



# 2<sup>nd</sup> John

The Elect Lady

*Lesson 01*

## False Teachers

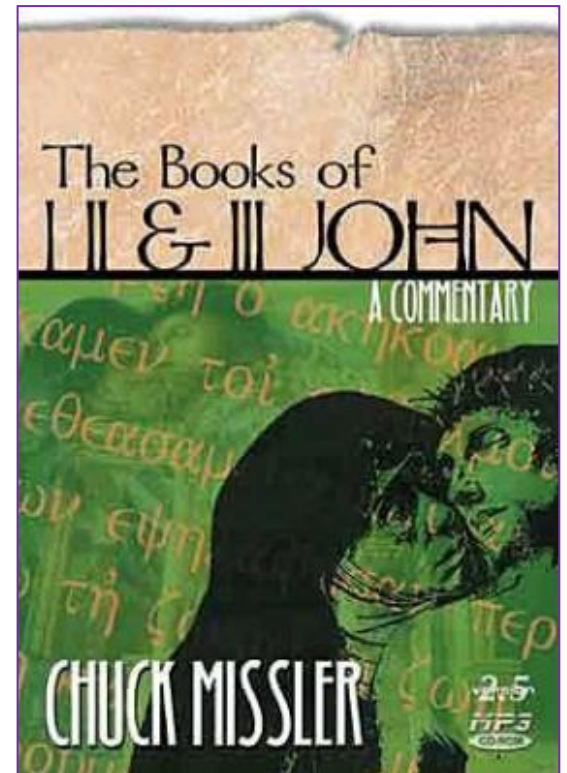
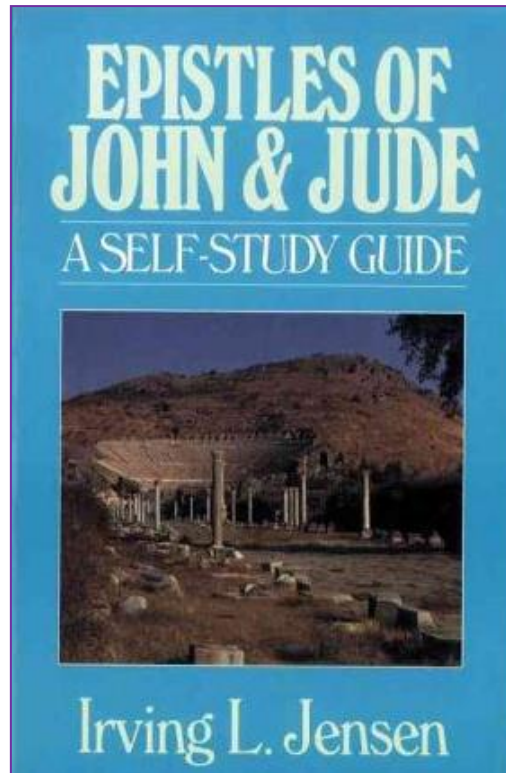
2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:1-13

Philip Giorgio

Sojourners Sunday School Class

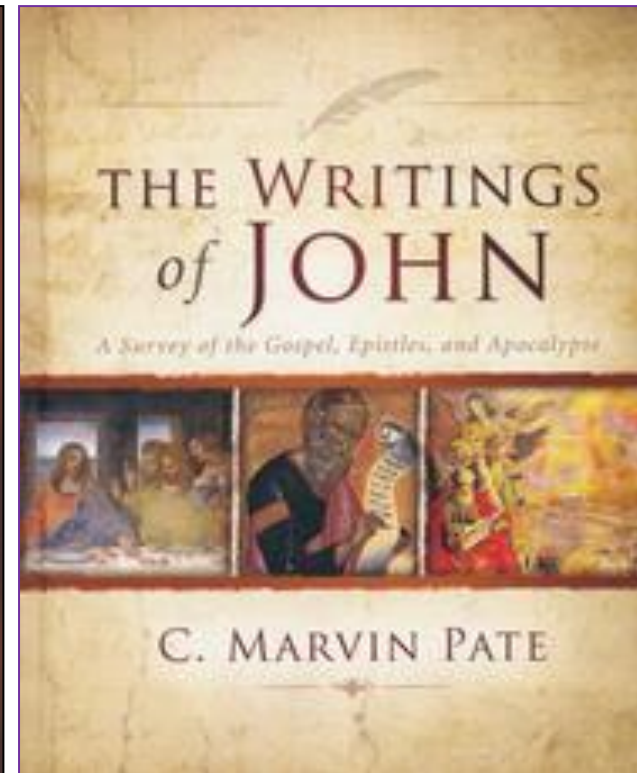
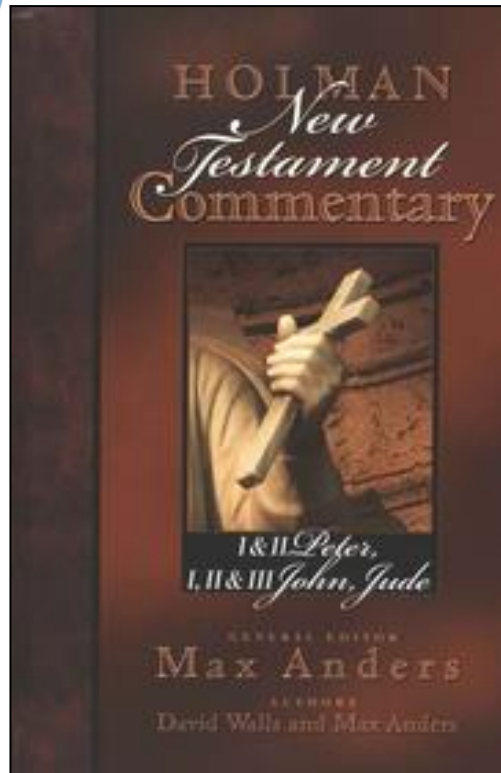


