivers deceive by practicing sin and saying it's okay. Jesus came to put those deeds to death!*

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.

This is the deceiver and antichrist.

1 John 2:18-24: 18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. **20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. **22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. *Many antichrists have appeared in this last hour. They went out from us. They are not of us. They deny the Father and the Son. They lie and don't teach the truth.*

1 John 4:1-6: 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **4** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. **5** They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. **6** We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. *Antichrists are false teachers who have gone into the world. They do not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh. They are in the world. They speak as from the world. The world listens to them. They are of the spirit of error.*

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?

Watch yourselves.

The reason? So you don't lose what has been built into you. And so you will receive a full reward.

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.

Ephesians 4:14: 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by growing in wisdom and maturity, and not being blown about by every wind of doctrine.*

Ephesians 5:6: 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by discerning empty words and disobedience.*

1 Timothy 6:20-21: 20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" – 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by avoiding worldly and empty chatter and opposing arguments. Do not go astray.*

Hebrews 10:35: 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by not throwing away our confidence! Notice how similar this is to 2 John 8.*

2 Peter 3:14-18: 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by being on guard, by not being carried away by unprincipled men who distort the Scriptures.*

Jude 3-4: 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by contending earnestly for the faith to protect it from those who have crept in among the sheep to corrupt the Word of God and the souls of men.*

Revelation 3:11: 11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. *We must watch out for and be on guard against false teaching by holding fast to what you have.*

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).

2 Corinthians 11:2-3: 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. **3** But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his

craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. *Paul desires that his loved ones be faithful to the Lord so he can present them as an offering of worship to the Lord Jesus.*

Galatians 4:8-11: 8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. **9** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. **11** I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain. *Paul labored to pour into the Galatians and desired that his efforts bear fruit in their lives.*

Philippians 2:14-16: 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; **15** so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. *Paul desired the Philippians to hold fast, stand firm, remain in the teaching they had received so that his labors on their behalf would not be in vain.*

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5: 1 Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, **3** so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. **4** For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. **5** For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain. *Paul again reiterates the same thing—he desires his beloved Thessalonians stand firm in the faith, for their own sake, and because of his own labors on their behalf.*

Hebrews 3:6: 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. *The author of Hebrews desires all believers hold fast our confidence and Christ until the end.*

Hebrews 3:14: 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end. *The same sentiments as above.*

Hebrews 10:35-39: 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. **37** For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. **38** But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. **39** But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. *The author of Hebrews warns about throwing away our confidence in Christ—only in Him is there great reward. We must persevere and endure so we will finish well and receive what was promised. All believers finish well in that they do no shrink back from the faith. Their soul is preserved.*

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?

The best way I can bless those who pour into me is to share with them the way they have strengthened me AND walk in faith, hope, and love. Coming under their leadership, thinking well of them—all communicates respect and honor for those who labor among us. To seek to bless them back in tangible or spiritual ways for the spiritual blessings I receive.

“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 fullness.’ *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

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.

1 Corinthians 3:8-15: 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9** For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. **10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. **11** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. **14** If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **15** If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. *In this passage, we learn that each man receives his own reward for his labors. Our faithfulness will be tested in the last day and whatever remains will receive a reward.*

1 Corinthians 4:5: 5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God. *In this passage, we learn that the Lord will bring to light our deeds and then we will be rewarded with His praise for what we have done and desired to do.*

1 Corinthians 15:58: 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. *In this passage, we learn that our toil is never in vain. There is reward or benefit for our labors.*

Galatians 6:4: 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. *In this passage, we learn that we must examine our work for we are responsible for our labors, not those that belong to someone else.*

Galatians 6:7-9: 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will

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

from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. *In this passage, we learn we are not to be deceived about our labors. If we labor for the kingdom, then we will reap the blessings of eternal life and reward and praise from the Lord. Our job is to not lose heart. We are to continue and not grow weary.*

Colossians 3:23-24: 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. *In this passage, we see we are to work heartily, enthusiastically for the Lord because we will receive the reward of our inheritance. When we serve the Lord, we receive a reward. How amazingly gracious is that?!!*

Hebrews 11:6: 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. *The Lord rewards those who seek Him. Whoa!*

Revelation 22:12: 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. *When Jesus comes, He plans to reward His followers.*

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?

The one who goes too far in their teaching by not adhering to the truths they learned at the beginning. If they don't abide in the teaching of Christ, it reveals they don't have God and will never gain a reward. If we want Jesus' reward, if we want His commendation, if we want to follow Him, then we must live in and dwell with His teaching, rather than inventing our own.

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

Thomas Lye gives us practical help on what it looks like to abide in the teaching. We are not to go beyond what God said, nor entertain teaching that doesn't line up with the Word. We are certainly not to believe it.

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?

