

Teaching on 2 John

Date: It is thought that this letter was written from Ephesus around 90 C.E. (Common Era).

Author: According to early church tradition, this letter was written by the Apostle John. Yet the author does not refer to himself as an apostle, but rather as “the Elder.” The term “Elder” was used by both Jews as well as Natzerines (believers in Messiah Yeshua) for venerating religious teachers and could have been used of John later in his life (see 1 Peter 5:1). Some scholars support that the elder John who wrote this letter may have been a disciple of the apostle John (see 1 John 1:1).

Theme: The theme of this letter contains (1) the walk of the believer (2) deceivers (3) warnings regarding how they deceive.

SALUTATION

2 John 1:1-2 “¹The elder, to a chosen **Kuria** (a well respected lady—most honorable) and her children, whom I love in **truth**, and not only I, but also all those who have known the **truth**,²because of the TRUTH which stays in us (**IF** we are obedient to doing what His Word teaches us to do from His Torah/Law) and shall be with us forever: (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

COMMENTARY: We all remember in John 18:38 where “Pilate said to Him (Yeshua), ‘**What is truth?**’ ” Many times we all have our own “idea” of what “**truth**” really is. The Scriptures, in fact, defines the term “**truth**” if we search for it. I would like to present the following definition based on Avi Ben Mordechai’s book “Messiah—Understanding His Life and Teachings in Hebraic Context-Volume 1.” (www.m7000.com/products/books.html)

TRUTH

Not only is the Law (the Torah) a source of light but it is also the L-rd’s embodiment of truth. All which is true, right, good, holy, and pure in this world is measured by the greatest truth that G-d has displayed: Torah. Again, in our *Tanakh* [Old Testament] dictionary we find this sampling of the biblical definition of truth: [Emphasis mine]

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **Thy law [Torah] is truth.** (Mizmor [Psalm] 119:142, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Thy **law [Torah] of truth** was in his mouth, and iniquity [unrighteousness] was not found in his lips: He walked with Me in peace and equity [straightness], and did turn many away from iniquity [lawlessness--crookedness]. (Malachi 2:6, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Again, in Hebrew, the word “law” used in these passages is Torah:

(HaMelech [the king] David said to Shlomo [Solomon]) ...keep the charge of the Lord your God, to **walk** [do] in His ways, to **keep**

[obey] **His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law [Torah] of Moses**, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, “**IF** your sons are careful of their way, to **walk** before Me (Yahweh) **in truth** with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.” (Melechim Aleph [1 Kings] 2:3-4, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

SIDE NOTE: Where will you find (1) His Statutes (2) His Commandments (3) His Ordinances and (4) His Testimonies? You will find all of them in the Torah.

And do not take the **word of truth** utterly out of my mouth, For I **wait for Thine ordinances**. So I will **keep Thy law** [Torah] continually, forever and ever. (Mizmor [Psalm] 119:43-44, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

I will bow down toward Thy Holy Temple, and **give thanks** to Thy Name [and not His various titles] for Thy lovingkindness and **Thy truth**; for Thou hast **magnified Thy word** according to all Thy Name. (Mizmor [Psalm] 138:2, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Thou art near, O Lord, and all **Thy commandments are truth**. (Mizmor [Psalm] 119:151, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Established on the everlasting premise that the Moasic Torah of the L-rd is truth, HaMashiach [the Messiah] Y’shua [Jesus] prayed to His Father on behalf of His “students:” [Emphasis mine]

Sanctify them in the truth; **Thy word is truth**. (Yochanan [John] 17:17, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

If the Father answered Y’shua’s [Jesus’] request, and I believe He did, then it means we who choose to receive Y’shua as HaMachiach [the Messiah] will also receive the Torah which in turn sanctifies us and sets us apart in the world. And **what is the Torah? It is the Word**. And **what is the “Word?” It is truth**. And **what is “Truth?” It is the Torah!** With this understanding the teachings of Y’shua come alive: [Emphasis mine]

Pilate therefore said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, **to bear witness to the truth** (Moasic Torah). Everyone who is **of the truth hears My voice**.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” (Yochanan [John] 18:37-38, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “**IF** you abide [keep, do] in **My word** (Moasic Torah), **THEN** you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know **the truth**, and **the truth** shall make you free.” (Yochanan [John] 8:31-32, KJV) [Emphasis mine]

Just in case you missed it, notice that Y'shua [Jesus] also defined the word **freedom** for us when He said, "and **the truth** shall make you free." Since we know **Torah is truth** then we also know that **Torah observance is true freedom; anything else is bondage**. This explains Shaul's [Paul's] terminology in Galatians 5:1 which is a teaching on Yochanan [John] 8:31-32 and Mizmor [Psalm] 119:32, 45. [Emphasis mine]

Finally from the learned Torah scholars of ancient Judaism we have this sampling on the link between Torah and truth:

...[Thereupon] he said unto me: "Listen attentively [to] what you [are about to] hear." And I heard them say: "**Moses and his Torah are truth**..." (Baba Bathra 74a) [Emphasis mine]

R. Johanan said to him...He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, prosperity and honour. "**Truth is Torah**, for it is said: **Buy the truth and sell it not**." (Berechoth 5b and Mishle (Proverbs) 23:23. Also see Avodah Zerah 4b) [Emphasis mine]

End of Commentary....

