

Series "Following After God"
"The Truthful Life"
2 John 1:1-4
Study-18

"The Truthful Life"; John uses the key word Truth – 5X in 2 John; Truth – 7X in 3 John

1 John 2:21

1 John – is written so that one may have "Fellowship With God" (Am I Truly A Christian?)

2 John – is written so that one would "Avoid Fellowship With False Teachers" (Don't Get Trapped by False Teachers)

3 John – is written so that one would have "Fellowship With Itinerant Christians" (True Fellowship)

Introduction to 2 John:

The Author – Anonymous: 2 John 1:1

3 John 1:1

1. External Evidence –
2. Internal Evidence –
3. Style and Vocabulary –

When Written – Probably in the year 90 AD.

Where it was Written – The place of the writing was probably Ephesus.

Written To – 2 John 1:1

John along with the Epistles of James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude are called "General Epistles" because they are not addressed to any particular local Church.

Background – The Apostate Teachers not only invaded the churches, but they also tried to influence Christian homes.

1 John 2:19 They went out from us,

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world,

Titus faced this problem in Crete - Titus 1:10-11

Timothy faced it in Ephesus – 2 Tim. 3:6-7

Acts 20:29-30

Judaism – with its rules, rituals, and regulations.

Gnostics – a mixture of Greek philosophy, Judaism and Mystery Religions.

Purpose –

1. To encourage her with good news about her children (v. 4)
2. To instruct her concerning how to deal with false teachers (vv. 9-10)

Theme – Truth 2 John – “No Fellowship with False Teachers”

Key Words – Truth – 5X, Commandment – 4X, Love – 4X

Key Passage – 2 John 4

Outline –

- 1. Verses 1-4 – Oneness in Truth:**
- 2. Verses 5-13 – Obedience to the Truth:**

- 1. Verse 1 – Truth Unites Believers:**
- 2. Verse 2 – Truth Indwells Believers:**
- 3. Verse 3 – Truth Blesses Believers:**
- 4. Verse 4 – Truth Controls Believers:**

1. Verse 1 – Truth Unites Believers:

The elder – Greek word meaning “elderly, older; or a senior” Used in Jewish society “of an old man who by virtue of age was capable of giving wise counsel.”

chosen – used for “child of God”, “saved”, “born again”, “believer” or “Christian.”

chosen lady and her children; Several theories have been proposed to explain this phrase:

1. The term "chosen lady" could actually be a name.
2. The term might be a complimentary way of referring to a prominent Christian woman in whose house the church met.
3. The phrase is a symbolic term for the church. 2 John 13 "Thy chosen sister"

1 Peter 5:13

love – used 28X in 1 John; used Love – 4X in 2 John The word love – Greek word Agape – "A love from God"; Unconditional love – Divine love, Spiritual plane – experienced only by believers.

whom I love in truth; Eph 4:15

in truth; word "truth" 5X Basically, it means "reality" as opposed to mere appearance

John 18:38

2 Tim 4:3-4

Romans 1:25

Gal 1:6-7

1 Tim 3:15

John 14:6 – Jesus Christ is "the truth"

John 1:17 – Jesus Christ reveals the truth

John 8:45-46 – Jesus spoke the truth

John 17:17 – God's Word is "truth"

Psalm 119:160 The sum of Thy word is truth,

John 14:16-17; 16:13 God has given us "the Spirit of Truth"

Salvation Comes through Faith in the Truth – 2 Thess 2:13

1 Peter 1:22 – we are to obey the truth

2 John 1:8-9

The Doctrinal Test – Truth (Do I have it?)

know – “to be convinced, to know absolutely, to be sure and resolved”

truth – “embodiment of truth in the gospel”; Sometimes called “The Faith.”

The Truth Unites Believers: whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

1 John 5:1.

We cannot have real communion with someone that rejects the truth of the gospel because we have no common spiritual life.

1 Peter 1:22

2. Verse 2 – Truth Indwells Believers:

1 John 2:20-21

1 John 2:27

John 14:17

The Truth Indwells Believers: abides in us John loves this term used more than 60X in his writings. The truth is a person!

John 14:6

3. Verse 3 – Truth Blesses Believers:

Grace – sinners as guilty and undeserving

mercy – sinners as needy and helpless

Peace – the results of God’s outpouring of both

John 10:30-33

The Christian faith stands or falls on the doctrine of the deity of Jesus Christ.

Social Test – Love

Eph 4:15

The Truth Blesses Believers: Grace, mercy and peace will be with us

4. Verse 4 – Truth Controls Believers:

3 John 4

walking in truth; lifestyle, pattern of life, one's actions, one's behavior. We could call in truth, "Walking in the light, walking in newness of life, walking by faith not by sight"

1 Tim 6:14

Psalm 19:8

Matt 22:37-40

Truth Controls Believers: The Moral Test – Obedience to God's commands

Application:

1. Truth Unites Believers: Truth is the Basis for fellowship and unity.
2. Truth Indwells Believers: Truth abides in us and will be with us forever.
3. Truth Blesses Believers: Grace, mercy and peace will be with us.
4. Truth Controls Believers: The Moral Test – Obedience to God's commands.