

Postcards from Heaven

(2 John)

- Introduction:
1. 2 John is another short postcard written by John to an individual.
 2. In this case, a lady who was a member in a local church and who was well-known and loved for her practice of the truth.
 3. In this short postcard, John reminds us of the balance involved in the Christian life.
 - a. A love for truth and a hatred for error.
 - b. A belief in truth and the practice of truth.
 4. Keep this need for balance in mind as we listen to John's instructions to this Christian woman.

I. The Need to Practice the Truth

- A. (2 John 1-6).
- B. John commends the "elect lady" and her children for their "walking" in the truth.
- C. It's not enough to know the truth, we must live it out.
- D. Christianity isn't theoretical; it's practical.
- E. It isn't experienced in the pews, but it is lived out in our homes and neighborhoods.

II. The Need to Protect the Truth

- A. (2 John 7-13).
- B. There are deceivers in the world (v. 7).
- C. Even the saved can be deceived and lose what they had worked for (v. 8).
- D. The way to protect yourself from deception is to remain in the truth (v. 9).
- E. The way to protect others from deception is to render no assistance to false teachers (vs. 10-11).

- Conclusion:
1. This brief postcard reminds us of the balance between knowing and doing; and proclaiming and defending the truth.
 2. The advice John gave to this "elect lady" is no different than what he would write to us, even today.