So, now we know what the term "**truth**" means from the Scriptures. There are many other terms the Scriptures define for us IF we take the time to search them out.

2 John 1:3 "Favour, compassion, peace [Shalom] be with you from Elohim the Father, and from the Master יהושע (Yeshua) Messiah, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

WALKING IN "TRUTH"

2 John 1:4-6 "⁴I rejoiced greatly because I found some of your children **walking in truth**, as we received a command (all the commandments we received from our Father are those in the Mosaic Torah/Law) from the Father. ⁵And now I ask you, Kuria (a well respected lady—greatly honored), not as though I wrote a fresh command to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. ⁶And this is the love, that (the Torah which is Yahweh's Teachings and Instructions) we **walk according to His commands**. This is the command, that as you have heard from the beginning (the Torah given to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai), you should walk (keep/be obedient to do) in it." (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

SIDE NOTE: What does it mean in verse 6 above where it says "...**walk according to His commands**?" Looking at 1 John 5:2-3 "²By this we know that we love the children (fellow believers in Messiah Yeshua/Jesus) of Elohim (God/Mighty One), when we love Elohim and **guard** (keep/be obedient to doing His Word) His commands (which were given to all mankind at Mount Sinai). ³For this is the love **for** Elohim, that we **guard** (keep/be obedient to doing His Word) **His commands**, and **His commands are not heavy**," (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

Yeshua Himself clearly told us in John 14:15 "**IF** you love Me, **you shall guard** (keep/be obedient to doing His Word) **My commands**." (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

Did Yeshua/Jesus “re-write His Father’s Commands?” No, He did not do this. Nowhere in Scripture will we find where He re-wrote, did away with His Father’s Teachings and Instructions. It simply does not exist.

We know that Yeshua (Jesus) was asked which is the greatest command in Matthew 22:36 where it is written “Teacher, which is the great command in the Torah?” and Yeshua’s reply to this is noted in Matthew 22:37-40 “³⁷And יהושע (Yeshua) said to him, “ ‘You shall love יהוה (Yahweh) your Elohim (God) with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great command. ³⁹And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰**On these two commands hang all the Torah and the Prophets.**” ” (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

HEBREW MATH

We “think” we know the meaning of these two commandments Yeshua/Jesus gave us. But do we really know what He said here? Permit me to express what I call “Hebrew Math.” Hebrew Math goes like this: Yeshua, as we have just read, gave us two commands. This is like giving us a “**one liner**.” Taking it a little deeper, we can say “How do I love יהוה (Yahweh) my God with all my heart, and with all my being, and with all my mind?” We know “how” by looking at the first four of the Ten Commandments. This is how we can do this. Let us review these first four commandments.

Exodus 20:3-11 “³You have no other mighty ones (gods) against My face. ⁴You do not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of that which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth, ⁵you do not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, יהוה (Yahweh) your Elohim am a jealous El (Mighty One), visiting the crookedness of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and **guard** (keep/do/obey) **My commands**. ⁷You do not bring (or lift up or take) the Name of יהוה (Yahweh) your Elohim (God) to naught (nothing), for יהוה (Yahweh) does not leave the one unpunished who brings His Name to naught. ⁸**Remember the Sabbath day**, to set it apart. ⁹Six days you labour, and shall do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath (There are other Sabbaths, but this is the weekly Sabbath.) of יהוה (Yahweh) your Elohim. **You do not do any work – you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.** ¹¹For in six days יהוה (Yahweh) made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore **יהוה (Yahweh) blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart.**” (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

By keeping these first four Commandments of the Ten Commandments, we can prove our pure “love” for Him. He and He alone has given us His Instructions on how we, His children, are to love Him. He has established the “only” acceptable way to “love” Him. To “try” to love Him any other way than obeying His Word is not “true” love toward Him.

Now, continuing with the second part, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” How do we do this? Again, this is easy **IF** we look to the last six of the Ten Commandments. Let us review these last six of the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 20:12-17 “¹²Respect your father and your mother, so that your days are prolonged upon the soil which יהוה (Yahweh) your Elohim (God) is giving you. ¹³You do not murder. ¹⁴You do not commit adultery. ¹⁵You do not steal. ¹⁶You do not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷You do not covet your neighbour’s house, you do not covet your neighbour’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, or whatever belongs to your neighbour.” (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

So, when we are obedient to the Ten Commandments we are loving Him and our neighbor as ourselves. This is demonstrating our true love for Him according to His Instructions to us.

