

The Second Letter of John

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

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

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.^k That way, our joy can be complete.

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

^a Lit. "whom I love in truth".

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

^c Or, "from".

^d Or, "from".

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

^f Lit. "walking".

^g Lit. "And this is what love is: to walk".

^h Lit. "walk".

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

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

^k Lit. "mouth to mouth".