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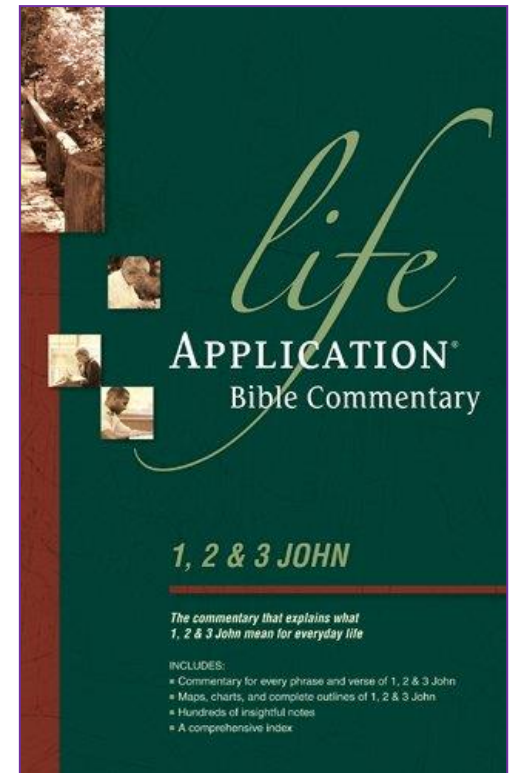
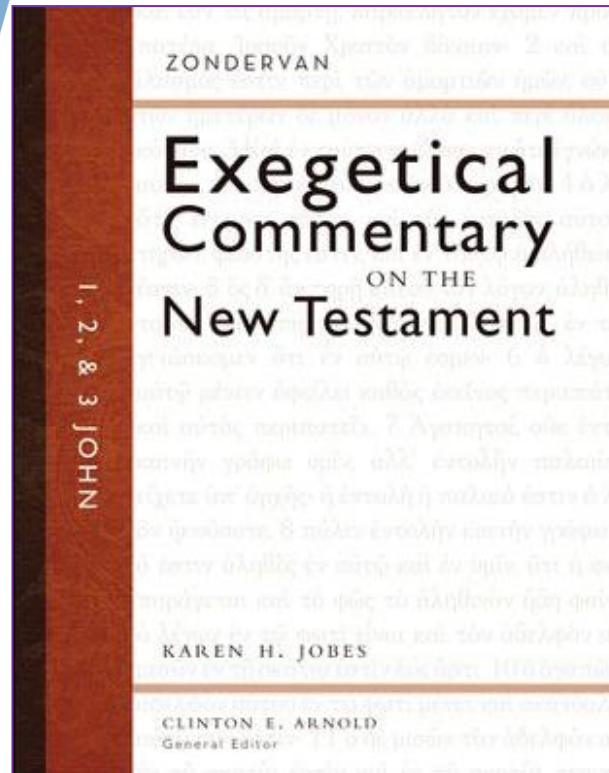


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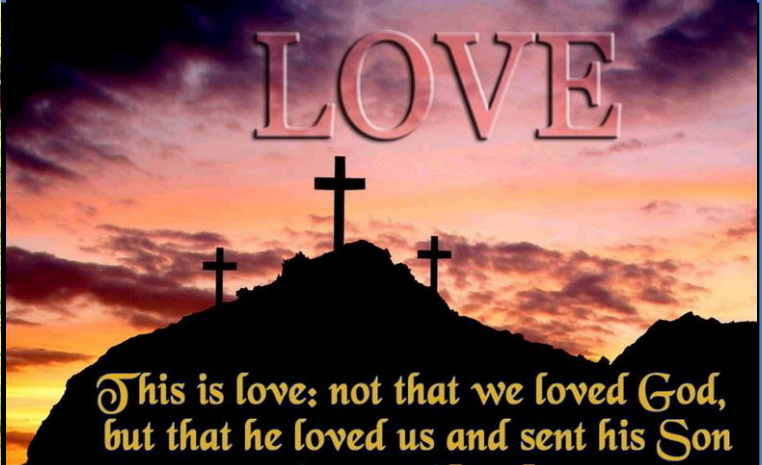
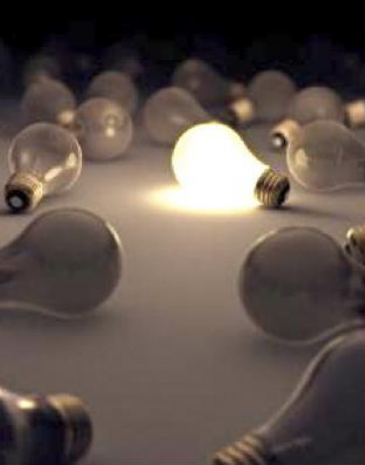




## References





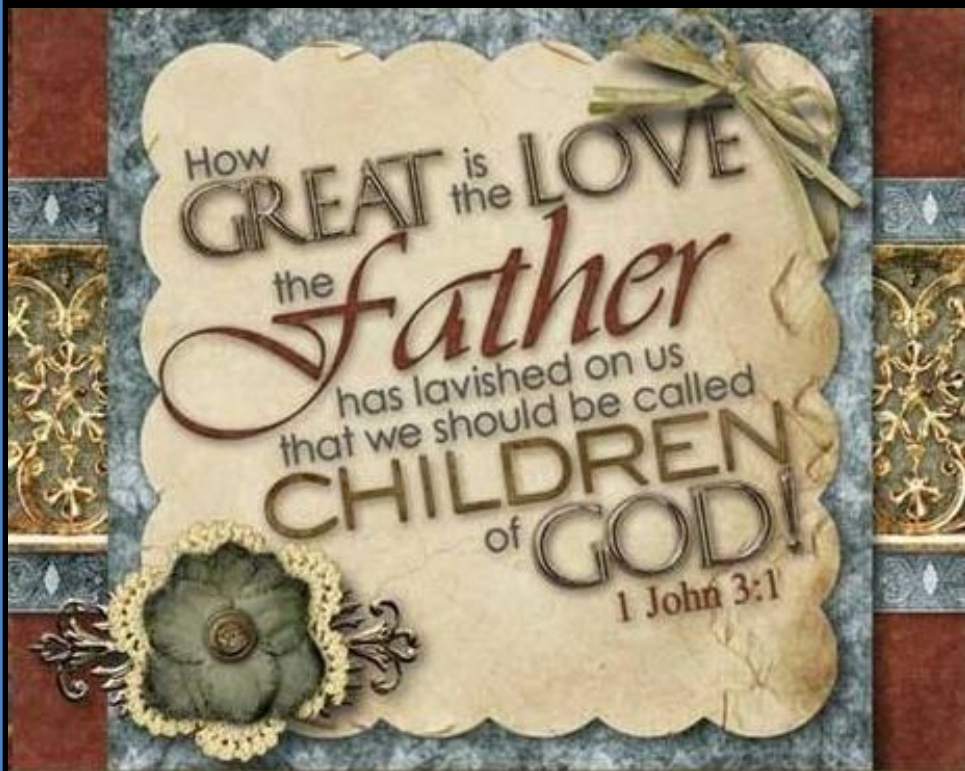


# LIGHT, LIFE & LOVE

1, 2 & 3 JOHN

This is love: not that we loved God,  
but that he loved us and sent his Son  
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

1 John 4:10 NIV



love

perfect sent also friends lives drives first world Dear sister Whoever another Jesus knows punishment  
sins yet brother loved who ever born day Anyone must judgment loves ever let showed  
complete fear live among one know since command  
testify sacrifice Saviour anyone  
illur might acknowledges  
confidence claims  
since

God



# Course Outline



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

- Lesson 01: False Teachers ... [1:1-13]

# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

- Lesson 01: False Teachers ... [1:1-13]





# Lesson Outline

# Lesson 01 - Outline

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

- Lesson 01: False Teachers

- ✓ **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**

- Scripture Text - 2 John 1:1-13

- ✓ **WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS**

- Watch Out for False Teachers  
(1:1-11)

- Final Words  
(1:12-13)





