

## The Second Epistle of John

# 17

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we are studying of the second epistle of John. This short letter was written by the apostle John, in the latter part of the first century, and similarities to John's Gospel account and his first letter are obvious.

**2 John 5 ..... John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:7**

**2 John 6 ..... John 14:23; 1 John 5:3**

**2 John 7 ..... 1 John 4:2-3**

**2 John 12 ..... John 15:11; 16:24; 1 John 1:4**

The purpose of the letter is straightforward. During the first two centuries of Christian expansion, the Gospel was taken from place to place by travelling missionaries, who would often be hosted in the homes of Christians in the area. The problem was that Gnostic teachers also took advantage of this hospitality. John wrote his letter to urge his readers to use discernment when helping travelling ministries, lest they unwittingly assist in the propagation of heresy.

As you read this letter, answer the following questions for yourself:

- How will grace, mercy and peace be with us? (**verse 3**).
- What gave John great joy? (**verse 4**).
- What is the command that John gives to his readers and why is this not a "new" command? (**verse 5**).
- What is love? (**verse 6**).
- What kind of deceivers had gone out in the world and what did John call them? (**verse 7-8**).
- Who has God and who does not have God? (**verse 9**).
- What should they do if someone does not have this teaching? (**verse 10**).
- What would happen if they welcome such a person into their homes? (**verse 11**).
- Why did John not write more on this matter? (**verse 12**).
- What would make John's joy complete? (**verse 12**).

# Memory Verse

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

2 John 6

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!