

The Second Letter from JOHN

From the elder, to a very dear lady chosen by God, and her children, all of whom I truly love. And I'm not the only one, but all who have come to know the truth about you have also come to love you all.

²You are loved because you love the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever.

³May undeserved favor, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, be with all of you as you continue to promote His truth and demonstrate His love.

⁴I was so happy to find some of your children sincerely, and in truth, living in obedience to the command we received from the Father.^a

⁵And now I plead with you, dear lady, that we all continue to love one another. I'm not writing you a new command, but one that we've had from the beginning.^a

⁶This is how we can properly express our love for God: by living in continual obedience to His commands. And the command from Him that we love one another, as you heard from the very beginning, is a command that all of you should continually put into practice.

⁷Many deceivers have spread their lies thruout the world. Any person who refuses to acknowledge

that Jesus Christ came to earth in a genuine human body is a deceiver and an enemy of Christ.

⁸All of you need to continue to be extremely watchful as to what you believe, how you live, and that you continue to faithfully serve the Lord, so that you don't lose the rewards you have worked for. We need to be deeply concerned that we may receive a full reward.^a

⁹Whoever bypasses or goes beyond the prescribed limits of the teachings of Christ doesn't even have God in his life. But the one who is loyal to Christ's teachings has both the Father and the Son living within him.^a

¹⁰So whenever someone comes to you who teaches error about Christ and His teachings, don't receive him as a guest in your home. Don't even encourage him to have a good day.

¹¹In fact, anyone who encourages him is having a part in the evil he's doing.

¹²I have so much more to say to you, but I would rather not say it with paper and ink. I hope to visit you soon, and then we can talk face to face. In that way, our joy in fellowship will be complete.

¹³The children of your sister, also chosen by God, send you their greetings. So be it!

Most Sincerely,
John

1:4a That is, as He has commanded us to live in accordance with the truth which He has revealed thru Christ. Matthew 17:5.

1:5a ... *from Christ*. John 13:34-35; 15:12-13.

1:8a "It is painful to think of how many there are who begin the Christian life with burning zeal, as if they would strike out for the highest rewards in Heaven, but who soon waver in their course, and become entangled in some earthly pursuit, or error, until at last they receive, perhaps, only a small fraction of the reward they might have obtained.

"There will be degrees of happiness and bliss in Heaven, depending upon our faithfulness to, and our zeal for the Lord in this life. 1 Corinthians 3:1-15. But who can estimate the *full reward* of Heaven, the unspeakable glory of those who make it the supreme business of their lives to obtain all they can of its bliss. Surely, not one of us should be willing to settle for a crown in which even one gem is missing that might have sparkled there forever." — *Barnes' Notes*.

1:9a John 14:21-23.