# False Teachers

## *Scriptural Context*

# Lesson 01 - Outline

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

- Lesson 01: False Teachers

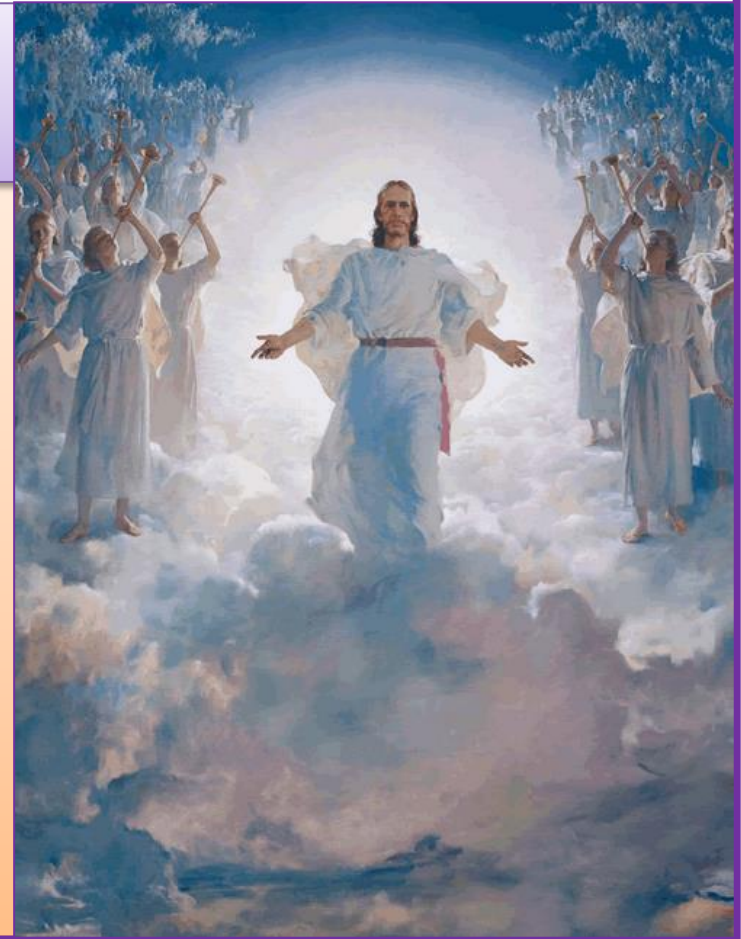
- ✓ SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

➡ - Scripture Text - 2 John 1:1-13

- ✓ WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

- Watch Out for False Teachers  
(1:1-11)

- Final Words  
(1:12-13)



## Scriptural Text: 2 John 1:1-13

### GREETING THE ELECT LADY

2 JOHN 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, <sup>2</sup> because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: <sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, *and* peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

... 2 John 1:1-3 ...NKJV



Scriptural Text: 2 John 1:1-13

## WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

2 JOHN 1:4-6

<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. <sup>5</sup> And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

... 2 John 1:4-5 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 2 John 1:1-13

## WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

2 JOHN 1:4-6

**6** This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

... 2 John 1:6 ...NKJV

## BEWARE OF ANTICHRIST DECEIVERS

2 JOHN 1:7–11

<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.

... 2 John 1:7-8 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 2 John 1:1-13

## BEWARE OF ANTICHRIST DECEIVERS

2 JOHN 1:7–11

**<sup>9</sup> Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; <sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.**

... 2 John 1:9-11 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 2 John 1:1-13

## JOHN'S FAREWELL GREETING

2 JOHN 1:12-13

**12** Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

**13** The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

... 2 John 1:12-13 ...NKJV





# False Teachers

***Walk in Christ's Commandments***

# Lesson 01 - Outline

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

### • Lesson 01: False Teachers

#### ✓ SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

- Scripture Text - 2 John 1:1-13

#### ✓ WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

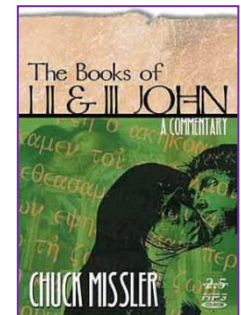
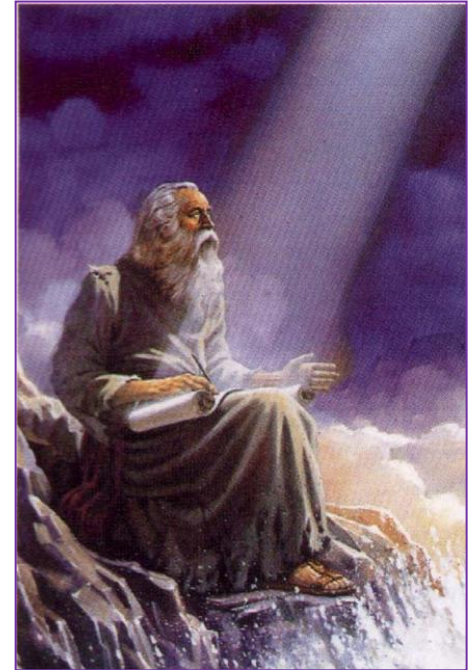
- ➡ - Watch Out for False Teachers (1:1-11)
- Final Words (1:12-13)



## 2 John Introduction - Gnosticism

### • False Teachings of the Gnostics

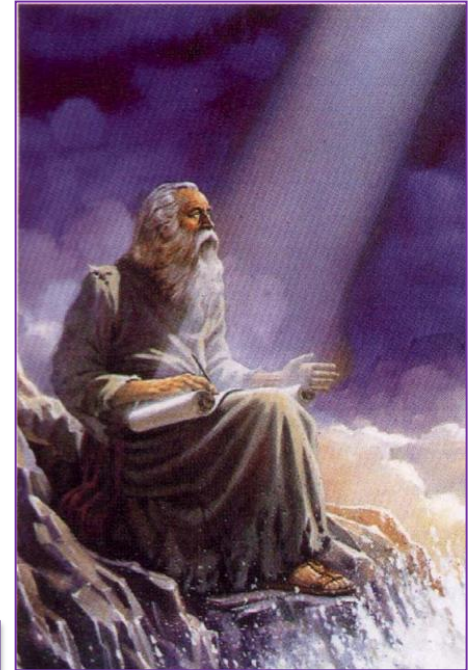
- This letter is a response to the Gnostics (Greek: *Gnosis* = knowledge).
- A mixture of mysticism, Eastern speculations and Jewish legalism.
- Alexandria was a major headquarters.
- The term “*agnostic*” = “without knowledge” (Latin = *ignoramus*)!
- These heresies promised people “spiritual perfection” if they entered into the teachings and ceremonies prescribed.
- This “depth” and “full knowledge” could only be enjoyed by the initiated.
- These were all based on man-made traditions and philosophy, not on divine Truth ([Colossians 2:8](#)).



