



## Truth Matters Long for the Truth! Part 1

Lesson 1 • The Message of 2 John

### Truth or Consequences

- Truth has become **MEANINGLESS** for our culture, many churches, and even some professing Christians.

*The pressure to **COMPROMISE** the truth of the Gospel has never been greater in our culture but not in church history overall.*

*The pressure to let love **DETERMINE** what is truth is greater than ever.*

- But truth **MATTERS**, so long for the Truth of the Gospel and make it a priority in our life and local church!

*The Bible places a **PRIORITY** on Gospel truth over even love.*

*Because Gospel truth is God's priority, we should **LONG** for the truth of the Gospel in a world of lies and liars.*

### The Message of 2 John

## 1. Truth Matters to God's **ELECT PEOPLE** Who Long for the Truth.

- Truth mattered to the **ELDER LEADER** who wrote this little letter.

#### Who is the Elder?

- 1) The **APOSTLE** John rather than some other unknown person.
- 2) One whose **AGE** made him the last living apostle.
  - Paul would sometimes refer to his age in appealing to disciples who were dear to his heart. *Philemon 8-10*
  - Peter referred to himself as a fellow elder even though he was also an apostle. *1 Peter 5:1*
- 3) One who had a close **ASSOCIATION** with those he was writing.
  - John lived in Ephesus in his later years, before he was exiled to the island of Patmos and received the Revelation!
  - Very likely 1 John was a letter written to all the churches in the larger area surrounding the city of Ephesus, just like the Book of Revelation was sent to the seven churches of Asia Minor! Similarly, 2 John was most likely written to a local church in the area and 3 John was written to man named Gaius in the same area—*perhaps the pastor of the local church in 2 John?*
- 4) One whose **AUTHORITY** was widely recognized and highly respected.

- Truth mattered to **ELECT LADY** and her children who received this little letter.

#### Who Is the Elect Lady and Her Children?

- 1) A **PERSONIFICATION** rather than an actual woman.
- 2) A **PICTURE** of a local church and the members who are the church.
- 3) A way to **PLACE** the truth of this letter in the context of loving relationships and sovereign grace.

*The truth of Christianity is best lived out in the context of loving relationships.*

*The security of churches and their members is found in God's electing love and sovereign grace, not the popular culture or political correctness.*

► Truth matters to **US** as God's elect people: *The truth of the Gospel is the measure of authentic Christianity, authentic churches, and authentic Christians.*

1) Truth matters to **CHURCH LEADERS** called by God to preach and teach the Truth of His gospel! *1 John 4:5-6*

2) Truth matters to **LOCAL CHURCHES** filled with God's elect people in whom the Truth abides forever! *2 John 1-2; 1 John 2:18-25*

The Truth Matters as the Measure of Authentic Christianity, Churches, and Christians			
<b>1 John</b>	Written in General to Churches and Christians	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Christianity</i> .	<i>Principles for the Universal Church</i> No Single Church or Specific Person
<b>2 John</b>	Written to a Local Church	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Churches</i>	<i>Personification of a Local Church</i> The Elect Lady and Her Children
<b>3 John</b>	Written to an Individual Christian	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Christians</i> .	<i>People in a Local Church</i> Gaius and Demetrius versus Diotrophes

## 2. Truth Matters in a World of LIES AND LIARS

► The Lies of False **TEACHING**: *The Threefold Test in the Epistles of John*

The Destructive Content of False Teaching		
Fails the <b>DOCTRINAL</b> Test	Does not walk in the <b>TRUTH</b> of the gospel.	Instead <b>DISTORTS &amp; DENIES</b>
Fails the <b>RELATIONAL</b> Test	Does not walk in <b>LOVE</b> for God and one another.	Instead <b>DIVIDES &amp; DECEIVES</b>
Fails the <b>MORAL</b> Test	Does not walk in <b>OBEDIENCE</b> to God's commandments.	Instead <b>DEFIES &amp; DEFILES</b>

► The Liars Who Are False **TEACHERS** *1John 4:1; 2 John 7; Jude 17-19*

When False Teachers (Apostates) Fall Away from the Truth, They Either...

1) **LEAVE** true churches and cause division. *1John 2:19*

*Sometimes they leave the faith but don't leave the church! Romans 16:17; 2Thessalonians 3:14; Titus 3:10*

2) **ENTER** true churches (and homes) and cause deception. *2 John 10; Jude 4, 12-13*

*But we are to still deal with lies and liars "in truth and love"...*

*"And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh." Jude 22-23*

*"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; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds." 2 John 10-11*

Big Idea	The Message of 2 John: Truth Matters in a World of Lies! LONG for the Truth and Make it a PRIORITY in ALL of LIFE!			
Lesson	<b>LOVE</b> by the Truth! 1-3	<b>LIVE</b> in the Truth! 4-6	<b>LOOK</b> for the Truth! 7-11	<b>LEARN</b> the Truth! 12-13
Focus	<b>PROVISION</b> of the Truth	<b>PURPOSE</b> of the Truth	<b>PROTECTION</b> of the Truth	<b>PURSUIT</b> of the Truth