

## 2 John-by Tommy Lee

### Chapter 1

In this brief letter John is writing *"to the elect lady and her children"* (v.1), which is generally regarded as a particular church (the elect bride of Christ) and her members. Note the two prominent themes intertwined throughout: truth and love. The inter-related themes begin in the very first verse: *"whom I love in truth."* To love without truth leads to ungoverned, disordered lawlessness... which is not at all pleasing to God. To champion truth without love leads to heartless, judging legalism... which is likewise not at all pleasing to God. God's truth creates love in the family of God, as his truth *"abides in us and [is] with us forever."* And what is God's truth, ultimately? *"I am... the truth,"* Jesus said. Note how these two themes play out with regard to the Christian's posture towards false teachers within the church—that is, those who, in the name of Christianity, publicly promote lies that are in obvious conflict with the fundamental truths of Scripture (vv.7-11). Love and pray for them, but take **no** part in serious error. **None**

### -Reflecting on 2 John-

Before moving on to our next book of the Bible, take some time today to reflect on what we've read in 2 John. Perhaps re-visit a favorite chapter or an especially meaningful passage. Or read the beginning chapter(s) again, now that you've read the whole. Or go back to a part of the book that struck you as curious and see if it makes more sense now. Or speed-read the whole thing again, seeking to reinforce its main themes. Or... perhaps you need a catch-up day to finish 2 John before we move forward?

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. John 16.13*