## 2 John Introduction - GNOSTICISM

- **Docetic Gnostics**

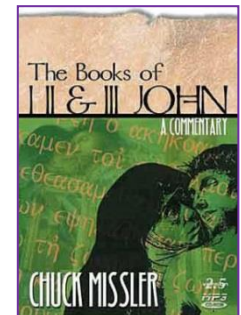
- The Docetic (*from “to seem”*) Gnostics held that Jesus did not have a real human body, but only a phantom body.
- He was, in fact, an **aeon** and had no real humanity.
- These views were increasingly prevalent in Ephesus (*and elsewhere*) and form the challenges that John was dealing with in this letter, and in his sermon known as “1 John.”



**aeon** [ee-on]

**Noun**

1. (in Gnosticism) one of a class of powers or beings conceived as emanating from the Supreme Being and performing various functions in the operations of the universe.

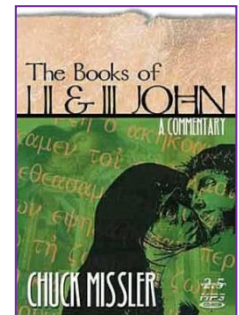
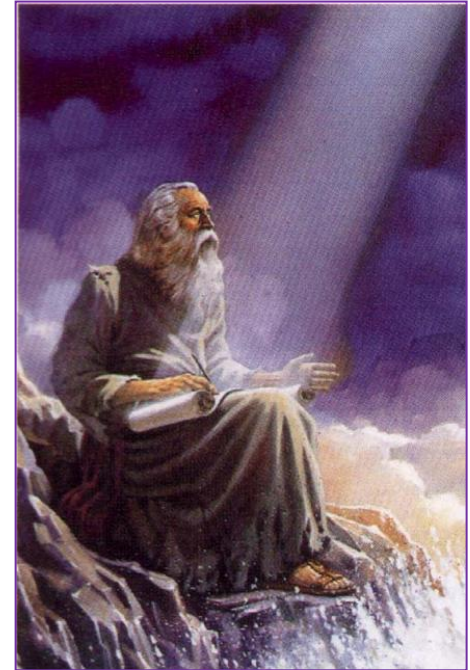




## 2 John Introduction - GNOSTICISM

- Cerinthian Gnostics

- The Cerinthian (*followers of Cerinthus*)  
Gnostics admitted the humanity of the man Jesus, but claimed that the Christ was an aeon that came on Jesus at his baptism in the form of a dove and left him on the Cross so that only the man Jesus died.
- Some thought that Jesus was “just a man”—similar to Christian Science and other phases of “New Thought.”
- Paul deals with this heresy directly in his epistles.

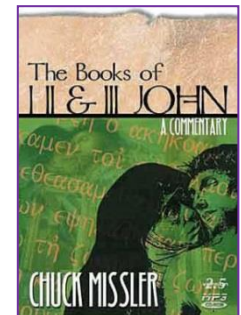
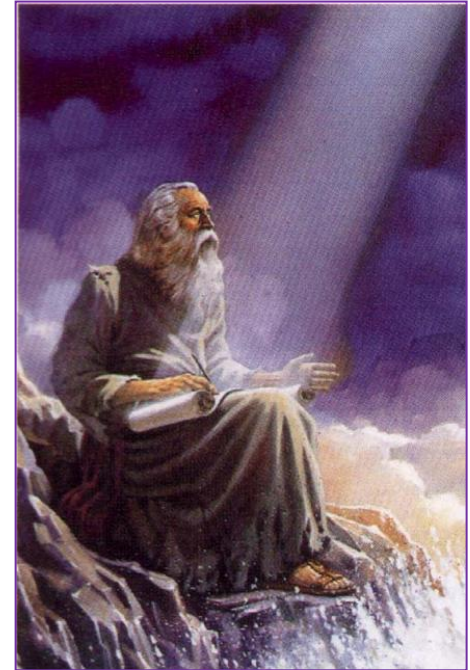




## 2 John Introduction - Gnosticism

- Gnostic Heresy

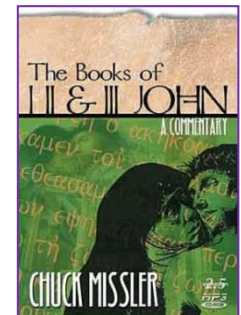
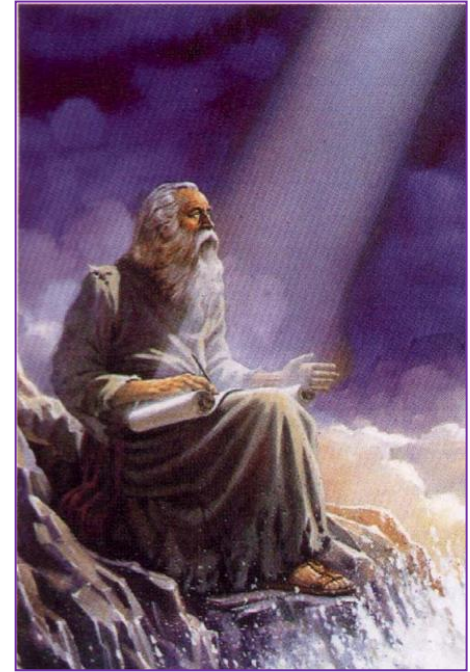
- These errors are important to understand since these attacks on the deity of Christ are just as prevalent today as then.
- Each cult group involves a strategy to misrepresent some aspect of revealed truth in regards to Christ and His redemptive work.
- These views undermine the very foundations of the Christian faith, and attack the person and work of Jesus Christ.



## 2 John Introduction - GNOSTICISM

- Gnostic Heresy

- To them, He was but one of God's many "emanations" and not the very Son of God, come in the flesh.
- The Incarnation means "*God with us*" (Matthew 1:23), but these false teachers claimed that God was keeping His distance from us!
- When we trust the Son of God, there is no need for any intermediary beings between us and heaven!



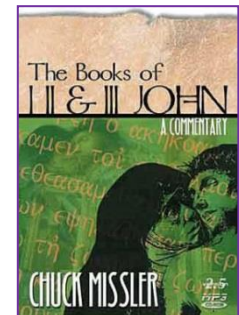
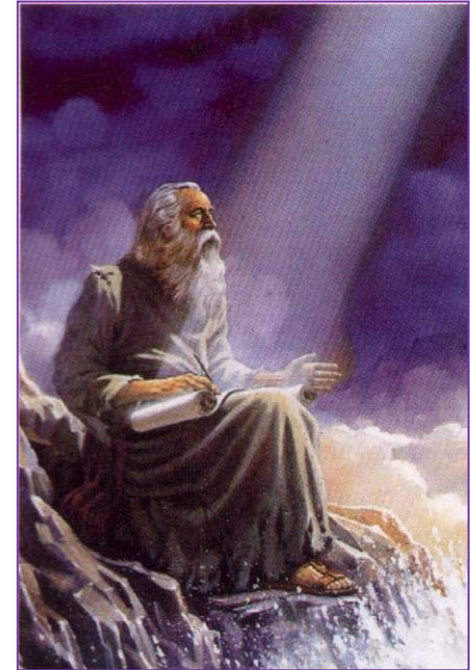
## 2 John 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

- **FROM: The Elder**
  - John's reference to himself
  - Oldest and only living Apostle at this time
- **TO: The Elect Lady and her Children**
  - **Who is "the Elect Lady"?**
    - This identity is the primary mystery of the letter.
    - Three options are possible

EACH  
OPTION HAS  
ITS PROS  
AND CONS.

