

2 John

The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth-- because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever.. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love.. that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

2 John

It's a letter.

Who wrote it?

Who received it?

What is it about?

The elder,

The writer calls simply himself 'the elder'.
It's a modest introduction but he must have been well known.

He would have been a senior leader in the church.

Church tradition has said it was written by the apostle John in the 90s AD – 60 years after the resurrection!
The style and vocabulary of the letter match that of John's gospel.

So the answer to the question 'Who wrote it?' is John.



To the chosen lady and her children,

A first sight it looks like it is written to an unnamed woman and her family. In the letter the way John speaks is sometimes to one person (you singular) and then to several (you plural) – see in the King James version. This may be to her and her children.



To the chosen lady and her children,

Another possibility is that this 'lady' as a believer (chosen) is using her home as a place where a church meets and her 'children' are members of the congregation. There were no church buildings then.



To the chosen lady and her children,

A third view is that John is calling the church to whom he is writing ‘a chosen lady’ – cf. Paul’s use of the church as the bride. So the answer to the question ‘To whom was it written?’ is probably to a house church in Ephesus (with the house owner possibly a prominent woman)



whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth--

Christian affection – truth is the proper atmosphere for such love to grow.

Other believers and congregations love this group also.

It is interesting to see in the early churches how much connection there was between different congregations



because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever..

The truth as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ has become the centre of the believers' lives and is there to stay!



Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ,
the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

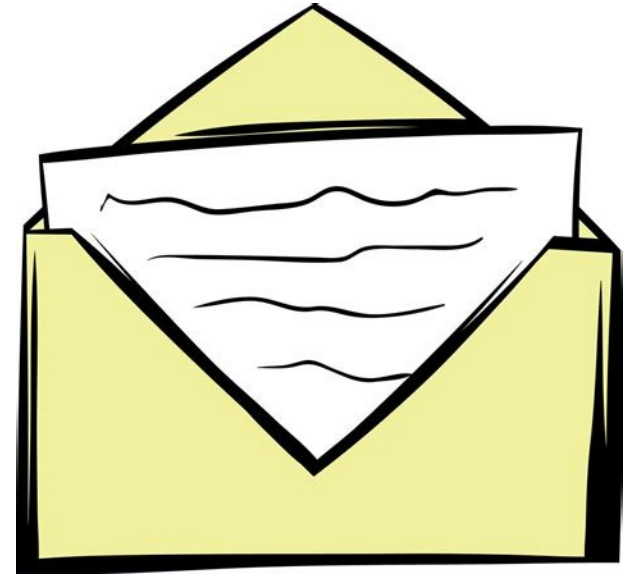
A special greeting/blessing at the head of the letter.

Grace, mercy and peace
(blessings in Greek and Hebrew?)

The Trinity is the source of blessing:
God the Father, Jesus Christ (God's Son)

How the blessing comes: truth(believed) and in
love (experienced).

Do we bless others?



It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth,
just as the Father commanded us.

John may have recently seen some of the church members (her children).

He was gladdened to find them faithfully following the teachings given by the apostles. The apostles had received them from the Father and passed them on.

The use of the word 'walk' is a Hebrew way of speaking and means a life lived, an ongoing progress, in the ways of God.



And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command
but one we have had from the beginning.

A reminder – a command WE have had
It's for us all.
The beginning? When Jesus gave it.



I ask that we love one another.

It's a command and a request.

Love can be commanded because it's not just about feelings but about our will and choices (it's the 'agape' kind of love).

This is the mark of true fellowship. Loving one another in so many different ways.



And this is love.. that we walk in obedience to his commands.

Such love is demonstrated by obedience

His commands are wise, for our good, and are enabled in us by the presence and working of the Holy Spirit.

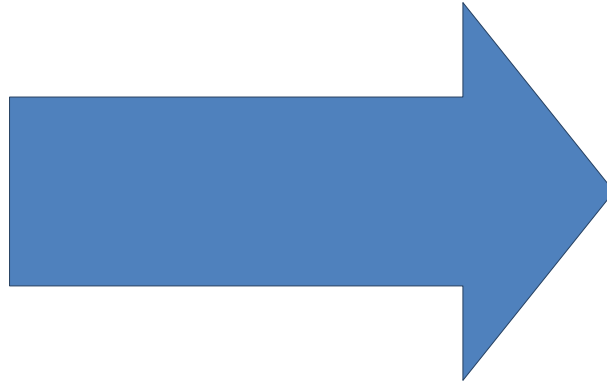
WE still 'walking' - living according to God's will.



As you have heard from the beginning,
his command is that you walk in love.

The command restated – love needs to keep going.

This was how it started – it hasn't changed.



Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world.

John has seen that there have arisen a large number of people who deny the bodily, physical first and the second coming of Jesus.

They are in effect deceivers since they are turning people away from the truth and stopping them being saved.

They are not content to keep this to themselves but are spreading their lies around. Beware.



Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

This is strong language but what they are doing is part of the devil's work. It is a manifestation of what will ultimately be the final Antichrist. They are opposed to the true Messiah and are acting as false ones.



Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for,
but that you may be rewarded fully.

Be careful. You may be taken in by them and as a result lose your rewards of faithful service. You may end up spending your skills and energy on useless or harmful activity (wood, hay and straw – 1 Corinthians 3:12)

They are dangerous people.



