

Lesson 8: Be Discerning with Fellowship - (2nd John)

- 1) Brief outline of 2nd John:
 - a. Introduction – greeting audience
 - b. Commendation for faithfulness
 - c. Warnings about false teachers, error among brethren
 - d. Closing thoughts...a personal touch
- 2) What internal evidence (e.g., common language, phrases, themes) do you see to support that John the Apostle, wrote this letter?
- 3) To whom was this letter written? Many believe an unidentified individual; others think it could be broadly to churches in that day. What are your thoughts in this regard?
- 4) What is it that binds John and his addressees together? What relationship results?
- 5) Where else is the greeting “Grace, Mercy and Peace” used? What important fact is apparent concerning God and Jesus from how these three blessings are combined? How will we as Christians gain these blessings?
- 6) Do you see the three “tests of fellowship”, as we have been calling them, in 2nd John?
- 7) Vs. 7 starts with “for”, how does it connect back to the previous verse? How were the deceivers identified (vss. 7 & 9) and what caution did John instruct? When one abides in Christ’s teaching, what does it bring?

- 8) What final warning does John give in relation to the deceivers in vss. 10 & 11? Why would he do this? Can you link his warning to any admonitions in 1 Jn. 5?

Thought questions:

- Can you summarize 2nd John in two or three sentences?

- Consider 2nd John 4. When someone “rejoices greatly” about brethren walking in the truth, what does it suggest about them?

- Consider also 1 Th. 3 and Paul’s exhortation to those he loved and rejoiced in who were facing persecution. What was his mindset about the persecution itself? Does our attitude and reaction toward persecution impact how God is glorified through our lives?