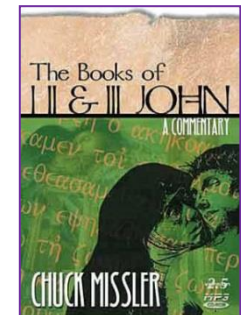
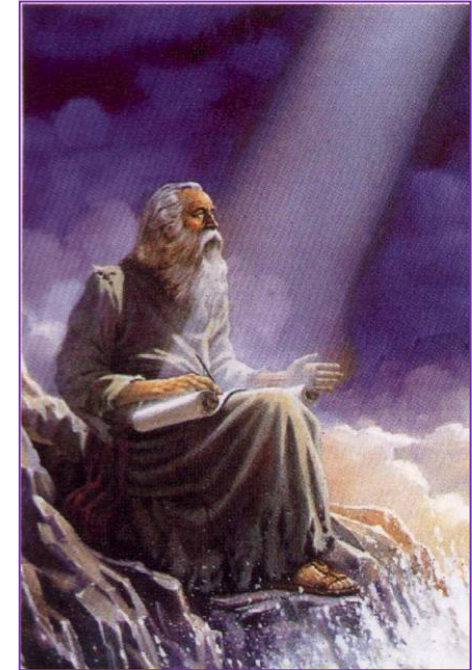
- 1) An idiom for the church
- 2) Proper name of a woman of some import in the Ephesian church
- 3) Mary the mother of Jesus



## 2 John 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

- **THREE OPTIONS ... (1) Idiom for the church**
  - **PROS:**
    - This view of a symbolic description of the Christian Church has occurred consistently since as early as Jerome.
  - **CONS:**
    - The view of believers as “children of the Church” may have been comfortable for Jerome, for ecclesiastical reasons, but it flies in the face of Scriptural usage.
    - We are “children of God,” not “children of the Church.”
    - The Church is presented as ...
      - a virgin - 2 Corinthians 11:2
      - the bride - John 3:29; Revelation 18:23; 21:2, 9; 22:17; Ephesians 5:22-27.

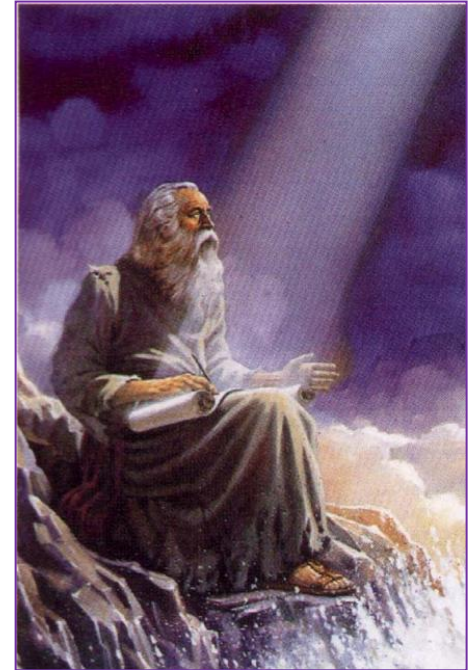




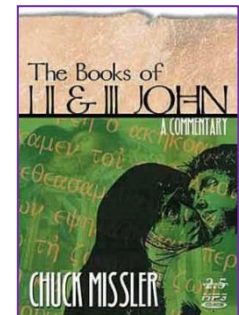
## 2 John 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

- THREE OPTIONS ... (2) Proper Name\*
  - PROS:
    - This seems clear from a straight-forward reading. The writer knows her sister and her sister's children (v.13). *Note this view would make this the only book in the Bible specifically addressed to a woman.*
  - CONS:
    - John uses a plural in reference to the elect lady in verses 6, 8, 10, 12. One explanation for this is that the family of the “Elect Lady” is in view.



\*Proper Name for “Lady” is **Kyria**  
[in Hebrew - **Martha**]





## 2 John 1:1 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

- THREE OPTIONS ... (3) Mary the Mother of Jesus

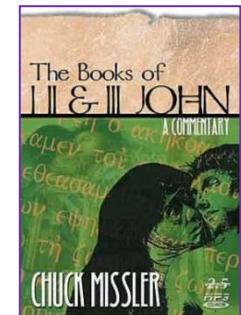
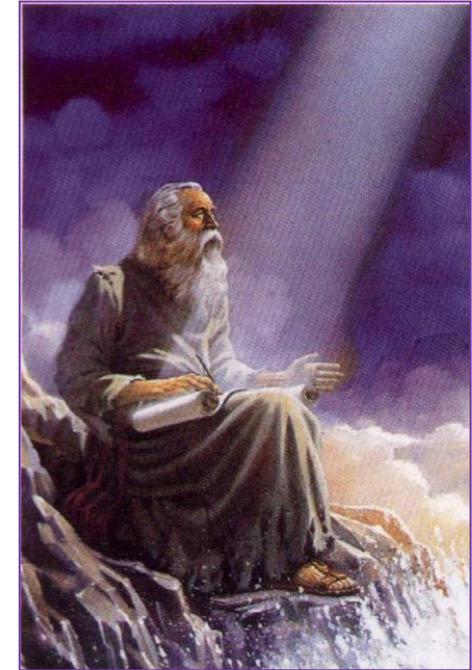
- PROS:

- To me, the most likely *prima facie* suggestion is that the recipient of this intimate letter is the most “elect” of all women, the very one that Jesus Himself entrusted to John’s personal care: Mary, the mother of Jesus (John 19:26-27) and she did have a sister (verse 13; John 19:25).

- CONS:

- John uses a plural in reference to the elect lady in verses 6, 8, 10, 12. One explanation for this is that the family of the “Elect Lady” is in view.
    - The date may also be an issue
      - AD 80 vs AD 90+
      - Mary would be in her 90’s or 100’s

SAME CON  
AS PREVIOUS  
OPTION



## 2 John 1:2 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>2</sup> because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

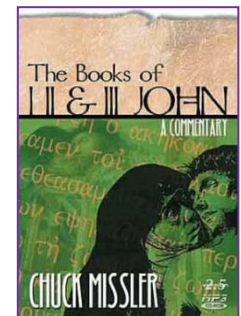
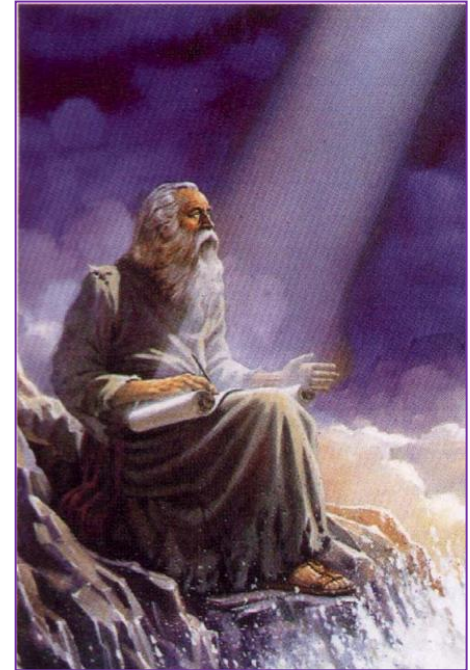
- **The Truth**

IF you take love away from truth  
THEN you don't have Christian love.

