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2 John

T2 John
New International Version
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.

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.

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. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what we[a] 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. 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.

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.

Footnotes

2 John 1:8 Some manuscripts you

The book of 2 John is a short letter written by the apostle John to a woman and her children, whom he refers to as the "elect lady." The identity of this woman is uncertain, but it is likely that she was a leader in a Christian community that John knew well. The letter begins with a greeting and an expression of joy that the "elect lady's" children are walking in the truth. John then urges the recipients of the letter to love one another, which is a common theme throughout the New Testament.

John goes on to warn against false teachers who deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. He advises his readers not to welcome these deceivers into their homes or offer them any form of greeting. John cautions that anyone who extends hospitality to such a person is sharing in their evil deeds.

John encourages his readers to continue in the truth they have heard from the beginning, which is the message about Christ. He affirms that those who abide in this truth will have both the Father and the Son. John emphasizes the importance of continuing to follow the teachings of Christ, as well as the importance of avoiding false teachings and those who promote them.

In the next section of the letter, John addresses the readers as "children" and urges them to love one another. He emphasizes that this is not a new commandment, but rather something that they have heard from the beginning. John explains that love is the way to know that they are in the truth and that they belong to God.

John concludes the letter by emphasizing the importance of keeping Christ's commandments. He notes that these commandments are not burdensome and that they lead to a life of joy and peace. John encourages his readers to remain faithful to Christ and to avoid the false teachings of those who deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Overall, the book of 2 John emphasizes the importance of love and remaining faithful to the truth of Christ, while also warning against false teachings that deny the humanity of Jesus. It encourages believers to continue to follow the teachings of Christ and to avoid false teachers who promote erroneous doctrines.

Here are some of the important verses from the book of 2 John, along with brief explanations and their locations in the Bible:

1. 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." This verse highlights the importance of walking in truth, which is a recurring theme throughout the book. (2 John 1:4)
2. Verse 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 verse emphasizes the connection between love and obedience to Christ's commandments. (2 John 1:6)
3. Verse 7: "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." This verse warns against false teachers who deny the humanity of Jesus Christ, which was a common heresy in the early church. (2 John 1:7)

4. Verse 8: "Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward." This verse urges believers to remain vigilant in their faith and not to fall away from the truth. (2 John 1:8)
5. Verse 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." This verse advises against extending hospitality to false teachers who promote erroneous doctrines. (2 John 1:10)
6. Verse 12: "Though I have 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, so that your joy may be made full." This verse expresses John's desire to visit the "elect lady" and her children in person, which underscores the importance of personal relationships in the early church. (2 John 1:12)

Overall, the book of 2 John emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to Christ and avoiding false teachings, while also highlighting the role of love and obedience in the life of a believer.

The Second Epistle of John, often referred to as "2 John," is one of the books in the New Testament of the Bible. It is a short letter, consisting of only 13 verses, and it is traditionally attributed to the Apostle John, the author of the Gospel of John and the First Epistle of John. In this brief letter, there are some key theological thoughts and potential theological influences:

Love and Truth: One of the central theological thoughts in 2 John is the emphasis on love and truth. The letter encourages believers to love one another and to walk in obedience to God's commandments, which are summed up in love (verse 6). This reflects the broader New Testament theme of the importance of love within the Christian community.

Antichrist and False Teachers: 2 John also warns against false teachers and antichrists who deny the essential doctrines of Christ. The letter urges believers to be discerning and not to receive or support those who do not confess the true doctrine of Christ (verses 7-11). This theme aligns with the broader New Testament concern about false teachings and the need for doctrinal fidelity.

The Importance of Hospitality: The letter also touches on the concept of hospitality. It advises believers to show hospitality to traveling teachers who come in the name of Christ, as long as they bring the correct teaching (verse 10). This reflects the early Christian practice of relying on the hospitality of fellow believers as they spread the message of Christianity.

Walking in God's Commandments: Throughout 2 John, there is an emphasis on walking in God's commandments (verse 6). This underscores the importance of living a life in accordance with God's moral and ethical standards, which is a recurring theme in the New Testament.

Theological Influence: The theological influence of 2 John is primarily seen in its contribution to the broader New Testament understanding of love, truth, doctrinal purity,

and the need for discernment within the Christian community. The warning against false teachers and the call to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ are ideas that echo throughout the New Testament and continue to be relevant for the Christian Church.

In summary, 2 John emphasizes the importance of love, truth, and doctrinal purity within the Christian community while warning against false teachers. Its theological influence is seen in its contribution to these broader theological themes found throughout the New Testament.

Notes:

It is difficult to say which questions in the book of 2 John are the most difficult and yet have no answer, as different readers may find different passages challenging or ambiguous. However, some of the more challenging aspects of 2 John include:

1. The identity of the "chosen lady" to whom the letter is addressed. Some scholars believe this may be a specific individual, while others suggest it could be a metaphorical reference to a church or group of believers.
2. The exact nature of the false teachers referred to in the letter. While it is clear that they are promoting a false doctrine, the specifics of their teachings and beliefs are not explicitly stated.
3. The meaning of the phrase "walking in truth" in verse 4. While it seems to refer to living in accordance with God's commandments, there is debate over whether it implies a specific set of beliefs or behaviors.
4. The relationship between love and obedience in verse 6. Some interpret this passage as suggesting that love for God and obedience to His commands are two sides of the same coin, while others see them as separate but complementary aspects of the Christian life.

Overall, while these passages may be challenging, they are open to interpretation and there is no one "correct" answer. Ultimately, the most important message of 2 John is the call to love one another and hold fast to the truth of the gospel.