

2 John 1 – Faithful Instruction to God’s Church

1. John gives a remarkable introduction to his second letter that speaks to the truths of being part of God’s faithful church. What things do all believers share according to this introduction? (v. 1-2) What specifically is this truth that abides with believers forever? (See John 14:16-17) What else is given to all believers from God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ? (v. 3) (v. 1-3)
-

2. John’s second letter, while short, seems full of concern for the believers. What does it mean that “your children [are] walking in truth”? (See v. 6 for ideas) What does it mean to “love one another”? (See v. 6 for ideas) Some people say “all we need to do is love people” and sometimes imply that commandment keeping is legalistic and non-essential. What does Rom 13:9-10 as well as this passage say that clarifies the Biblical truth on this issue? (v. 4-6)
-

3. This section begins with the word “for”. What relation does this word imply of this section with the previous section? What does Jesus coming in the flesh have to do with keeping the commandments and loving God and man? John warns and implies that if we lose “those things we worked for” we will lose a “full reward”. Some people say “all we need is the Holy Spirit” and imply that obedience to the commandments is not necessary. What does verse 9 state that clarifies the Biblical truth on this issue? (See also John 14:15, 24 and 1 John 2:3-4).
-

4. When John says, “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine”, what doctrine is he referring to? (See the previous verses as well as John 14:23 and Matt 7:21-23) How are true believers to relate to those who take Christ’s commandments lightly?

5. Obviously John wanted not to write to the believers, but to be with them in their presence. What is it that brings and will bring believers the greatest joy? (See Ps 16:11; 1 Thess 2:19; Jude 1:24) What can we learn from Jesus words John 15:10-11? What love and joy did Jesus want us to retain and how can believers have this joy? (See Acts 13:52, Rom 14:17; Gal 5:22) Read Acts 5:32 and John 8:29. What two parallel truths do these verses speak to believers? How important to our joy and happiness is obedience? Jesus longs for us to experience this joy of God’s presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit and it can only come through an abiding obedience to Christ and His Holy Spirit.
