

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF

VER. 1]

JOHN.

[VER. 13

WRITER. The Apostle John.

Date. Probably A.D. 90.

Theme. Second John gives the essentials of the personal walk of the believer in a day when "many deceivers are entered into the world" (v. 7). The key-phrase is "the truth," by which John means the body of revealed truth, the Scriptures. The Bible, as the alone authority for doctrine and life, is the believer's resource in a time of declension and apostasy.

The Epistle is in three divisions: I. The pathway of truth and love, vs. 1-6. II. The peril of unscriptural ways, vs. 7-11. III. Superscription, vs. 12, 13.

Part I. "The truth" and love inseparable in the Christian life.

THE ^aelder unto the ^belect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 For the truth's sake, ^cwhich dwelleth in us, and ^dshall be with us for ever.

3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I ^erejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, ^fthat we love one another.

6 And this is ^glove, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

After
A.D. 90.

^a Elders. 3 John 1. (Acts 11.30; Tit. 1.5-9.)

^b Election (personal). Rev. 17. 14. (Deut. 7.6; 1 Pet. 1.2.)

^c Col. 3.16.

^d 1 Pet. 1.23.

^e 1 Thes. 2.19, 20.

^f Law (of Christ). (Gal. 6.2.)

^g John 14.15;

1 John 5.3.

^h gone forth.

ⁱ kosmos (Mt. 4. 8) = mankind.

^j Jesus Christ coming in flesh.

^k the.

^l Antichrist. Rev. 16.13. (1 John 2. 18; Rev. 13.11-17.)

^m Rewards. Rev. 2.10. (Dan. 12.3; 1 Cor. 3.14.)

ⁿ Str. Rom. 3.23.

^o note.

^p Separation. Rev. 18.4. (Gen. 12.1; 2 Cor. 6.14-17.)

^q greet him.

^r greeteth him is.

^s hope.

Part II. Doctrine the final test of reality. (Cf. John 6. 60-66.)

7 For many deceivers are ^hentered into the ⁱworld, who confess not ^jthat Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is ^ka deceiver and ^{kan} antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full ^mreward.

9 Whosoever ⁿtransgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him ^onot into *your* house, neither ^pbid him God speed:

11 For he that ^qbiddeth him God speed is ^rpartaker of his evil deeds.

Part III. Superscription.

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not *write* with paper and ink: but I ^rtrust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of thy ^belect sister greet thee. Amen.

¹ The new "law of Christ" is the divine love, as wrought into the renewed heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5. 5; Heb. 10. 16), and outflowing in the energy of the Spirit, unforced and spontaneous, toward the objects of the divine love (2 Cor. 5. 14-20; 1 Thes. 2. 7, 8). It is, therefore, "the law of liberty" (Jas. 1. 25; 2. 12), in contrast with the external law of Moses. Moses' law demands love (Lev. 19. 18; Deut. 6. 5; Lk. 10. 27); Christ's law is love (Rom. 5. 5; 1 John 4. 7, 19, 20), and so takes the place of the external law by fulfilling it (Rom. 13. 10; Gal. 5. 14). It is the "law written in the heart" under the New Covenant (Heb. 8. 8, *note*).