**2 John 1, 10/12/2018**

**Opening**

* Do you have nicknames? What are they? Where did they come from?
  + What are nicknames of a church, a congregation and its members? Why?
* Have you been visited by Mormons or members of Jehovah Witnesses? What did you do? Why?
  + If we encounter such a situation in the future, what should we do? Why?
* Now we have pre-Bible study via Skype and prayer meeting via Skype. Why?
  + Will it be better to have Friday Bible study also via Skype? Why or why not?
* How important is truth for Christians? Why? Can you find truth in today’s society? Truth and love vs. fake news and political expedience? Sad!
* We now start a new book – 2 John. What do you know about it?
  + Who wrote it? How many chapters does it have? What is the theme?
  + Living in the love of God in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ.

**Introduction to 2 John** (ESV Study Bible)

* Author: The apostle John.
* Date: Like 1 John, 2 John probably was written in the vicinity of Ephesus near the end of the first century A.D. Ancient sources suggest John spent the closing decades of his life in this area, ministering to churches like those listed in Revelation 2–3.
* Recipients: John writes to “the elect lady.” This more likely refers to a congregation than to an individual, because much of 2 John is written in the second-person plural. It is also questionable whether John would write to a female Christian that he and she should “love one another” (v. 5); the phrase makes better sense if addressed to a church. There are three additional reasons why “elect lady” may refer to a whole congregation. First, the word “church” in Greek is feminine in gender, and “lady” would go along with that. Second, the church is depicted as “bride” elsewhere in John’s writings (Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17). Third, the Greek word kyria (“lady”) referred to a social subunit in the Greek city-state. John may use this word for a local congregation instead of the more common feminine word ekklēsia. Verse 13 of 2 John suggests that John writes to one congregation from another, which he terms “your elect sister.”
* Theme: The focus of 2 John is living in the love of God in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ. This love extends not only to God but to other people. It is also discerning; it does not “go on ahead” of biblical revelation (v. 9), and it does not lend aid to enemies of the gospel message (vv. 10–11). Instead, Christ’s followers “walk according to his commandments” (v. 6) and through faith “win a full reward” (v. 8).
* Outline (ESV Study Bible)

1. Greeting: The Elder’s Love (vv. [1–3](https://www.esv.org/2+John+1%3A1%E2%80%933/))
2. The Elder’s Joy and Request (vv. [4–6](https://www.esv.org/2+John+1%3A4%E2%80%936/))
3. The Elder’s Concern (vv. [7–8](https://www.esv.org/2+John+1%3A7%E2%80%938/))
4. The Elder’s Warning (vv. [9–11](https://www.esv.org/2+John+1%3A9%E2%80%9311/))
5. Closing: The Elder’s Farewell (vv. [12–13](https://www.esv.org/2+John+1%3A12%E2%80%9313/))

**Greeting (1-3)**

* The word truth is prominent in John’s greeting, perhaps because early Christians saw themselves as being in close communion with Jesus, who called himself “the truth” and whom they acknowledged as such, and perhaps because John knows he will shortly write about the untruth of spiritual deceivers (2 John 7–11). ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Find the words “truth” and “love” in this chapter. How many times do they appear? In what manner?

**Walking in Truth and Love (4-11)**

* **2 John 4–6 The Elder’s Joy and Request.** “Walk,” prominent in this section, refers to everyday ethical conduct. John’s concern is with his readers’ practical lives as Christians. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 John 6 Love has a strong ethical dimension. The commandments that the readers have heard from the beginning must constantly steer their lives. The second commandment (singular) probably refers to the love commandment introduced by Jesus (John 13:34–35). ESV Study Bible.
* **2 John 7–8 The Elder’s Concern.** Doctrinal confusion was a threat to the congregation’s integrity. ESV Study Bible.
* **2 John 9–11 The Elder’s Warning.** The congregation must withstand pressure from persons or forces who do not “abide in the teaching of Christ” (v. 9). ESV Study Bible.
* 2 John 10 The context of “if anyone comes” makes clear that this refers to traveling teachers or preachers working against true Christian teaching. Do not receive him into your house. Such a welcome would give the appearance of endorsing the false teaching (early churches were house churches). The significance of John’s call to reject the false teacher was heightened in a society that considered hospitality a great virtue. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Practical examples of loving each other?

**Final Greetings (12-13)**

* 2 John 12–13. John makes it clear that his letter is only a prelude to a pastoral visit that he hopes to accomplish soon. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 John 13 Children of your elect sister are the believers in the congregation from which John writes. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + If John lives today, how would he write?

**Wrapping up**

* Come to the Bible Study and Sunday worship, to meet “her children” face to face, and to share love and truth.
* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?

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