

2 John

1-4, Greeting

5-11, Body

- 5-7, Exposition
- 8-11, Exhortation
 - 8-9, Examine Yourselfs
 - 10-11, Examine Visitors

12-13, Closing

3 John

1-4, Greeting

5-12, Body

- 5-8, Welcome visitors
- 9-11, Censure Diotrephes
- 12, Welcome Demetrius

13, Closing

Introduction to 2, 3 John

- How is 2 John linked to 1 John?
- What common social structure do 2 John and 3 John share?
- What two mistakes can leaders of a local church make, with respect to visitors?
- What does “truth” mean in John’s epistles?
- What three things does John identify with “truth”?
- How does the lack of John’s name reflect his Gospel?
- We have suggested that the Lady is an individual who, with her family, hosts a local assembly. What other NT epistle reflects a family like this?
- What are the three clauses of vv. 1b-2, and how are they connected to each other?

Features of 2, 3 John

- Letters to individuals (Gaius; a woman “Lady”)

2 John: the Three Signs

2Jn 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. [sign of righteousness] 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, that we love one another. [sign of love] 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. [orthodox belief] This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Hospitality to Visitors

3Jn 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Four Kinds of People

Two Kinds of Visitors:

2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, 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 not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

3Jn 1:12 **Demetrius** hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Within the Assembly:

3Jn 1:5 **Beloved**, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; ...

3Jn 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but **Diotrephes**, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Visitors

- **False teachers** to avoid (2 John 1:9)
- Godly brethren (**Demetrius**, 3 John 1:12)

The Assembly

- **Discerning saints** (3 John 1:5-8)
- Domineering elders (**Diotrephes**, 3 John 1:9)

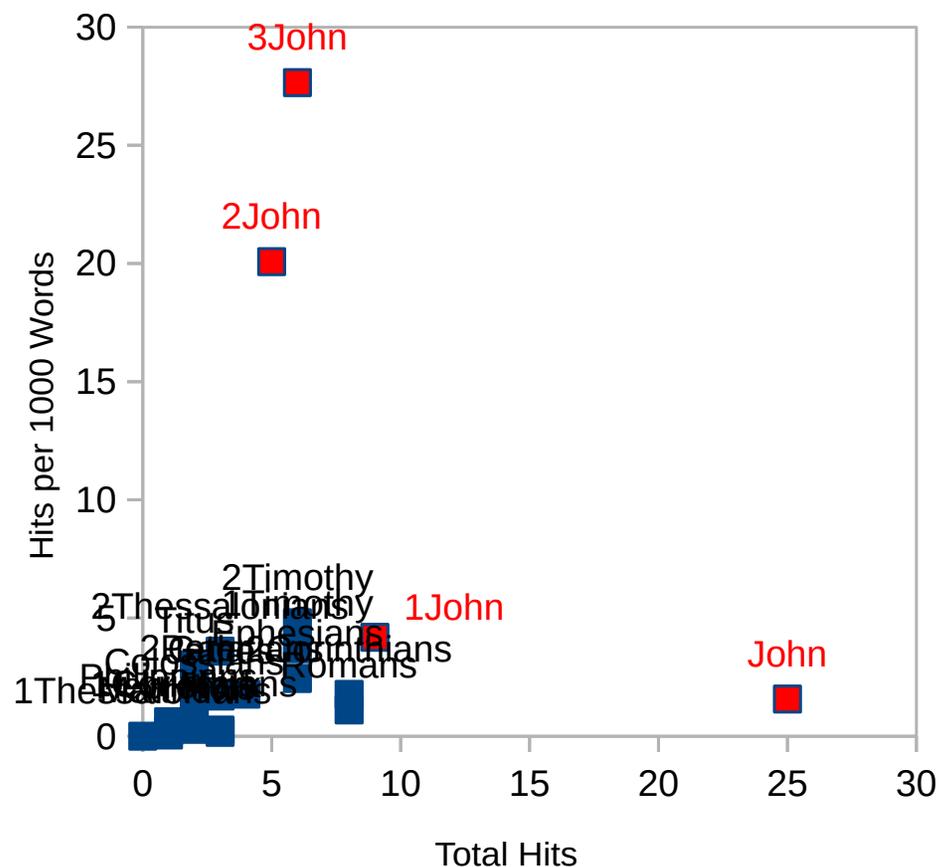
Key Word: Truth (ἀλήθεια *alētheia* G225)

Jhn 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should **bear witness unto the truth**. Every one that is of the **truth** heareth my voice. 38 Pilate saith unto him, What is **truth**?

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.

Jhn 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1Jn 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because **the Spirit is truth**.



→ In John, “truth” = “the message that God has revealed”

- Why does the Revelation *not* use *alētheia*?

Greeting: “The Elder”

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Contrasts

1. “Elder” vs. “Apostle”

1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2. “The” vs. “an”

3. No Name

Jhn 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth **the disciple whom Jesus loved** following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? ... 24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

From: contrast ...

