

A Survey of the New Testament

Lesson 27: 2 & 3 John

December 11, 2019

Author: Second and Third John were written by the apostle _____.

- Church fathers attested to John's authorship.
- The author is not identified in these books except as "_____."
 - This would not refer to the church role of elder.
 - Rather, it refers to an older man who spoke with authority based on his _____.
 - The definite article implies that this elder was universally known in the early church.

Date:

- There are no date indicators.
- Attempts to date this epistle are based on assumptions or traditions.
- According to tradition, John wrote from _____ as late as the A.D. 90's.
- John probably wrote between A.D. _____.

"Demonstrations of Love"

2 John

Summary: In this short letter, John briefly restated the concepts that he taught in 1 John.

Recipient: Second John was written to "the elect lady and her children" (v. 1).

- The use of family terms (1, 4, 13) could mean the letter was addressed to a woman that had a particularly good Christian testimony.
- Or they could refer to churches.
 - "The elect lady" (v1) – the addressed _____
 - "Thy _____" (v4) – the church members
 - "Children of thy elect sister" (13) – members of another church
- Given the political climate in the late first century, _____ were apparently used.
- John might have avoided the word "church" for similar reasons.

Book Content Overview:

- Introduction (1-3)
 - John's love for the church (1-2)
 - Benediction (3)
- Walking in the way of truth (4-9)

- The commandment to love (4-6)
- The spirit of antichrist (7-8)
- The need to avoid “transgression” (9)
- Separation from rebels (10-11)
- Conclusion (12-13)

Interesting Question: Which came first: 1 or 2 John?

- First and Second John have very similar in content.
 - Love for the brethren
 - Avoiding the spirit of Antichrist
 - Purifying yourself from sin.
- John was exiled to Patmos near the end of his life (Rev. 1:9).
- Maybe 1 John followed 2 John when John realized he could not

_____.

“Walking in truth demonstrated” 3 John

Summary: In this short letter, John congratulated Gaius for displaying a consistent walk in truth.

Recipient: Third John was written to “_____” (v. 1).

- There were many men named Gaius in the New Testament:
 - One of Paul’s companions (Acts 19:29; 20:4)
 - Paul’s host while he wrote Romans (Rom. 16:23)
 - One of Paul’s converts in Corinth (1 Cor. 1:14)
- This was probably one of _____ own converts (v 4).

Important People:

- Gaius: the addressee who was walking in the truth
- Diotrephes: a leader who opposed the apostle John.
- Demetrius: another man who had a good report, possibly _____ this letter

Book Content Overview:

- Introduction (1)
- John’s greatest joy (2-4)
- _____ good walk (5-8)
- _____ corrupt walk (9-10)
- Two walks contrasted (11)
- John’s recommendation of Demetrius (12)
- Conclusion (13-14)

Interesting Question: Which came first: 1 or 2 John?

- Second John mentioned children who were walking in the truth (v 4).
- Third John is addressed to one of John's spiritual children who was walking in the truth (v 4).
- Third John refers to a letter that was _____ (v 9).
- Both indicate that John planned to visit.
- A possible solution.
 - Second John was written first.
 - Third John was written second when _____ did not all John's letter to be read in the church.
 - Before John could make his trip, he was exiled to Patmos.
 - He wrote 1 John from _____ as a thorough discussion of the "unwritten" topics.

Key Theme: Walk in the truth

- These two epistles are based on the three central themes of _____.
- We demonstrate our walk in the truth by:
 - Loving the brethren
 - Not having the spirit of an _____
 - Purifying ourselves from sin
- When believers walk in the truth, it is a joy for their spiritual parents.

Application: Walk in the truth and do not follow that which is evil.