

## Key to II JOHN

### 1. BACKGROUND:

Writer is John, disciple, intimate friend of CHRIST, bishop of Ephesus, last remaining member of the Twelve.

Time of writing about A.D. 97, from Ephesus.

Occasion: This is one of John's personal letters. Along with III John, it is all we possess of the private correspondence of this disciple.

### 2. THEME:

This letter is addressed to "**the elect lady and her children**" which may mean a woman of some prominence and influence whose identity had to be concealed for reasons not given.

She seems to be a woman of great hospitality, largely given to entertaining missionaries in her home. Not knowing the dangers of false teachers, John writes to warn her against extending her generosity to those who were a menace to the Christian faith.

### 3. MAIN DIVISIONS

The pathway of truth and love (1-6);  
the peril of unscriptural ways (7-11);  
superscription (12, 13).

### 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The size of a letter in the Bible is actually no criterion of its importance.

The key phrase is "**the truth**" by which John means the body of revealed truth or the Scriptures.

The letter begins with John styling himself "**the Elder**." How appropriate, as John had outlived all the rest of the apostles and was now some 90 years of age.

### 5. OUTLINE:

Introduction (1-4)

Salutation

Thanksgiving

Commandment (5, 6)

Warning (7-9)

Exhortation (10, 11)

Conclusion (12, 13)

## **6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

We must remember that there is truth found in this small letter which is unique on all the pages of the Book of GOD. We must not miss it.

The "**thy children**" of verse 4 can either mean natural children, or possibly the members of the church in that city.

Large emphasis is given here against false teachers and deceivers as in I John. The criterion is again seen to be their testimony of JESUS CHRIST (7).

The vital necessity of receiving CHRIST if one desires to come to GOD is taught in verse 9. To attempt to come to GOD another way is to be a thief and a robber (John 10:7-9).

Strict warning about receiving persons into one's home is given in verses 10, 11. The doctrine referred to here is the complete truth concerning the birth, life, death, resurrection, coming of CHRIST.

A delightfully intimate, friendly note is appended by verse 12.

## **7. KEY:**

A "real" letter from dearly beloved John to a Christian mother.

~ end of II John ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*