- Real love always operates within the sphere of truth.

- **Abides in us**

- The truth that abides in us is the Spirit of Truth - the Holy Spirit that comes to reside in you when you are "Born-Again".
- This Holy Spirit will be with us forever.



## 2 John 1:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, *and* peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

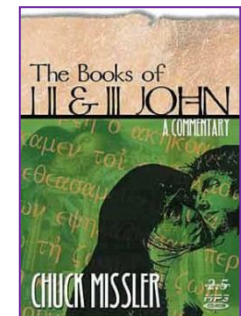
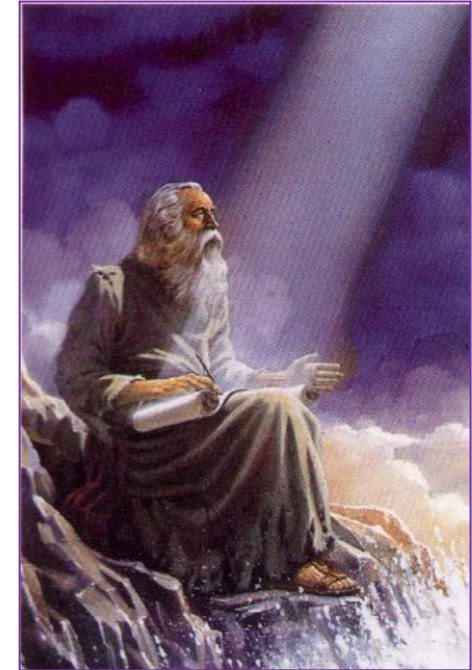
- **Grace, Mercy, and Peace will be with you**
  - Grace is getting what we don't deserve
    - **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense
  - Mercy is not getting what we do.
- **Son of the Father**
  - When Jesus made the claim of sonship with God the Father, the Jewish leaders understood what He was claiming, and they tried to stone Him for blasphemy.

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father. -- 1 John 2:23

I and my Father are one. -- John 10:30

Before Abraham was, I AM. -- John 8:58

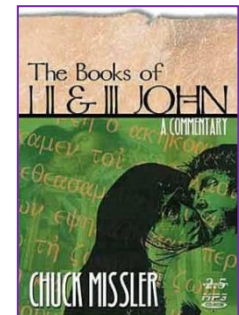
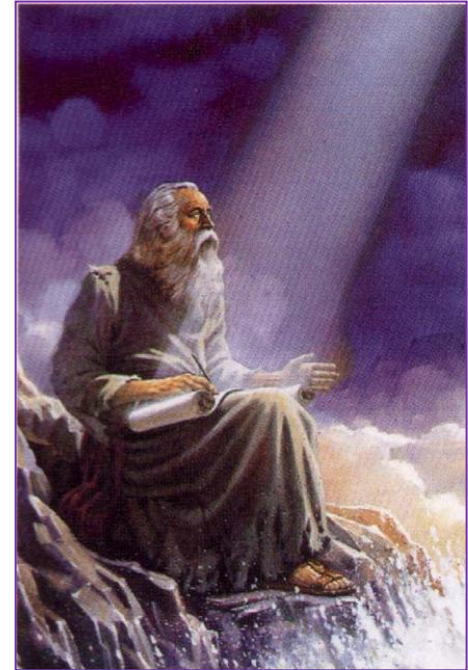
- Furthermore, this was the specific indictment for which they crucified Him (Matthew 26:63-66).



## 2 John 1:4 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

- Some of your children walking in truth
  - Jesus was raised in a family of (*at least*) 7
    - 4 brothers and 2 sisters ... [Matthew 13:55-56](#).
  - James and Jude became believers after the resurrection; in fact, they each wrote books in the NT that bear their names.
  - Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#)).



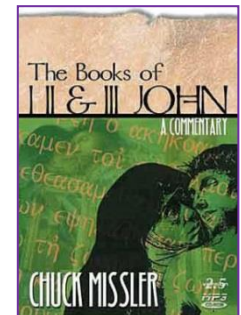
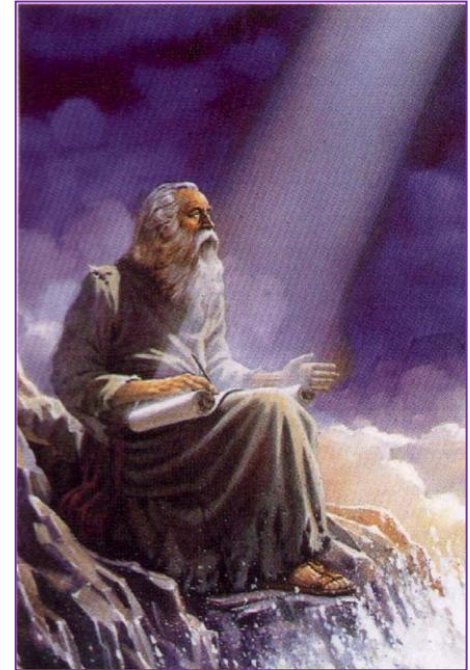


## 2 John 1:4 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

- Walking in truth

- The issue here, as in all these letters, is that love and truth must be practiced: “walked.”
- “To walk in the truth” means to obey it.
- It is easier to study the truth, or even argue about the truth, than it is to obey it.
- Knowing the truth is more than giving assent to a series of doctrines; it means that the believer’s life is controlled by a love for the truth and a desire to magnify the truth.

