

Monday
II John

Though the author never specifically identifies himself, it is traditionally believed that the Apostle John wrote II John. It is written to a woman who is never identified either. John wanted to give some specific instructions this woman and her children. What did he have to say?

1. Read II John – How does the author identify himself in verse 1?
2. What does that title imply about his relationship with this woman and her children?
3. What do we know about her position in Christ?
4. How did John feel about this woman?
5. Was his love for her inappropriate? How do you know?
6. What other people loved her besides just John?
7. According to verse 2, why did they all love each other?
8. How is it to the benefit of the truth that all those in Christ love each other? If you need help with this answer, you'll find help in John 13:35.
9. What does it mean that the truth dwells in us?
10. Will the truth ever cease to be?

It is beneficial to the truth that we all love each other because it is a proof and demonstration that God's Word really works. Be sure to show unconditional love for those in the body of Christ!

Tuesday
II John

John, who might have been in some sort of authority over the lady but was at least more spiritually more mature, was writing to her to give her and her children some very specific instructions. He loved her in the truth and for the truth's sake. What was his prayer for her and her children?

1. Read II John – According to verse 3, what three things did John want for this woman and her children? Define each one.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. From Whom do those three things come?
3. Can they be found anywhere else?
4. What is the relationship mentioned in verse 3?
5. According to verse 4, what did John find?
6. How did he feel about the things he found?
7. What does it mean to walk in the truth?
8. Walking in the truth is to live God's Word in your daily life. Is it an option to walk in truth?
9. Who commanded that we walk in truth?

John, who was a spiritual leader in some way or another to this woman, rejoiced when he saw that the people he had taught were living and obeying God's Word on a consistent basis. Any spiritual leader would do the same.

Wednesday II John

John was happy to know that the woman to whom he was writing was living a life that was consistent with the teachings of Scripture. Now he gave her a reminder about Christian love. John loved her, and so did many others, but for some reason John thought it was necessary to remind her about her love for others.

1. Read II John – What commandment did John give in verse 5?
2. John used a very strong word in verse 5. He used the word “beseech.” What does that word mean? What makes it such a strong word?
3. John is reminding her of a commandment that is not new. He is not teaching any new truth, just reminding her of a teaching she already knew. This is something she should have already known and been living. For some reason John thought it was necessary to remind her of Christian love. Since she already knew the commandment and had known it for a long time, what made obedience to this commandment so much more urgent than a new one?
4. How did John define love in verse 6?
5. Apparently, this lady and her children were strictly committed to the truth of God’s Word. No one could convince them to deny it or believe differently. There was, however, one truth that they were forgetting to apply – love. Is it always to love when you are doing right and others around you aren’t?
6. What are some ways you can show love to other Believers who aren’t living properly?

It’s always easy to find fault in someone. In spite of others’ faults, love your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thursday II John

Christian love for other Christians is extremely important for several reasons. God commanded it, so it isn’t an option, but what were His reasons for commanding us to love each other? John explained it in the coming verses.

1. Read II John – Verse 7 begins with the word “for.” This signals a continuation of the thought from the verses before this one. What was the topic in the last two verses?
2. The word “for” often means “because.” According to verse 7, why should we be actively following God’s command to love each other?
3. Deceivers or false teachers had already entered into the world. What were they teaching?
4. Are people still teaching the same things today?
5. What two words did John use to describe these false teachers?
6. There is a big push among church leaders for people of all beliefs to put aside their doctrinal differences and come together and love each other. According to verse 7, are these people for Christ or against Him?
7. In light of the fact that deceivers and false teachers are present in the world, why is it so important to know and obey the commandments of God?
8. Why is the commandment to love one another so important?

It is always important to be firmly grounded in your faith because there are people who will try to deceive you into thinking that truth doesn’t matter. They’re not for Christ; they’re for themselves.

Friday II John

John gave a strong warning concerning deceivers or false teachers. They work for themselves and against Christ. It is a dangerous thing to be deceived by these false teachers. What's the danger? What happens if someone is deceived?

1. Read II John – John gave a simple instruction at the beginning of verse 8. What is it?
2. What do you think that instruction means?
3. The instruction for the lady and her children to “look to yourselves” means that they are to have understanding and be mentally and spiritually discerning about what is going on around them. About what is John talking that makes this command so important?
4. According to verse 8, what could we lose if we do not exercise discernment about what is happening around us?
5. What did John want us to receive?
6. Verse 9 talks about people who transgress and do not abide in the doctrine of Christ. It is not talking about people who sin once in a while. Everyone does that. This verse is talking about false teachers who teach a different doctrine than the Bible teaches. According to verse 9, are these people really saved?
7. According to verse 9, what is the characteristic of those who are saved?

Being deceived by false teachers will cause you to lose rewards in Heaven. It will not cause you to lose your salvation. False teachers habitually transgress or pass by the teachings of the Bible. Always use good discernment!

Saturday II John

John talked about some of the dangers of false teachers. One of the dangers of believing their message is losing some of your rewards in Heaven. John gave some further instructions to the special lady and her children so that they would be able to avoid false teachers and not be deceived.

1. Read II John – One tool to prevent being deceived is discernment. What has God given us to help us to discern what is right and wrong?
2. Since God has given us His Word to help us and protect us, what should we do with it?
3. John continued his warning in verse 10. How does the beginning of this verse define a deceiver or a false teacher?
4. What two things should we not do when false teachers come to our house?
5. What does it mean to bid someone God speed?
6. We should not wish false teachers well. They are obviously not working for the cause of Christ, so we don't want to support them in their efforts. According to verse 11, what did John say you become if you wish a false teacher God speed?
7. What does it mean to be a partaker in their deeds?
8. If God will someday judge false teachers, what will He do to those who support them?

We like to be polite, and it is important to be polite, but we also need to be careful that we do not unknowingly or accidentally wish them well in their endeavors. They are against God, His Word, and His people.

Sunday II John

John has finished with his message to this special lady and her children. In a very short letter, he covered many details and gave many important instructions. Even though it was a serious letter, we can still see the personal side of the letter. John wrote because he had Godly, Christian love for this family.

1. Read II John – Though John is now concluding his letter, according to verse 12, did he still have more he wanted to discuss?
2. Did he think it was appropriate to write them, or was it better to talk about them in person?
3. We don't know exactly what John wanted to discuss, but he was hoping to be able to visit in person. How did he want to talk to this family?
4. What was his hope for them after talking about these matters in person?
5. There is an important lesson to learn from this simple verse. There are matters that are acceptable to address in an e-mail or a text message. Others are acceptable to handle on the phone. Still others need to be handled in person. Is it easy to speak face-to-face about sensitive matters?
6. Though it's not easy to talk in person, it's often best. Body language, facial expressions, and voice inflections can't be heard or seen in an e-mail. How could seeing those things or not seeing them help or hurt a conversation?

Personal, face-to-face confrontation and conversations are much better than e-mail "conversations." Show enough respect and love for others to talk to them in person. It's the best way!