

## Second John

*The elder to the elect lady and her children in the truth,  
whom I love, and not only I but all who know the truth—  
for the sake of the truth which lives in us  
and will be with us forever.*

*Grace, mercy, and peace be with us: from God the Father  
and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

"Apparently John had forgotten her name," said Curious.

No, seriously. Was it a person?

"It's very odd the way he qualified 'her children.'"

Subtle, isn't it?

"'Elect lady' doesn't sound like a church. I think her name was on the envelope."

Why is she called elect?

"I can get my head around that: There's nothing subtle about the elder's main concern. Since 'the truth' is what he wants the lady to pay close attention to, he calls her 'elect' to let her know that the son of thunder doesn't doubt her standing with God."

Curious, you've been wrapping your head around something before you've read it! You should know by now there's no wisdom in that. And it belies your name.

"His first letter was about antichrists. Already in this one he's emphasized the inseparability of Jesus and God the Father."

*I rejoice greatly that I have found children of yours walking in truth,  
obeying the command we received from the Father.*

*Now I urgently implore you, lady, not with a new commandment,  
but with what we had from the beginning: that we love one another.*

*And we love him when we walk according to his commandments;  
from the beginning you heard that you should walk as he commands.*

"Apparently John had maintained contact with her children, and at least one of them had fallen for some theory that made Jesus out to be less than he was."

Okay, but isn't he onto a new subject already?

"I think I know where you're going with that, John. Let's hear the thunder!"

*However, many deceivers have gone forth into the world  
denying that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.*

*This is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

"So she can't include such a person when she obeys the command to love one another. There would be consequences, no doubt."

*So be careful lest you you lose the things we have taught;  
do not risk losing your full reward.*

*Whosoever goes without the true teaching of Christ does not have God;  
he who keeps the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*

*If anyone comes to you without holding to this true teaching,  
do not welcome him as a guest in your house: do not even greet him,  
for one who greets him partakes of his evil works.*

You were right about the thunder, Curious.

"I feel sorry for her. If she can't welcome everyone, that really complicates her hospitality. John needs to help her prepare to defend the truth."

*I have many things to write to you,  
but I prefer not to use paper and ink;  
rather I hope to come and speak face to face,  
that your joy may be made full.*

*The children of your elect sister salute you.*