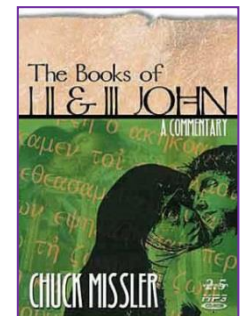
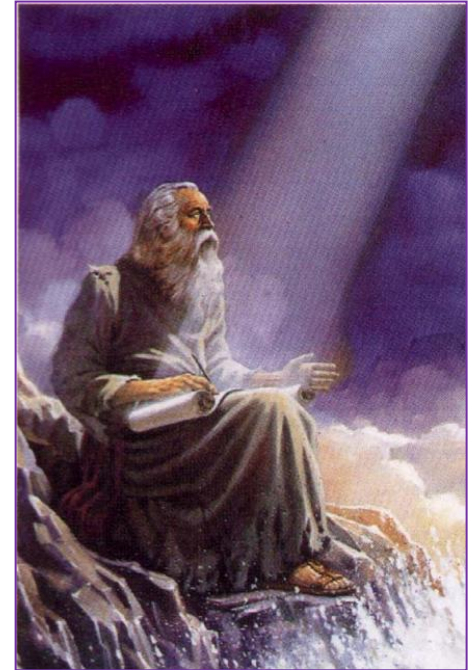


## 2 John 1:5 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>5</sup> And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

- **From the Beginning**

- Not a new commandment
- But the commandment which was from the beginning
- The recipient was not a latecomer: she was there “from the beginning”





## 2 John 1:6 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>6</sup> This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

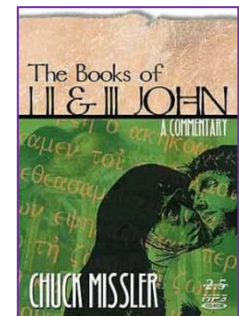
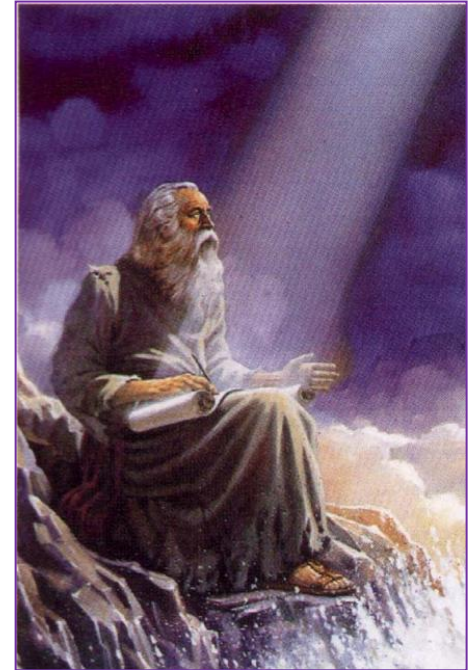
- **This is love**

- Love is a commandment.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

--- John 14:15 ... NKJV

- Real love is a choice, not an emotion.
  - I choose to love you.
- When I obey, I do what God tells me to do.

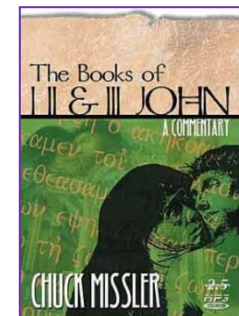
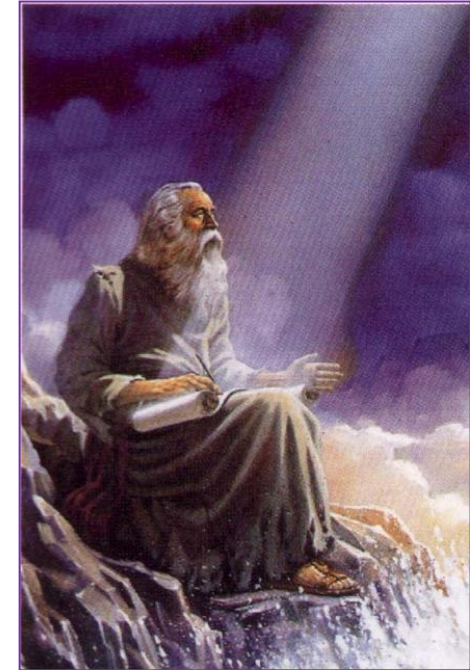


## 2 John 1:7 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

- Coming in the flesh
  - Here is a clear response to the prevalent Gnostic teachings.
    - Those who taught it were deceivers and antichrists.
  - They were teaching that Jesus Christ was not really a person, just a phantom.
    - When He walked He did not leave footprints.

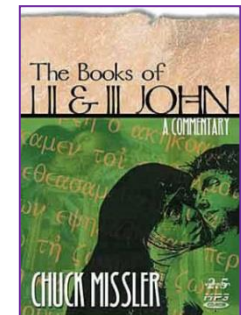
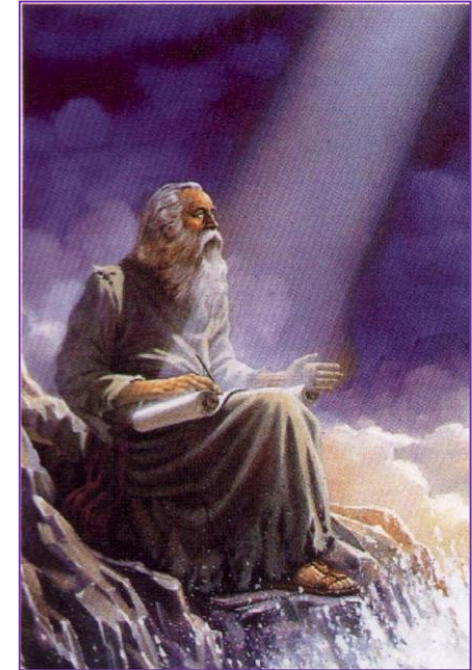
HOW DO YOU THINK THIS Gnostic TEACHING WOULD HAVE AFFECTED MARY?



## 2 John 1:8 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>8</sup> Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.

- Look to yourselves
  - Be on guard against these false teachers
- We do not lose
  - There is a shift from “you” to “we”
  - John is encouraging Mary, by including himself in the admonition to be on guard, so that they ...
    - Would not lose those things they worked for
    - Would receive a full reward of Grace

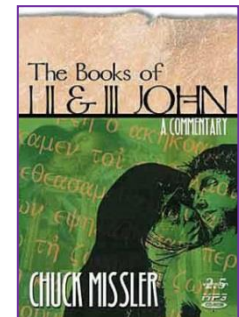
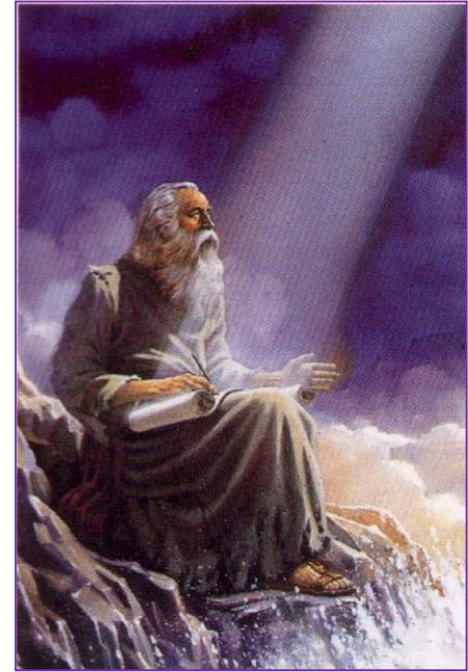


## 2 John 1:9 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>9</sup> Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

### • Doctrine of Christ

- John was not one to suggest that all religious teachings are true in one way or another, and that we should not be critical just as long as people are sincere.
- To John, there was a deadly difference.
- He that does not have Christ does not have God the Father.
- The Father and the Son are inseparable.
- They are members and co-equals of the trinity.



