

John's Letters: Lesson 14

2 and 3 John Overview and Exposition

Lesson Text: 2 and 3 John

Assignment: Read the lesson text (at least) 3-5 times and answer the questions to prepare for class discussion.

Study Guide Questions

1. Read 2 and 3 John. In what ways are these letters similar? In what ways are these letters different?
 - How is the author identified?
 - Who is the audience?
 - What words are repeated?
 - What instructions are given?
 - What warnings are given?
 - What is the stated purpose for writing?
2. Briefly note similarities and differences between these letters (2 and 3 John) and 1 John.
3. In 2 John, observe the emphasis on “truth” (5 times) and “love” (4 times). What is the connection between truth and love, suggested in this context? (2 Jn. 5-7; cf. 1 Jn. 3:23; 4:9-10; 4:13-16)
4. Explain how one goes “too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ.” How does that error manifest itself in context? (2 Jn. 9)
5. Describe the attitudes and activities of Diotrephes. (3 Jn. 9-10)
6. Thought question: Why do we need these letters? I.e. what do these letters offer and provide?