

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 September 8, 2024

The 2nd Epistle of John: A Study Guide

by Bryan Gibson

It's best to read 2 John first, which only takes about two minutes (1 chapter, 13 verses). Perhaps this short study guide will help you get more from your reading and any additional study you do. We'll divide this one chapter into four sections, and make a few comments about each one. But please, don't stop with what you read below. Study it carefully, more deeply—get all you can from this short but powerful epistle. It's written by John, the apostle, but these are God's words!

Introduction and Commendation (1-4). Don't concern yourself too much with identifying the "elect (chosen) lady and her children," to whom this epistle is addressed. It's difficult to know for sure (an actual lady and her children? a local church?), and matters little to the practical meaning of this

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short letter. Do pay attention, though, to the good things said about them, and especially the emphasis on **love** and **truth**. The union of these two is the main theme of this letter, the tone for which is set right here in the introduction.

A Plea to Walk in Love and Truth (5-6). “Love one another”—that’s the commandment given in verse 5, but notice how love is defined in verse 6: “This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.” Let that soak in for a minute, because we need to make sure we define love the same way. Love without truth will walk in something, but it won’t be God’s commandments. Do you see the theme developing? Love and truth are partners, they go hand in hand—in teaching and in practice. Want further evidence? Look at the next section.

Reason for the Plea: The Threat of False Teachers (7-11). How does love respond to those who teach error, to those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ? “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds” (vv. 10-11). They’ve lost the support of the Father and the Son (v. 9), and so we can’t offer ours either. Love is loyal to the truth; it simply cannot tolerate false doctrine. Now, flip the page to 3 John and notice an interesting contrast. How does love respond to those who teach the truth? “We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow-workers for the truth” (v. 8).

Support those who teach error, you become a partner with them; support those who teach the truth, you become a partner with them. Love always sides with truth; it acts in harmony with the truth—that’s the message of this epistle.

Conclusion (vv. 12-13). John wanted to say more to the elect lady and her children, but he wanted to say it “face to face” (v. 12), and the reason he gives is “that our joy may be full” (v. 12). A face to face meeting is always best with those we love, but it would also give John an opportunity to find out if they followed his instructions in this epistle, to see if they were still walking in truth and love. He rejoiced earlier when he heard about them walking in the truth (v. 4); to see them still doing it would make his joy complete.