John 8:31: 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine. *We are warned and reminded that it is continuing in God's Word, continuing in God's ways that proves we truly belong to Him.*

1 John 2:22-24: 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. *We are*

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.

warned and reminded that those who deny the basic, central, necessary truths of the gospel are not the Lord's. We are to let it remain in us and instead of jumping in with our own plans.

1 John 5:1-4: 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. *We are warned and reminded that when we love God, we will also love and keep His Word.*

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.

2 John 10-11: 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.

1 Timothy 6:3-5: 3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, **4** he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, **5** and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. *First, don't welcome them into the assembly of believers. If they advocate a different doctrine and don't agree with sound words, then you have to understand the sinful motivations in the false teacher. Ultimately, it will prove they are of a depraved mind and deprived of the truth.*

1 Timothy 6:11-14: 11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. *The solution? Flee from this kind of teaching. Focus on the right path and the right way so you don't get pulled off the path.*

2 Timothy 1:13-15: 13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. **14** Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. **15** You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. *Retain sound words, guard that treasure because there are those who have departed from the faith and truth that is in Jesus.*

2 Timothy 3:13-17: 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from

whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. *False teachers are evil men, pretending to be wise shepherds. They deceive and are deceived themselves. Stick to the Word of God!*

2 Timothy 4:3-5: 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. **5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. *Recognize the danger of our flesh that wants to be made much of instead of submitting to the Word of God.*

Hebrews 3:12-13: 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. *We must take care that we don't give way to unbelief. Unbelief hardens our hearts.*

3 John 9-11: 9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. **10** For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. **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. *False teachers love their own words, not God's. False teachers love to be first, rather than letting God be first. False teachers cause conflict and consternation among the brethren.*

Jude 17-23: 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, **18** that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." **19** These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. **20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. **22** And have mercy on some, who are doubting; **23** save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. *False teachers cause divisions and conflict. We are instead to build ourselves up in the faith. We are to be on guard against the sins that flow from false teaching and false teachers themselves.*

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.

Acts 18:24-26: 24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; **26** and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. *Apollos was pulled aside and corrected. He submitted to this process and was a blessing to the saints.*

Colossians 2:6-8: 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. *The characteristic of a godly teachers/shepherds is they are teachable, even while they teach.*

1 Timothy 1:3-5: 3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, **4** nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. **5** But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. *We are to instruct those who aren't teaching correctly so they can continue to teach and build up the body of Christ. It is fine-tuning the teaching.*

Titus 1:9-11: 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. **10** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. *Faithful teachers and preachers cling to sound doctrine and recognize false leanings and teachings. They are not rebellious to the wisdom and counsel of God.*

Titus 2:1: 1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. *Teachers are to teach the things that line up with and complement sound doctrine. They are to teach sound doctrine.*

Titus 2:15: 15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. *Teaching is to be done with authority and not be disregarded because eternity for our souls is at stake.*

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.

2 Thessalonians 3:6: 6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. *We are to keep away from a brother who leads an unruly life, which ALWAYS happens when they depart the clear teaching of Scripture. Chaos flows from disobedience.*

2 Thessalonians 3:14: 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. *Do not associate from those who rebel against the clear teaching of God's Word.*

1 Timothy 5:22: 22 Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin. *Laying hands on is a commendation of them and their teaching, so waiting a while to test and see their fruit is wise.*

Titus 1:10-11: 10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. *False teachers really are rebellious. They are unwilling to submit to God's Word. They must be silenced and not associated with for the sake of the rest of the sheep.*

2 John 10-11: 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. *If you initially invite someone into your home and then discover their false teaching, don't invite them again. If you are warned about someone, don't just go ahead and invite them into your home. Recognize the danger of giving "approval" to them by welcoming them into your home.*

"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?

2 John 12-13: 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.

True Christian fellowship brings joy because there is no conflict. We don't have to guard against true Christian fellowship the way we do with false teachers.

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.

1 John 1:3-4: 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. *If we adhere to sound doctrine, then we will also enjoy fellowship with one another and with the Father.*

1 John 1:7: 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. *We will enjoy one another to the degree that we walk in the light.*

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.

1 John 2:10: 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. *We will love the brethren when we abide in the light.*

1 John 3:2-3: 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. *We will love and enjoy the brethren when we are like Jesus and walk in purity.*

1 John 3:10: 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. *We will love and enjoy the brethren when we practice righteousness.*

1 John 3:14-16: 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. *We will love and enjoy the brethren when we come to know the Lord Jesus as Savior.*

1 John 3:17-18: 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. *We will love and enjoy the brethren when we love with action.*

1 John 4:21: 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. *We will love and enjoy the brethren out of obedience to the Lord.*

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

There is such a great need to walk in the truth! Without the truth we are off the path, we are in chaos, and we are disobeying the Lord.

"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,

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.

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

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.