

2 John

-Like 1 John, this letter was written by God through the apostle John, and is the shortest letter of all of the New Testament letters.

-Although this letter is written to a Christian woman and her children who were known by John, it is for all Christians.

Let's read 2 John 1-3

1-The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to 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.

-From the beginning of this letter, we learn that what is most important in life are the truths of God.

-This is because there were and still are today many false teachers in the churches.

-The biggest battle in life is between the truths of God and the lies of Satan.

-For the unsaved, they do not want the truths of God

because they live in the lies of Satan.

-For the saved, Satan sends false teachers into the churches to try and pull people away from God.

-As the Bereans looked into the Word of God to make sure that Paul was teaching the truths of God, we must do the same (Acts 17:11).

Let's read 2 John 4-6

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.

-In verse 6, we learn that love is being obedient to God.

-If we love God, we will obey Him.

-In John 14, the Lord Jesus said this:

23-Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24-Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

Let's read 2 John 7

7-I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

-There are many teachers in this world who teach about Jesus.

-The problem is that some teachers teach about a Jesus who is not the true Jesus.

-In John's day, there were false teachers who were teaching that Jesus did not have a physical body, but was only a spirit.

-This false teaching teaches that Jesus was not human like us, did not have a physical body like we do, and did not die on the cross.

-If Jesus was not human like us, then He was not like us, and therefore, has little meaning in our lives.

-If Jesus did not have a physical body, then He never suffered and does not understand our suffering.

-If Jesus was not human like us, then He did not die on the cross, but only disappeared.

-If Jesus was not human like us and did not die on the

cross, then He was not resurrected from the dead.

-Jesus, however, is fully God and fully man.

-Jesus was a human like we are, and therefore, understands us more than we understand ourselves.

-Jesus did have a physical body, suffered on the cross, and totally understands all of our suffering.

-Jesus did die on the cross, and therefore, paid for all of our sins so that we do not have to go to hell.

-Jesus was resurrected from death, and therefore, all who believe in Him will be resurrected from death as well.

-1 John 4:2 teaches us this:

-“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”

-This false teaching also teaches that our bodies are evil, and therefore, we can sin very much with no problems.

-Sin, however, is the enemy of every true Christian.

-What is an antichrist?

-The word “antichrist” means to be against Christ.

-An antichrist not only rejects Christ, but also works against Christ.

-The apostle John alone uses this word in 1 John and in 2 John, and writes that there are even now many antichrists.

-You could say that Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin were antichrists.

-Although there have been many antichrists in this world, there will be a final Antichrist in the final days.

-The final Antichrist will be one with Satan, and Satan will dwell in him.

-The final Antichrist will be Satan's chosen person to rule the world, telling everyone that he is the Messiah or savior of the world.

-The people of the world will believe the lie that the final Antichrist is like Christ who died and rose from the dead.

-In 2 Thessalonians 2:4, we read this about the final Antichrist:

-“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

-Proclaiming himself to be God, this final Antichrist will

only be a servant of Satan as Satan tries to keep control of people and the world.

Let's read 2 John 8-9

8-Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

9-Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

-While it is not possible for Christians to lose our salvation, it is possible for Christians to lose our reward.

-In 1 Corinthians 3, the Word of God teaches Christians about our reward:

11-For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12-If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13-Their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

14-If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

15-If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

- Our salvation is because of Christ.
- Our salvation is based on Christ as our foundation.
- Also, our work for God as Christians is based on Christ as our foundation.
- After God has saved us, if our work is for the Lord Jesus Christ, we will receive a reward.
- If our work, after God has saved us, is selfish, then we will not receive a reward.
- In verse 9, how does anyone run ahead, and therefore, not continue in the teaching of Christ?
- We know that this verse is not talking about Christians because these people do not have God.
- There are some people who hear a few truths from the Word of God, and then “run ahead” by mixing the truths of God with other beliefs.
- The Muslim religion has taken a few truths from the Bible, and formed their own religion.
- The Catholic church and other religions which say that they are Christian have done the same.
- A true Christian is one who continues in the Word of God, and does not “run ahead” of that which God has written in the Bible.

Let's read 2 John 10-11

10-If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.

11-Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

-As we learned earlier, there were many false teachers who were traveling around, taking a few truths from the Word of God, and mixing them with other beliefs.

-The Word of God teaches us not to take false teachers into our homes nor welcome them.

-If we welcome false teachers into our homes, then we will be sharing in their wicked work.

Let's read 2 John 12-13

12-I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13-The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

-To end this letter, John also sends greetings from the children of the sister of the woman to whom he was writing.