Rom 1:1 **Paul**, a **servant** of Jesus Christ, called to be an **apostle**,

Tit 1:1 **Paul**, a **servant** of God, and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ,

1Pe 1:1 **Peter**, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ,

Greeting: “Elect Lady [Kyria]”

Parallel with Philemon

Woman or Church?

2Jn 1:8 Look to **yourselves**, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, 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 (pl)** him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write unto **you**, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto **you**, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

Gal 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

2Jn 1:13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

Phm 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto **Philemon** our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer, 2 And to our beloved **Apphia**, and **Archippus** our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Col 4:17 And say to **Archippus**, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

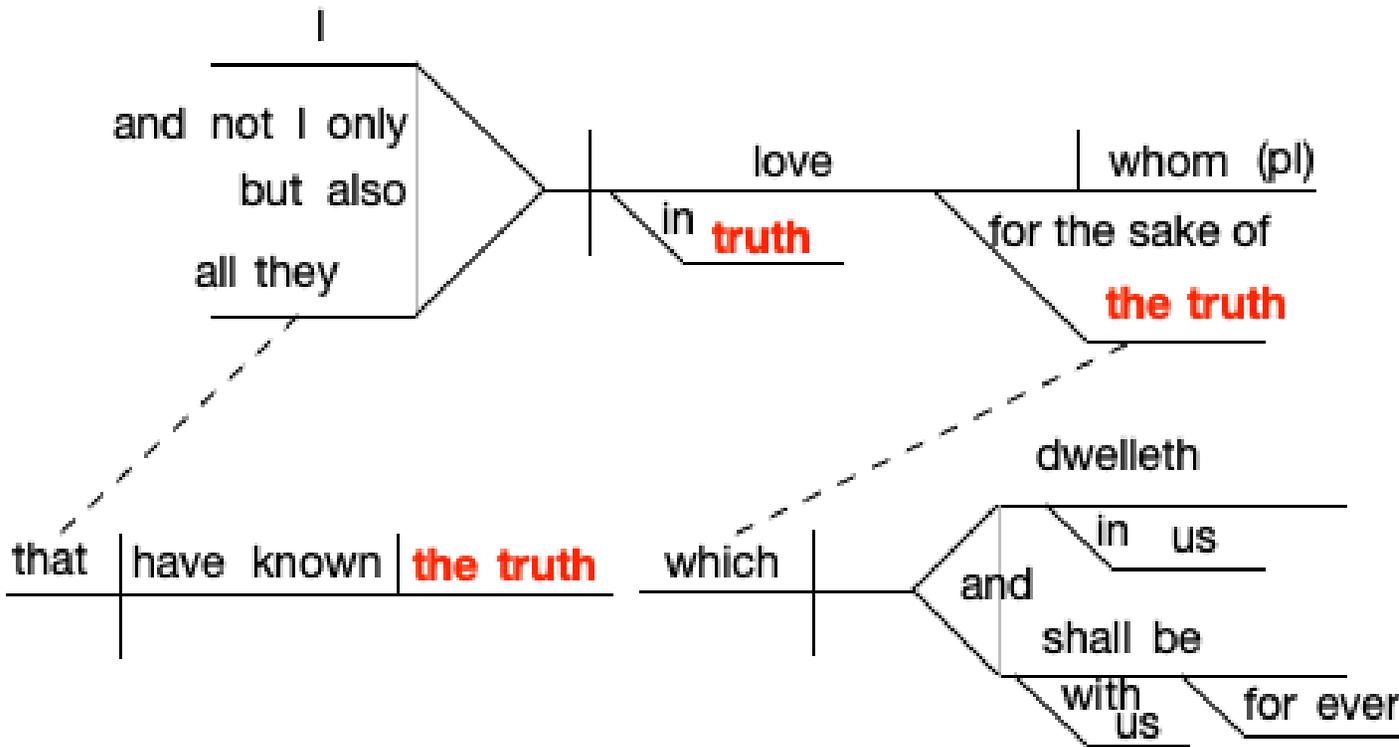
Phm 1:22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through **your** prayers I shall be given unto **you**. ... 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with **your** spirit. Amen.

Women Hosting Churches

Act 12:12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to **the house of Mary** the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Act 16:40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into **the house of Lydia**: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

Love “in truth”



What is “the truth”?

John 14:6 **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life.

“dwelleth [abideth] in us” → Jhn 15:4 **Abide** in me, and **I in you**.

“shall be in us for ever” → Mat 28:20 lo, **I am with you** alway, **even unto the end of the world**.

A Parallel in Paul ...

Eph 4:20 But ye have not so **learned Christ**;
21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as **the truth is in Jesus**:

... and in 1 John

1 John 3:18 My little children, **let us** not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and **in truth**. 19 And **hereby we know that we are of the truth**, and shall assure our hearts before him.

Lee L. Kantenwein, *Diagrammatical Analysis*. 1979: BMH Books, Winona Lake, IN