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## Structural Analysis of 2 John via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION 1:1-3
  - A. The Elder
  - B. To the elect lady and her children
    - 1. Whom I love in truth, I and all who have known the truth
      - i. Because of the truth which abides in us forever
  - C. Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you
    - 1. From God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ – The Son of the Father
      - i. In truth and love

John refers to himself as the elder here. He speaks of the truth abiding in believers now and forever. Similar to Paul's customary greetings, grace, mercy, and peace are listed here (See Romans 1:7). As in the epistle of John, truth and love continue to be key words found early on in this second letter as well.

- II. REJOICE AND PLEA 1:4-6
  - A. I rejoice that some are walking in the truth
  - B. I plead, the same commandment from before
    - 1. That we love one another
    - 2. This is love that we walk according to His commandments.

John begins with a statement confirming that some are walking in the truth, absent from this statement are affirmations of words such as "many" or "most", and he uses the word "plead" as a sense of urgency. Again, affirming the consistent message as before, God's unchanging Gospel Message to combat what he is about to address next in the letter, false teachers who are bringing another message.

- III. FALSE TEACHERS AND DECEIVERS 1:7-11
  - A. Many deceivers have gone out into the world
    - 1. These do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh
    - 2. These are deceivers and antichrists
  - B. Do not look to these, instead look to yourselves
    - 1. That you do not lose what has been worked for
    - 2. That you may receive a full reward
  - C. Whoever does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.
    - 1. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
  - D. If anyone comes to you with any other doctrine do not receive him into your house or greet him
    - 1. If you greet him you share in his evil deeds

John now shares the reason he is writing, there are those who are spreading a new and false message, denying that Jesus came in the flesh. This could be a denial of Jesus being human and God, or denying that Jesus was the Son of God. Language is consistent with identifying Jesus in the Father and Son relationship throughout the letter and John makes it clear that Jesus came in the flesh, which presents a case that both accusations could have been made. John's continual pairing of Jesus and Christ both points to the claim at deity as well as the fulfillment of Jesus' role in Old Testament prophecy being fulfilled (the Messiah or coming Christ), which could point to the possible source of these false teachings – Jewish persecutors who were continuing to squelch the early church.

IV. CONCLUSION

1:12-13

A. I have many things to write to you but hope to speak face to face

1. That our joy may be complete (with a visit)

2. The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen

John has more to say but he hopes to do so face to face, mainly due to the fact that there is encouragement to be found in gathering together in person, much like today.