It was stated earlier when Yeshua/Jesus gave the two commandments that this was a “**one liner**.” Now that we have expanded this a little bit, we have now graduated to a “**sentence**.”

Now, we can take all this to a whole new level. Thus far our Hebrew Math looks like this: The 2 Commands Yeshua gave us =’s The 10 Commandments.

We will now take it to the final stage of this equation: The 2 Commands Yeshua gave us =’s The 10 Commandments =’s The 613 Instructions given to us in the Mosaic Torah that we all know as “The Law.” Contained within these 613 Instructions, we get even more instructions and clarity of how we can love Yahweh with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. The breakdown of these 613 Instructions is a paper in and of itself and will not be a part of this teaching.

WARNING AGAINST DECEIVERS-ANTI-MESSIAH and BACKSLIDING

2 John 1:7-9 “⁷For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world, people who do not acknowledge Yeshua the Messiah’s coming as a human being. **Such a person is a deceiver and an anti-Messiah.** ⁸**Watch yourselves**, so that you won’t lose (your Heavenly rewards) what you have worked for, but will receive your full reward. ⁹Everyone who goes ahead and does not remain true (that Messiah Yeshua came in the flesh of mankind, lived among His creation, suffered and died on the stake/cross for our sins, raised the third day and ascended to Heaven and is seated on the right side of Yahweh’s Throne) to what the Messiah has taught does not have

God (Almighty Yahweh). Those who **remain true** to His teaching (the Torah) have both the Father and the Son.” (The Scriptures Translation) [Emphasis mine]

If we come across someone who denies that Yeshua/Jesus came in the physical flesh of mankind—lived among His creation, suffered and died on the stake/cross for our sins, raised the third day and ascended to Heaven and is seated on the right side of Yahweh’s Throne; we are to abstain from greeting them and having fellowship with them because by doing so, we are opening ourselves to the enemy and possible loss of rewards.

WHAT TO DO WITH “FALSE” TEACHERS

2 John 1:10-11 “¹⁰If someone comes to you and does not bring this teaching (that Yeshua/Jesus came in the physical flesh of mankind—lived among His creation, suffered and died on the stake/cross for our sins, raised the third day and ascended to Heaven and is seated on the right side of Yahweh’s Throne), don’t welcome him (or her) into your home. Don’t even say, “Shalom (Peace)!” to him (or her); ¹¹for the person who says, “Shalom!” to him (or her) shares in his evil deeds.” (Complete Jewish Bible Translation) [Emphasis mine]

Needless to say, we must be careful to whom we listen to. If what they say and do does not line up with the Scriptures, we can give a word of correction from His Word and **IF** they receive it and repent, praise Yahweh!!! But, **IF** they reject correction from His Word, we are instructed to have nothing to do with that person. Do not even greet them with “Peace” because this is a clear indication that we are in agreement with their rebellion of acknowledging that Yeshua/Jesus came in the physical flesh of mankind—lived among His creation, suffered and died on the stake/cross for our sins, raised the third day and ascended to Heaven and is seated on the right side of Yahweh’s Throne.

Matthew Henry has a good commentary on verses 10 and 11:

Favour and affection partake of the sin. We may be sharers in the iniquities [lawlessness—disobedience to keeping the Torah] of others. How judicious [wise] and how cautious should the Christian be! There are many ways of sharing the guilt of other people’s transgressions [rebellion—sin]; it may be done by culpable [innocent] silence, indolence [laziness, idleness, inactivity], unconcernedness [lacking concern or interest or unwilling to become involved in something], private contribution, public countenance and assistance, inward approbation [a favorable opinion about something or somebody or sanctioning of something], open apology and defense. The Lord pardon our guilt of other persons’ sins! [Emphasis mine]

Clearly, if we know that what they speak and do does not line up with the Scriptures, we are obligated to speak up and correct them in His Agape love **IF** they have ears to hear His corrections from His Word. Otherwise, if we say nothing, we have stated that we agree with them and have taken part in their rebellion—sin. This is how Yahweh sees this. He and He alone gave us His Instructions in His Torah. All we have to do is “**obey.**”

2 John 1:12 “Having much to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink, but I expect to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy might be complete.” (The Scriptures Translation)

2 John 1:13 “The children of your chosen sister (**Kuria** --a well respected lady—most honorable) greet you. Amēn.”

CLOSING

In closing, I hope this short study of 2 John has been helpful and a blessing to you.

I use this saying I came across on the Internet a few years ago and it speaks volumes. It goes like this:

**It Is Better To Be Divided By Truth
Than United With Error!**

Shalom!

The definition of “Shalom” is: Strong’s Concordance #H7965—Hebrew Shalom A word study in the New King James version for SHALOM says: Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.

Shalom comes from the root verb Shalam—Strong’s #H7999—meaning to be complete, perfect and full.

When you speak out the word SHALOM—you are not only proclaiming peace, but all the above meanings of the word over that person—that’s a mighty blessing!!!

One Crying In The Wilderness