Anyone who runs ahead
and does not continue in the teaching of Christ
does not have God;

How to detect them. They abandon the 'old truths' that we now have in the scriptures (the apostles' teaching) and they come up with 'new and improved' truths!

John's verdict is that they are not Christians



whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Stick to what you have been taught by John etc. As a result you will have real fellowship with the real God (Father and Son)

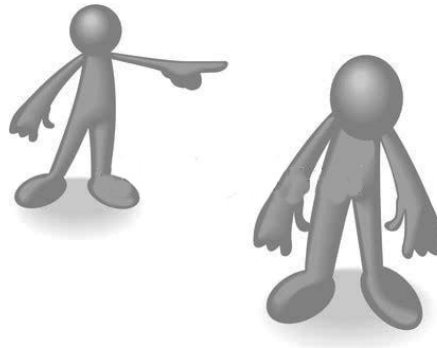


If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching,
do not take him into your house or welcome him.

Travelling teachers and speakers moved from church to church.
Some were genuine – but if they turn up with the false stuff
then don't have them in your house(church).

Some were denying that Jesus really is both God AND man.

You don't need to be offensive but let them know they are not
welcome.



Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

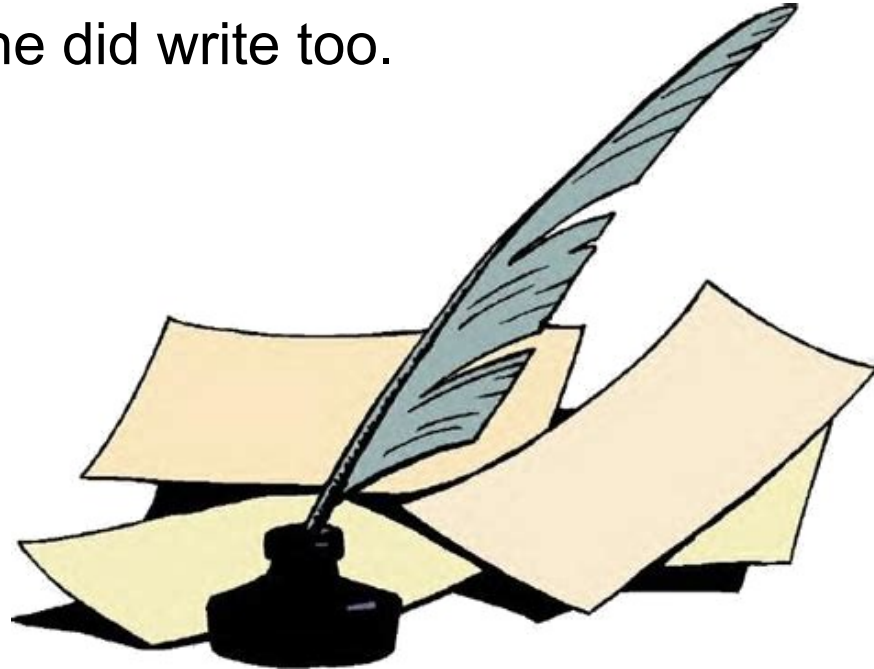
If you encourage them, then you share in their guilt by association, and by furthering their destructive work.



I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink.

There's more but there's a better way to tell you than just writing.

We can be thankful that he did write too.



Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face,
so that our joy may be complete.

Zoom is good- but being there is better!

Sharing time together brings joy.



The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

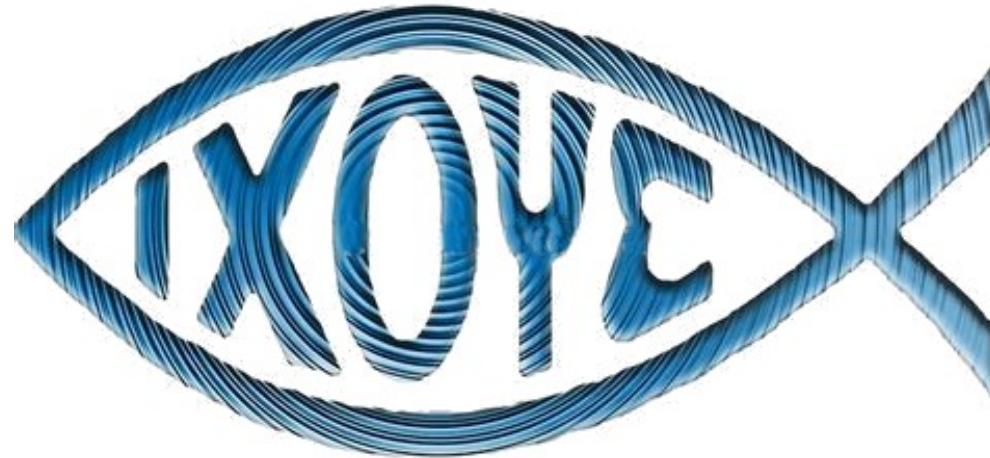
Hello!

The closing blessing suggests that John is sending greetings from the church where he is at present. The chosen sister may be a sister of the first lady, but is more likely to be another name for the church. Her 'children' would be members of this church. That would parallel what Paul did in his letters as one church sent greetings to another.

What kind of contact do we have with believers in other churches?

The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

By this time, perhaps with increasing persecution looming ahead, it was better to use a form of code language. Cf the fish sign.



2 John in summary:-

Keep up the good work (walk)

Watch out for dangerous teachers

See you soon.