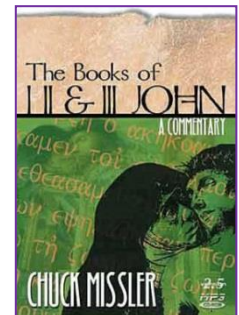
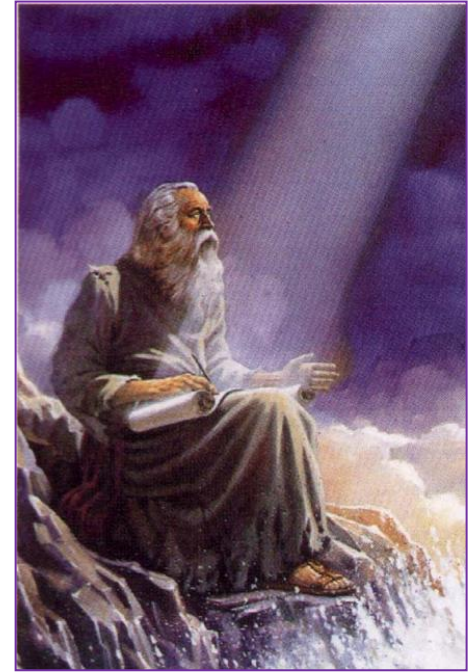


## 2 John 1:10-11 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; <sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

### • Hospitality

- Let us also remember that hospitality – especially in those rough times—was extremely critical to the ministry.
- The “hospitality industry” of motels and related services came later.
- The inns of those early days were neither safe nor adequate.
- Traveling pastors or teachers needed homes to stay in ... [3 John 5-8](#).



## 2 John 1:10-11 - OBSERVATIONS

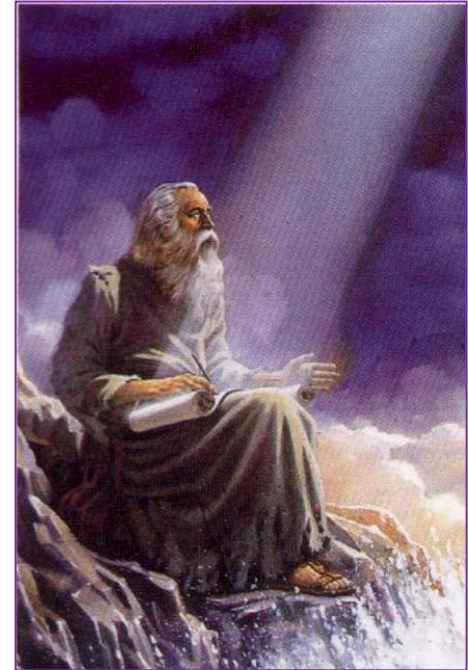
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### • Hospitality

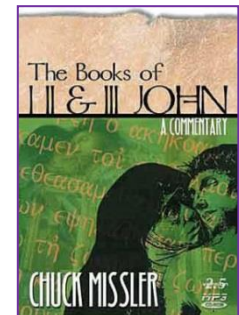
- Christians are admonished to open their homes to visitors.

Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; 5:3-10; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:8-10.

- But the context here can be considered providing respite to itinerant speakers: We must not let the poison of false doctrine get into our home.
  - “Goodbye” means “God be with you”; it is a petition for God’s blessing and sanction.



SHOULD A CHRISTIAN ALLOW A JEHOVAH WITNESS INTO THEIR HOUSE?





# Lesson 01 - Outline

## ▪ 2 John: The Elect Lady

- Lesson 01: False Teachers

- ✓ **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**

- Scripture Text - 2 John 1:1-13

- ✓ **WALK IN CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS**

- Watch Out for False Teachers  
(1:1-11)

- ➡ - Final Words  
(1:12-13)



## 2 John 1:12 - OBSERVATIONS

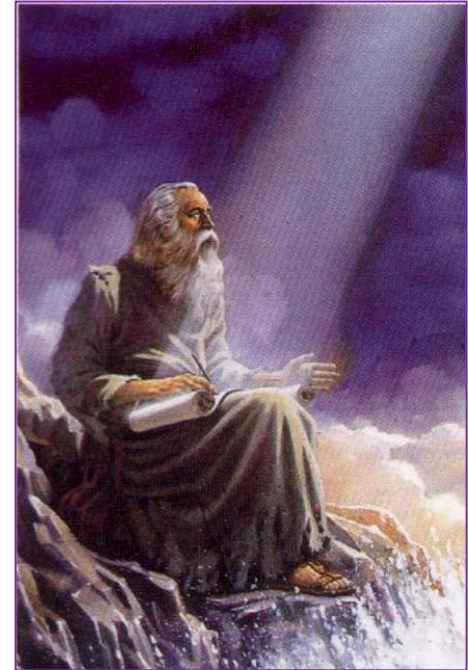
<sup>12</sup> Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

- **Speak Face to Face**

- John had many more things to say but did not wish to email - write with paper and ink
- John wanted to speak with Mary face to face

- **Why?**

- That our joy may be full
- To speak in person is a more personal form of communication



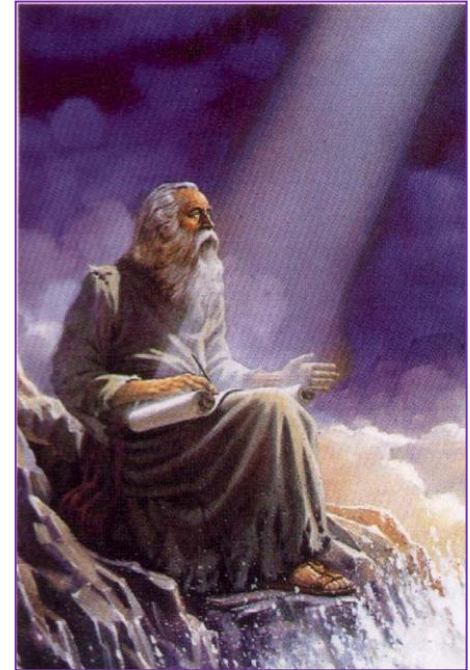
## 2 John 1:13 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>13</sup> The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

- Children of your elect sister
  - This verse also argues for the addressee to be a specific individual.
  - Yes, Mary did have a sister; [John 19:25](#).

<sup>25</sup> Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and **His mother's sister**, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

--- [John 19:25-27](#) ... NKJV





WELL DONE, GOOD AND  
FAITHFUL  
SERVANT





# 3 John: Walk in Truth

## Lesson 01: Live by the Truth

### ***Next Week's Lesson***



## Next Week's Lesson

### ▪ 3 John: Walk in Truth

- Lesson 01: Live by the Truth ... [3 JOHN 1:1-14]



