

**This book is one of the letters
that the Apostle John wrote to
his fellow believers. We call this
book
2 John**

2 John 1-3

I, the Elder, write to the congregation and to all the members. I love you and know that God the Father and his Son will bless us.

¹ You all know me as the chief Elder. I am writing this letter to all of you [MET] in your congregation. God has chosen you, and I love you truly! Not only do I myself love you, but all those who know *and accept the true message that Jesus taught* also love you! ² All of us *believe God's true message*. It is in our *◀inner beings/hearts▶* and we will continue *to believe it forever!* ³ God the Father and Jesus Christ, who is *◀his Son/the man who is also God▶*, will continue *to act kindly and mercifully toward us because they love us. They will enable us to have inner peace, because we believe their true message.*

I am happy that some of your members are living just like God commanded us to live.

2 John 4

⁴ I am very happy because I learned about some of you [SYN] who are conducting your lives in a manner that is *◀consistent/in accordance▶*

with *God's true message*. You are doing that just like our Father *God* commanded us *to do*.

Continue to love each other just like God commanded us to love when we first began to believe his true message.

2 John 5-6

⁵ And now, dear congregation [MET], *there is something that I am requesting you to do*. I am writing this not to command that you do something new, but *that you continue to do* what God commanded when we first began [MTY] *to believe his true message*. *What he commanded* is that we love each other. ⁶ And *we really/truly* are loving *God* when we are conducting our lives in accordance with whatever he commands *us to do*. What he commands us to do is to *continue to love one another*. That is exactly what you heard when you first began [MTY] *to believe God's true message*.

Be on your guard against teachers of false doctrine, so that you will receive your complete reward of being with God eternally. Do not welcome or encourage any of these false teachers in any way.

2 John 7-11

⁷ Many people who deceive *others* have left *your congregation* and have now gone out among other people who are *in your area* [MTY]. They are the ones who ◀do not acknowledge/refuse to say▶ that Jesus Christ became human. They are the very ones who deceive *people* and oppose *what we teach about Christ*. ⁸ So be sure that you

do not let those teachers deceive you! If you let them deceive you, you will lose *the reward* which we, *together with you*, have been working for, and you will not receive the complete reward *of being eternally united to God!* ⁹ Those who change what Christ taught and do not continue to *believe* what he taught do not have a *relationship with God*. *But* those who continue to believe *what Christ* taught have a *close relationship with both God, our Father*, and with *his Son/the one who is also God*. ¹⁰ So when anyone comes to you who teaches something different from *what Christ* taught, do not welcome him into your homes! Do not *encourage him* by *wishing him well/greeting him as a fellow believer* *in any way!* ¹¹ *I say that* because if you treat people like that as you would treat a fellow believer, *God will punish you* along with them for the evil that they do.

Instead of writing much more to you, I expect to come and talk directly with you. The members of your sister congregation greet you.

2 John 12-13

¹² *Even though* I have much *more that I want* to tell you, I have decided not to *say it* in a letter [MTY]. Instead, I expect to be with you *soon* and talk directly with you. Then we can be completely joyful *together*. ¹³ Your fellow believers here [MET], ones whom *God* has also chosen, *send their greetings to you/say that they are thinking affectionately about you*.

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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