

2ND JOHN 1:1-3

**¹ 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--
² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.**

Though neither does John identify himself or the recipient of this letter by name, it has been understood since the early days of the church that he is the author. The recipient of the letter certainly knew and respected the writer. Having said this...

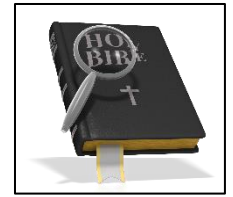
There has been some disagreement as to whom the letter was originally addressed. Some believe it was written to a prominent woman in the church of that time. Others believe he was writing to a local congregation or perhaps to a group of churches in a specific area. Though we can't be certain, one thing we know for sure is that John's words are relevant to all Christ followers.

John refers to himself as **"the elder."** Why might that be?

Notice how many times John mentions **"the truth"** in these few verses. What is he referring to?

What might it mean for **"grace, mercy, and peace to be in us in truth and love?"**

2ND JOHN 1:4-6



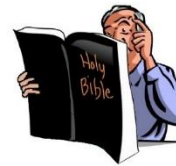
Moving on, we come to one of my favorite passages in all the Bible. I would be surprised- even disappointed - if those who joined us for our study in 1st John, don't see some connection with that earlier letter.

⁴ It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

What gave John **"great joy"** and why might that have been?

What is **"walking in the truth?"**

How does John define **"love"** in this passage?



Points to Ponder

What in today's study gives us a clue as to why John was called the Apostle of Love?"

Take a moment to list a few things John is saying to this "chosen lady" that echo what he had to say in his previous letter...

Does someone really love God and His children if they refuse to live in obedience to Christ?