

I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **2John 1-13**.
-  B. We continue our look at the letters of John; tonight the letter called 2John.
- C. In many ways the letter of 2John is an overview/review of 1John. Some of the same concepts found in 1John are found in 2John.

II. IDENTIFYING THE ELECT LADY.

-  A. The text (2Jn. 1,13):
 - (2Jn 1:1)** The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,
 - (2Jn 1:13)** The children of your chosen sister greet you.
- B. There are two possible meanings of the term 'elect lady.'
- C. First, she could be a person, whose children are walking faithfully. Why she is not specifically named is not known.
- D. Second, she could be a figurative way to refer to a congregation of the Lord's church.
 - 1. The phrase in v1; "also all who know the truth" put together with v13; "the children of your chosen sister" would indicate the notion of two congregations.
 - 2. The church is presented in the NT as a special lady; a bride (Eph. 5:24,32; Rev. 21:9; 22:17).
(Eph 5:24,32) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ... [32] This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
(Rev 21:9) And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
(Rev 22:17) And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
 - 3. Notice the references in 2Cor. 11:2,3 and 1Pet. 5:13a.
(2Cor 11:2-3) For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin. [3] But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.
(1Pet 5:13) She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings,...
 - 4. John's statement in 3Jn. 9 would seem to indicate he is writing to the church (in 1Jn. and 2Jn.). I wrote something to the church; but Diotrefes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

III. THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'ELDER.'

-  A. The text (2Jn. 1):
 - The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,
- B. The context makes it seem that John is speaking of himself as an old man, and not as a pastor.
- C. Note of how Peter addresses himself as elder in 1Pet. 5:1 and how 2Jn. 1 is different.
 - Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
- D. The office of elder (pastor) is always referred to in the plural in the NT, and it not so in 2Jn. 1.

IV. A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF 2JOHN.

-  A. See 2Jn. 1-13.
- B. Some highlights in the letter:
 - 1. Verse 1.
 - The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,
 - The words 'in truth' are a synonym for sincerely. Note 1Jn. 3:18.

2. Verses 2,3.
for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: [3] Grace, mercy *and* peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
John is still encouraging the brethren to walk in the truth (a theme we see throughout 1Jn.).
-  3. Verse 4.
I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do* from the Father.
The word 'some' or 'certain' is not in the original text. To insert either one changes the meaning of the verse. It is probable that John is commending the fact that the brethren are walking in the truth rather than to remark that only a few are.
-  4. Verses 5,6.
And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. [6] And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.
This is the same concept (love for God and the brethren) that was discussed at length in 1Jn. 4.
-  5. Verses 7-11.
For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. [8] Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. [9] Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. [10] If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; [11] for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.
 - a. John warns again to stay clear of the teachings of those who do not believe that Jesus is deity made flesh (the antichrist). Such teachings go too far ahead of what is the truth.
 - b. Compare 2Jn. 8 with 1Jn. 5:9,10,12.
 - c. To eat a meal with someone, in the first century culture, was to give full approval of their deeds and teachings. John prohibits Xians from giving this kind of endorsement to the Gnostics.
-  6. Verses 12,13.
Having many things to write to you, I do not want to *do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full. [13] The children of your chosen sister greet you.
 - a. The apostle would rather see the brethren face to face than have to write another letter.
 - b. Other brethren of a sister congregation send their greetings.

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

-  A. The thrust of 2John is to encourage the brethren to keep on doing the things mentioned in 1John.
- B. John is personally encouraging them by letter and sends greetings from another congregation.
- C. The admonition to keep on keeping on is a good one, because it is easy to grow weary.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.