

THE SECOND LETTER OF JOHN

Greeting

1 From the Elder, to the chosen Lady and her children, whom I love in the truth. And it's not just me that loves you—so does everybody who knows the truth. 2 Because the truth has stayed with us,^a and it's going to be with us forever. 3 Grace, mercy, and peace are going to be with us in the presence of^b God our Father and in the presence of^c Jesus Christ,^d the Father's Son, in truth and love.

Truth and Love

4 I was overjoyed to discover that some of your children are living^e in the truth, in line with the command we've received from the Father. 5 And now, Lady, I'm asking you. It's not as though I'm writing you a new command. Far from it—it's the one that we've had from the beginning: that we should love one another. 6 And this is what love is: living^f in line with his commands. This is exactly the command that you've heard from the beginning, that you're supposed to live^g in line with. 7 Because lots of deceivers have gone out into the world—who don't acknowledge the physical nature of Jesus Christ's coming.^h That's the deceiver and the antichrist.ⁱ 8 Watch out for yourselves, so that you don't lose what you've achieved, and you get your full reward.^j 9 Everybody that goes off ahead, and doesn't stay with the teaching of Christ, doesn't have God. The person that stays with the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If somebody comes to you and doesn't bring this teaching, don't let them into your house, and don't say hello to them. 11 Because the person that says hello to them joins in their evil activities.

^a Lit. "And not I alone, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that has stayed with us."

^b Or "from."

^c Or "from."

^d Some mss have, "from the Lord Jesus Christ."

^e Lit. "walking."

^f Lit. "to walk."

^g Lit. "walk."

^h Lit. "who don't acknowledge Jesus Christ coming in the flesh."

ⁱ See "Bible Words."

^j Some mss have, "we don't lose what we've achieved" and "we get our full reward."

Final Words

¹²I have a lot of things to write to you, but I'd rather not do it through paper and ink. Instead, I'm hoping to be with you and to talk face to face.^a That way, our joy can be complete.

¹³The children of your sister community^b say hello to you.

^a Lit. "mouth to mouth."

^b Lit. "your chosen sister."