

# The Epistles of John

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Week 5: 2 John 7-9

The epistles of John are something of an enigma when considered together. Few books of the New Testament are more loved, memorized, or quoted than 1 John. On the other hand one is hard pressed to find any books of Scripture more ignored and taught less than 2 and 3 John.

Ben Witherington III

## 2 John 7-9

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### 2 John 7–13 (ESV)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but    may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

The children of your elect sister greet you.

## 2 John 7-9

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*What is the “full reward”?*

It can not mean eternal life as some say, because you can not partially receive eternal life. So what is it?

### 2 John 9

Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

The elder was well aware of the fact that what one believes about Jesus will impact other areas of his theology. Indeed it will shape his entire worldview.

## 2 John 7-9

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What does “runs ahead” mean?

The problem is that some have “run ahead” or progressed, or gone beyond what John and the apostles taught and therefore have failed to continue in the teachings about Christ.

The word “run ahead” in Greek is a term of superiority. They claim to have gone past what John and the apostles taught about Jesus with a ‘new’ teaching about Jesus. This is not progress in the faith, but progress beyond it.

The danger expressed here by John is the adding of something new to that which Jesus and the apostles have taught about the incarnation.

Changes which strike at the heart of the revealed truth of the gospel in who Jesus is, can not be encouraged and in fact must be actively discouraged.

## 2 John 7-9

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People who reject the truth about Christ no longer “have God.” No doubt they claimed that they did have God, but the elder’s point is that anybody who fails to have a proper understanding of Jesus Christ cannot have a true relationship with God.

Those who deny the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the flesh have a false understanding of God and of the way to God, since the Son is the only way to the Father.

John 14:6 (ESV) - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

It is impossible to separate the Father from the Son in Christian experience: you cannot have fellowship with one without having it with the other.

## 2 John 7-9

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Where else does John speak about abide and what is its fully orbbed meaning?

1 John 4:12-16

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Abide (Gk. meno) includes the idea of dwells, remains, continues, lives

## 2 John 7-9

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### 2 John 10-11 (ESV)

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

The key questions here are:

1. What is “this teaching”?
2. What does “receive him into your house” mean?
3. What does “give him any greeting” mean?

# Homework

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John McArthur has said that he reads each book of the Bible 30 times before he begins to study it in preparation for teaching it. I'd like us to all read 3 John just one time per day this coming week to prepare for next week.

*Read one translation of 3 John each day this week. It takes less than 2 minutes. Go slowly and think about what is being said.*

*Write down any questions or things you'd like to discuss in class next week on the first page or email them to me.*

Thank you for coming!

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See you next week